

MARIA SILVIA VACCAREZZA

Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Genova

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EDUCATION

May 4, 2012

PhD in Philosophy - University of Genoa. Dissertation: *Le ragioni del contingente. La saggezza pratica tra Aristotele e Tommaso d'Aquino (Practical wisdom in Aristotle and Aquinas)*.

Academic year 2007/2008

MA, Philosophy, University of Genoa. Specialization: Moral philosophy. Vote: 110/110 cum laude.

Academic year 2005/2006

BA, Classics, University of Genoa. Specializations: Greek History and Ancient Philosophy. Vote: 110/110 cum laude.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

August 2021 – to date

Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy. Department of Classics, Philosophy and History, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy.

August 2018 – July 2021

Assistant Professor of Moral Philosophy. Department of Classics, Philosophy and History, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy.

June 2014 – June 2018

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow. Department of Classics, Philosophy and History, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy. Appointed for a research project financed by the Italian Ministry of Education (PRIN 2012). Research project: Attention and moral imagination in contemporary ethics.

Sept. 2015 – June 2018

Under-contract Professor, Lateran Pontifical University, Rome

January 2012 – December 2015

Research Fellow, CUC - Centro Universitario Cattolico (Rome).

Research Project: Realism and attention in Iris Murdoch and Simone Weil.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

June 2022 (forthcoming)

Invited visiting professor, University of Gdansk (Poland)

May 2022 (forthcoming)

Invited visiting professor, University of Pardubice (CZ)

Fall semester 2017

Visiting research scholar. Thumos Group, CISA Center for Affective Sciences. Université de Genève (CH).
Research project on negative emotions.

September 2009 – January 2010

Visiting Doctoral Student, University of St. Andrews (UK), Department of philosophy.

RESEARCH INTERESTS**Areas of specialization**

Virtue theory; Aristotle; Thomas Aquinas; Neo-Aristotelianism; Philosophy of Emotions.

Areas of competence

Metaethics; Ancient Ethics; Greek History; Greek Literature; Philosophy of Education.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021: John Templeton Foundation - The Civic Friendship Project: Building Civic Friendship Across the Globe - PI of the Italian Unit (shortlisted, full proposal due Jan., 2022)
- 2020: Italian National Habilitation to Full Professorship
- 2019: University of Oklahoma - The Self, Virtue & Public Life Project (shortlisted)
- 2019: Compagnia di San Paolo - CivICa Grant (shortlisted)
- 2014- 2018. Post-Doctoral Fellowship funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, co-funded by the Italian Philosophical Association: 77.468€
- November 2017. Research leave funded by the University of Genoa. Leave spent at the Thumos Group, CISA Center for Affective Sciences, Université de Genève (CH): 2.500€
- 2014. Winner of the 18th Pontifical Academies award: 10.000€
- 2014. “Professor Paolo Michele Erede” Award: 1000€

TEACHING**University of Genoa**

May 2021: 1st level University Master in “Neuroscience and neurologic physiotherapy” – 1st edition, a.a. 2020/2021 (8 hrs.)

Sept. 2018 – to date: Assistant Professor of Moral Philosophy (undergraduate, 9 CFU) and Contemporary Moral Philosophy (graduate, 9 CFU).

2014-2015: Teaching Assistant of *Introduction to Moral Philosophy* and *Philosophical Anthropology* (Prof. Angelo Campodonico).

Lateran Pontifical University, Rome

Sept. 2015 – June 2018: Under-contract Professor of Philosophical Anthropology (3 CFU, code 50666) and Seminar Module on Virtues in Aristotle and Aquinas (3 CFU, code 55041).

Sept. 2014- Sept. 2015: Under-contract Professor of Philosophical Anthropology (3 CFU, code 50666).

SUPERVISIONS

Pontifical Lateran University (Rome)

2015/2016: Felix Gabriel Zombobah (BA, Supervisor)

2017/2018: Gabriel Tochukwu Okafor (MA, Co-supervisor)

University of Genova

2016/2017: Elena Ricci (BA, Co-supervisor)

2017/2018: Carola Isaia (MA, Co-supervisor)

2018/2019:

- Linda Priano (BA, Co-supervisor)
- Elena Ricci (MA, Co-supervisor)
- Angelo Botti (MA, Co-supervisor)

2019/2020:

- Francesco Emanuelli (MA, Supervisor)
- Corrado Fizzarotti (MA, Co-supervisor)
- Lucia Conforti (MA, Supervisor)

2020/2021:

- Linda Priano (MA, Supervisor)
- Elena Barchi (BA, Supervisor)
- Chiara Barbera (BA, Supervisor)

