

Scientific and Didactic Relation

Name: Edoardo Vaccargiu

University: University of Genoa

Name of Tutor: Massimiliano Vignolo

Cycle: XXXV

Suggested name of the Supervisor: Massimiliano Vignolo

(A) Didactics

- 1) List of institutional or curricular courses:
 - (November – December 2019, Genoa/Turin): FINO Common Core Teaching;
 - (February 2020, Turin): Lectures on Classics of the History of Analytic Philosophy (with C. Penco, G. Bonino, D. Marconi);
 - (February 2020, Turin): Lectures on Logic (with A. Iacona);
 - (June 2020, Online): Lectures on Philosophy of Mind – Recent Works on Intentionality (with A. Voltolini).
 - 2) List of working papers written in those occasions:
 - (March 2020) Written Examination of Logic. Grade: 7+/10
 - 3) List of other courses you have followed
 - (January 2020, Turin): Three Guest Lectures on Philosophy of Mind (with G. Soldati, A. Pinotti, G. Matteucci)
-

(B) Research and diffusion

- 1) List of seminars and conferences you have participated to:
 - (11th Nov. 2019, Turin): LLC Seminar – Inferentialism, context-shifting and background assumptions (B. Kaluzinski);
 - (21st Nov. 2019, Turin): LLC Seminar – The Good, the Bad and the Pluralist: from Logical pluralism to Mathematical pluralism (A. Sereni);
 - (11th -13th Dec. 2019, Rome): XVI AISC Annual Conference 2019;
 - (20th Dec. 2019, Online): Neural Mechanisms Online – The Psychological Reality of Practical Representation (C. Pavese);
 - (6th Feb. 2020, Turin): LLC Seminar – Is Intentionality determined by Phenomenology? (A. Hattiangadi);
 - (12th Mar. 2020, Online): LLC Webinar – Phenomenal Roles (S. Gozzano);

PhD Program in Philosophy
North Western Italian Philosophy Consortium

- (18th Mar. 2020, Online): LLC Science & More Talks – Truthmakers and Modality (G. Rosella, V. Saitta);
- (1st Apr. 2020, Online): LLC Science & More Talks – Scientific Rationality is and can be silent (C. Sagrafena)
- (2nd Apr. 2020, Online): LLC Webinar – From Perception to Belief: Bayesian Psychology Completed (P. Brossel);
- (23rd Apr. 2020, Online): LLC Webinar – Generics and Determiners (A. Cohen);
- (20th May 2020, Online): LLC Science & More Talks – Pluralism about Criteria (M. P. Sforza Fogliani)
- (21st May 2020, Online): LLC Webinar – Metaphilosophical Instrumentalism (O. Simchen);
- (6th June 2020, Online): LLC Webinar – The unity of Logical Consequence (L. Picollo);
- (12th June 2020, Online): Neural Mechanisms Online – Defending Representational Realism (W. Ramsey);
- (31st Aug. – 1st Sept. 2020, Genoa) FINO Residential Seminar;
- (19th -20th Sept. 2020, Online) Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference 2020.

2) List of Talks (in some of the above-mentioned conferences):

- (FINO Residential Seminar): *A Critical Approach to Pragmatic Competence*;
- (Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference 2020): *A Critical Approach to Pragmatic Competence*.

3) List of published or submitted papers:

- (Nov. 2019) *Asserzione, riasserzione e responsabilità discorsiva*, in RIFL, VOL. 13 (N. 1), Assertion and its social significance, pp. 34-46 (2019). DOI: 10.4396/09201908.

4) List of papers in progress:

- *A Critical Approach to Pragmatic Competence*;
- *A Critical Upgrading of Lexical Pragmatics* (provisory title)

(C) Project of the dissertation

1) Update of the planning of your research program

During this year, the topic of my research shifted from Robert Brandom's inferentialism to the study of the main theories in philosophy of language and pragmatics addressing the sensitivity of words to the contexts in which they are uttered, and the kinds of pragmatic processes undertaken by speakers in the determination of both the explicit (i.e. disambiguation, reference assignment and saturation of context-sensitive expressions) and the implicit content of utterances (i.e. the derivation of conversational implicatures).

PhD Program in Philosophy
North Western Italian Philosophy Consortium

The starting point of my new research has been the distinction between two general approaches to pragmatic understanding within the linguistic pragmatists' side: Recanati's (2004) one, which distinguishes associative and inferential pragmatic processes, and relevance theorists' one (Wilson & Sperber 1986; Carston 2007), that upholds a uniform inferential model of utterance understanding driven by the communicative principle of Relevance. I tried to provide a critical assessment of these two approaches by endorsing Korta & Perry's (2011) theoretical framework, by focusing on the content pluralism's claim and the Kaplan-inspired notion of *role* in their pragmatics of singular reference.

The deployment of Korta & Perry's framework within the scope of pragmatic understanding points at an interesting way to look at the general notion of *pragmatic competence*, as a kind of linguistic competence operating not only in hearer's interpretation of utterances but also in speaker's production. Moving from this hint, I intend to focus my future research on the notion of pragmatic competence, by trying to frame it in a modular perspective and by deepening the relation between pragmatic understanding and cognitive mechanisms responsible for interpreting people's behaviour in terms of beliefs, desires and intentions.

Another issue that I aim to investigate is the underspecification of lexical meaning, by focusing on the phenomenon of polysemy recently deepened by Robyn Carston (2013; 2019).