FINO PhD Program

2018-2021: Dario Cecchini (Supervisor)

2019 – to date: Carline Klijnman (Co-supervisor)

2021- to date: Matilde Liberti (Supervisor)

AFFILIATIONS

- Italian Society of Moral Philosophy (SIFM)
- Italian Society of Analytic Philosophy (SIFA)
- International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (ISNS)
- American Philosophical Association (APA)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Member of the FINO PhD program teacher's board (2018 - to date)
- Delegate for the Rector for students' affairs, University of Genova (2021-to date)
- Member of the Research Ethics Committee, University of Genova (2020-to date)
- Member of the Disciplinary Board, University of Genova (2021-to date)
- Secretary of [*Aretai – Center on Virtues*](#)
- Editorial board of [*Etica e Politica – Ethics & Politics*](#)
- Scientific committee of [*Acta Philosophica; Filosofia Morale – Moral Philosophy*](#)
- Secretary and member of the Steering Committee, Italian Society of Analytic Philosophy
- Treasurer and member of the Steering Committee, Italian Society of Moral Philosophy
- Ad hoc reviewer for: *Emotion Review, Etica & Politica – Ethics & Politics, Journal of Moral Education, Lessico di Etica e Politica, Philosophical Inquiries, Res Philosophica, Studium, Teoria.*

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AS AUTHOR

Le sfide dell'etica (with M. De Caro & S.F. Magni), Mondadori Education, Milano 2021.

Esempi morali. Tra ammirazione ed etica delle virtù, il Mulino, Bologna 2020.

(with A. Campodonico and M. Croce) *Etica delle virtù. Un'introduzione*, Carocci, Roma 2017.

The fabric of being. Bene, realtà e immaginazione in Iris Murdoch e nell'etica contemporanea. ETS, Pisa 2016. ISBN 978-884674479-1

Razionalità pratica e attenzione alla realtà. Prospettive contemporanee, Orthotes, Napoli 2012. ISBN: 978-88-97806-13-4

Le ragioni del contingente. La saggezza pratica tra Aristotele e Tommaso d'Aquino. Orthotes, Napoli 2012. ISBN: 978-88-97806-11-0

(with A. Campodonico) *La pretesa del bene. Teoria dell'azione ed etica in Tommaso d'Aquino*. Orthotes, Napoli 2012. ISBN: 978-88-97806-03-5.

EDITED BOOKS AND SPECIAL ISSUES

(with M. De Caro) *Practical Wisdom: Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives*, Routledge, New York 2021.

(with N. Snow) *Virtues, Democracy, and Online Media: Ethical and Epistemic Issues*, Routledge, New York 2021.

(with A. Campodonico and M. Croce) 'Moral Exemplarism and Character Education'. Special issue of the *Journal of Moral Education* (48(3): 2019).

(with A. Campodonico) 'Virtue Ethics'. Special issue of *Teoria* Vol.2 (2018).

(with M. Croce) 'Connecting Virtues'. Special issue of *Metaphilosophy* Vol. 49 (2018), No. 3.

(with M. Croce) 'Esemplari morali ed esemplarismo'. Special Issue of *Etica & Politica – Ethics & Politics* Vol. XX (2018), No. 1. ISSN 1825-5167.

Emozioni e virtù. Percorsi e prospettive di un tema classico, a cura di S. Langella e M.S. Vaccarezza, Orthotes, Napoli 2014.

(with R. Fanciullacci) *Iris Murdoch: la realtà della vita morale*, Special issue of *Etica & Politica – Ethics & Politics*, vol. XXVI (2014), n. 1.

(with A. Campodonico) *Gli altri in noi. Filosofia dell'interculturalità*. Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli 2009.

TRANSLATIONS

Tommaso d'Aquino, *Le virtù*, edited and translated into Italian by M.S. Vaccarezza, Bompiani, Milano 2014.

C.B. Miller, *Questione di carattere. Quanto siamo realmente buoni?*, translated into Italian by M.S. Vaccarezza, Mimesis, Milano 2020.

PAPERS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- ‘Ergon e ragion pratica. La normatività tra naturalismo e costitutivismo’, *Esercizi filosofici* (2021), Vol. 16, N. 2, pp. 139-156.
- ‘The exemplary and the right. Contemporary virtue ethics, action guidance, and action assessment’, *Rivista di storia della filosofia* (forthcoming)
- ‘Legge, natura e virtù: l’etica del tomismo analitico nella sintesi di A. MacIntyre’, *Nuovo Giornale di Filosofia della Religione – Nuova serie* 1(2021), pp. 182-200.
- (with M. Croce) ‘Civility in the Post-truth Age: An Aristotelian Account’, *Humana.Mente*, 14(39), 2021, pp. 127-150.
- ‘Paths to Flourishing: Ancient Models of the Exemplary Life’. *Ethics and Education* 15 (2):144-157 (2020).
- (with M. De Caro) ‘Morality and Interpretation: The Principle of Phronetic Charity’. *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 23 (2):295-307 (2020).
- ‘An Excess of Excellence: Aristotelian Supererogation and the Degrees of Virtue’. *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 27:1 (2019), pp. 1-11. DOI: 10.1080/09672559.2018.1548635.
- (with A. Niccoli) ‘The Dark Side of the Exceptional: On Moral Exemplars, Character Education, and Negative Emotions’. *Journal of Moral Education* 48:3 (2019), pp. 332-345. DOI: 10.1080/03057240.2018.153408.
- ‘Admiration, moral knowledge and transformative experiences’. *HumanaMente* 12:35 (2019), Special Issue on *Emotions: From Cases to Theories* (M. Galletti & A. Niccoli eds.), pp. 150-166.
- ‘Virtue ethics: an anti-moralistic defence’. *Philosophical Inquiries* 7:1 (2019), pp. 29-44.
- ‘Dilemmi e unità delle virtù: la phronesis come integratore morale ed esistenziale’. *Teoria* XXXVIII/2018/2 (Terza serie XIII/2), pp. 101-111.
- ‘Virtù esemplari: L’etica tommasiana tra neoplatonismo e aristotelismo’. *Etica e Politica – Ethics & Politics* Vol. XX, No. 1 (2018). ISSN 1825-5167.
- (with M. De Caro and A. Niccoli) ‘Phronesis as ethical expertise: Naturalism of second nature and the unity of virtue’. *Journal of Value Inquiry*. 52 (3):287-305 (2018).
- ‘An Eye on Particulars with the End in Sight: An Account of Aristotelian Phronēsis’. *Metaphilosophy* Vol. 49 (2018), No. 3.
- ‘A Guide to Moral Knowledge. The Epistemic Role of Moral Emotions’. *Studi di Estetica* 1/2017, 27-44. DOI: 10.7413/18258646003.
- Profilo di Philippa Foot*, in «APhEx – Portale Italiano di Filosofia Analitica» 15/2017.
- The Unity of the Virtues Reconsidered. Competing Accounts in Philosophy and Positive Psychology*, in «Review of Philosophy and Psychology», 8 (2017), 637-651. doi: 10.1007/s13164-017-0334-7.
- Beyond a Dichotomy. Aquinas’s Theory of Natural Law as a Form of Autonomous Theonomy*, in «Dialegethai» 19 (2017).
- Santi, eroi e l’unità delle virtù. Una proposta esemplarista di educazione morale* (with M. Croce), in «Iride» 3/2016, pp. 635-648, doi: 10.1414/85117.
- Educating through Exemplars. Alternative Paths to Virtue* (with M. Croce), in «Theory and Research in Education» March 2017. DOI: 10.1177/1477878517695903.

Saving the Contingent. A dialogue between Iris Murdoch and Aquinas, in «New Blackfriars» DOI:10.1111/nbfr.12175.

Aristotelismo contemporaneo e particolarismo morale: un bilancio critico, in «Rivista di Filosofia Neo-Scolastica» CVIII,1 (2016), pp. 225-236.

BOOK CHAPTERS

‘Virtue’, in S. Caprioglio Panizza & M. Hopwood (eds.), *Murdochian Mind*, Routledge, London 2022, pp. xx.

(with A. Niccoli) ‘Let the donkeys be donkeys: in defense of inspiring envy’, in S. Protasi (ed.), *The Moral Psychology of Envy*, Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming.

(with M. De Caro & A. Niccoli) ‘Emotional skillfulness and virtue acquisition’, in *The Oxford Handbook of Emotional Development*, edited by Daniel Dukes, Andrea C. Samson, and Eric A. Walle, Oxford University Press 2022.

Aristotelismo e virtù: storia e teoria di una ripresa, in M. Ostinelli (ed.), *I classici e la filosofia contemporanea. Letture e interpretazioni*, Carocci, Roma 2022, pp. 125-140.

‘Le radici delle virtù: un inquadramento’, in D. Piscitelli e G. Trevisi (eds.), *Le virtù in azione. Prospettive per il lavoro sociale ed educativo*, Studium, Roma 2022.

(with M. De Caro & M. Marraffa) ‘The priority of phronesis: How to defend virtue theory from three potentially fatal challenges’, in M. De Caro & M.S. Vaccarezza (eds.), *Practical Wisdom: Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives*, Routledge, New York 2021.

‘L’organo della bellezza morale. Tra ammirazione e vie emozionali negative’. In F. Miano e S. Achella (eds.), *Etica e bellezza*. Orthotes, Napoli-Salerno 2019, pp. 273-282.

‘Prudenza, integrità e vita compiuta’. In *Intelligenza d’amore: una nuova epistemologia morale oltre la dialettica tra norma e caso*, Cantagalli, Siena 2018, pp. 189-206.

Macchine morali: responsabilità e saggezza pratica degli agenti artificiali, in F. Miano (ed.), *Etica e responsabilità*, Orthotes, Napoli 2018, pp. 293-302.

Educazione alla felicità. La paideia aristotelica ieri e oggi, in E. Vimercati – P. Manganaro (eds.), *La storia della filosofia come paideia*, ETS, Pisa 2017, pp. 67-80.

Stereotipi, emozioni e ingiustizia. L’immaginazione morale come fattore di coesione sociale, in L. Mauro (ed.), *Social Cohesion and Human Rights. Reflections on Contemporary Society*, FrancoAngeli, Milano 2017, pp. 117-127.

Il “tomismo analitico” di Philippa Foot, in P. Bettineschi and R. Fanciullacci (eds.), *Tommaso d’Aquino e i filosofi analitici*, Orthotes, Napoli-Salerno 2015, pp. 185-192. ISBN: 978-88-97806-72-1.

L’amore da emozione a virtù in Iris Murdoch e Simone Weil, in S. Langella and M.S. Vaccarezza (eds.), *Emozioni e virtù. Percorsi e prospettive di un tema classico*. Orthotes, Napoli 2014, pp. 133-144. ISBN: 978-88-97806-44-8

Allargare la ragione pubblica. Riflessioni su religione e bene comune, in F. Botturi and A. Campodonico (eds.), *Bene comune. Fondamenti e pratiche*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2014, ISBN: 978883431999-87.

Oltre l’azione. Iris Murdoch e la sovranità del Bene, in *Schegge di filosofia moderna II*. deComporre Edizioni, Gaeta 2013, pp. 171-192. ISBN/ISSN: 9788898671052

SELECTED TALKS AND LECTURES

Civic Virtue and Vice workshop – Bristol University, July 13, 2022. Talk title: ‘Civility: an Aristotelian Account’ (invited).

Dialectic as an ‘Aristotelian’ Teaching Method conference - Bologna University, June 30 - July 1, 2022. Talk title: ‘From moral development to moral progress: an Aristotelian account’ (keynote)

Supporting the Establishment of Character Education Research Centres in Europe – University of Birmingham, June 13-14, 2022. Talk title: ‘Lessons from Genoa’s Aretai Center’ (invited).

Network for Research in Morality conference, online, hosted by the University of Miami (USA), May 17, 2022. Talk title: ‘Overturning eliminativism. Practical wisdom as ethical expertise’ (invited)

Thumos Seminar Series – University of Geneva, May 12, 2022. Talk title: ‘In defense of inspiring envy’ (invited)

Annual conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA), Noto, Sept. 22-24, 2021. Talk title: ‘Too much of a good thing. Four moralistic vices and their two sources’ (accepted)

Doctoral seminar series of the Universities of Roma 3 and Tor Vergata, Jan. 18, 2022. Talk title: ‘Reasons, emotions, and the virtuous mind’ (invited, with M. De Caro)

The Moral Psychology of Envy, online workshop hosted by the University of Puget Sound (USA), May 17, 2021. Talk title: ‘In defense of inspiring envy’ (invited, with A. Niccoli)

Virtues and the Flourishing Life. Jubilee Center Annual Conference. Oriel College, Oxford, 3-5.02.2020. Talk Title: *Paths to flourishing: Ancient models of the exemplary life* (with A. Campodonico).

Civic Virtues workshop. University of Nottingham (UK), 6-7.11.2019. Talk: *Cultivating Civic-Epistemic Virtues to Counteract the Spread of Fake News* (with Michel Croce).

Ethique et Philosophie. Colloque organisé par l'institut ESPHIN de l'Université de Namur (BE), 16.10.19. Talk: *Aristotle, Aquinas and Virtue Ethics* (invited).

Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2019 Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA (USA), 10-13.07.2019. Accepted talk title: *A threat to traits: ethical expertise and the situationist challenge* (with M. De Caro).

Settimana dottorale in Filosofia - UniTrieste e UniUdine. Trieste, 28.06.2019. Lecture: *Eccessi di morale. Moralismo e discorso pubblico* (invited).

10th Braga Meeting on Ethics and Political Philosophy. University of Minho (Braga), 13-15.06.2019. Accepted talk title: *Exceeding the boundaries of morality. Varieties of moralism and their correlative virtues* (with F. Zuolo).

EPSSE Conference, Pisa, June, 10-11, 2019. Talk title: *Emotional Skillfulness and Virtue Acquisition* (with A. Niccoli).

Seminario di etica. Padova, 4.06.2019. Talk: *Teoria morale esemplarista. Una lettura critica* (invited).

Seminario permanente di teoria politica. Pavia, 9.05.2019. Talk: *Eccessi di morale* (invited, with F. Zuolo).

Good Judgment, Critical Thinking and Other Epistemic Virtues in Academic Education. Amsterdam, April 3-5, 2019 (invited speaker). Talk title: *Educators as exemplars of intellectual generosity*.

Virtues: Local or Universal? 7th annual conference of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. Oriel College, Oxford, January 3-5, 2019. Talk title: *A threat to traits: ethical expertise and the situationist challenge* (with M. De Caro).

Irish Philosophical Society Annual Conference. Dublin, November 8-10, 2018. Talk title: *Exceeding the boundaries of morality. Varieties of moralism and their correlative virtues* (with F. Zuolo).

3rd Aretai Center on Virtues Conference, Virtue Ethics and Psychology. Towards a New Science of Virtues?. Rome, October 18-20, 2018 (invited speaker with Mario De Caro). Talk title: *Reasons, Emotions, and the Virtuous Mind*.

EPSSE Conference. Tallinn, June 13-15, 2018. Talk title: *The dark side of the exceptional. On moral exemplars, character education, and negative emotions* (with A. Niccoli).

Virtue & Moral Education. University of Gdańsk, Poland, 17-18 May 2018. Talk title: *The dark side of the exceptional. On moral exemplars, character education, and negative emotions* (with A. Niccoli).

International conference on Natural Normativity and the Normativity of Human Action. University of Bamberg, Germany, 8-10 March 2018 (invited speaker with A. Niccoli). Talk title: *In defence of non-reductionist naturalism. From phronesis to ethical expertise*.

Central American Philosophical Association Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago, 21-24.02.2018 (invited speaker). Talk title: *Ordinarily admirable. Aristotle on the nameless honour-related virtue*.

Thumos seminar series, University of Geneva, 23.11.2017 (invited speaker). Talk title: *An excess of excellence: on virtue ethics and supererogation*.

Ninth European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP9), Munich, 21-26/08/2017. Talk title: *Four Kinds of Moralism (and a Virtue-Ethical Response)*.

21st-Century Theories of Literature: Ethics, Tropes, Attunement, University of Warwick, 6-8/4/2017. Talk title: *"A Huge Hall of Reflection": Iris Murdoch on Literature as a Guide to Morals*.

Character, Wisdom and Virtue. Oriel College, Oxford, 5-7.01.2017. Talk title: *An eye on particulars with the end in sight. An account of Aristotelian phronesis*.

XII Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA), Pistoia, 5-7.09.2016. Talk title: *"To see another as human": emotional correctives and imaginative engagement as a way to defeat stereotype-based emotional reactions*.

Moralism: The Boundaries of Moral Thinking, University of Essex, 20-21.06.2016. Talk title: *A Threefold Account of Moralism (and a Virtue-Based Response)*.

Filosofia y Mística, Universidad de Salamanca, 21-23.10.2015. Talk title: *Self-transcendence and Practical Mysticism*.

Ethics of nature – Nature of Ethics, University of Manchester, 16.05.2015. Talk title: *Nature in Ethics: Philippa Foot and Iris Murdoch*.

Love's Passion: Philosophical Perspectives on Love, University of Hertfordshire, UK, 15-16.09.2014. Talk title: *Emotion or virtue? The role of love in Iris Murdoch and Simone Weil*

The virtues in Aristotle and Aquinas. Invited speaker at the Lateran Pontifical University doctoral seminar series, 18.04.2014.

Practical wisdom in Aquinas. Invited speaker at the annual meeting of the SITA (International Society for Thomas Aquinas's studies), Rome, 12.03.2014

First International Conference on Iris Murdoch – Roma Tre University, Rome, 20-22.02.2014. Talk title: *Saving the Contingent. A Dialogue Between Iris Murdoch and Thomas Aquinas*. Iris Murdoch and Virtue Ethics: Philosophy and the Novel.

The Eighth Annual Conference of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies. Miraflores de la Sierra, Madrid, 17-20.06.2010. Paper: *Aristotle on civic friendship*.