

Lorenzo Azzano

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(date & place of birth: 27/07/1988 – Milan, Italy)

Areas of Expertise: *Ontology & Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science*

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1. Academic positions

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|-----------|---|
| 2024-2025 | Postdoctoral Researcher – National Research Project “The Varieties of Grounding”, PRIN MUR 2022 / PNRR (<i>Università Cattolica, Milan</i>) |
| 2021-2023 | Postdoctoral Researcher – Juan de la Cierva fellow (n° FJC2019-040034-I) (<i>University of Santiago de Compostela</i>) |
| 2021-2023 | “Cultore della Materia” (<i>University of Bergamo</i>) |
| 2020-2021 | Postdoctoral Researcher (<i>University of Bergamo</i>) |
| 2018-2020 | Teaching Assistant (<i>Bocconi University, Milan</i>) |

2. Education

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| 2013-2018 | PhD in Philosophy (<i>Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa – XXIX cycle</i>) |
| 2015-2016 | Visiting Student (<i>University of Nottingham</i>) |
| 2013 (Trinity Term) | Visiting Student (<i>University of Oxford, Corpus Christi College</i>) |
| 2010-2013 | MA in Philosophy (<i>San Raffaele University, Milan</i>) |
| 2007-2010 | BA in Philosophy (<i>San Raffaele University, Milan</i>) |

3. Habilitations

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| 2025-2037 | Associate Professor (<i>Theoretical Philosophy</i>) |
| 2025-2037 | Associate Professor (<i>Logic, History, and Philosophy of Science</i>) |

4. Publications

4.1 Books

- (2024). *Dispositional Reality. A novel approach to power ontology and metaphysics*. Synthese Library, Springer Verlag.

4.2 Papers

- (Forthcoming). Properties are not powers. *Philosophical Studies*.
- (2025). Epistemology of Metaphysics: an introduction. *Argumenta* 10(1): 9-12 (with M. Carrara and V. Morato).
- (2024). Dispositionalism as Hyperintensional Metaphysics. *Philosophia* 52(4): 1209-1231.
- (2023). Individuating Powers: on the regress/circularity individuation arguments against Bird's Dispositional Monism. *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy* (10): 274-301.
- (2023). Vices, Virtues, and Dispositions. *TheoLogica* (7)2 (with A. Raimondi): 87-110.
- (2022). New foundations of dispositionalism – Introduction. *Synthese* 200(5): 1-26 (with A. Raimondi)
- (2022). Dispositional Arrays: why so scared of possible worlds?, *Argumenta* 7(2): 485-503.
- (2021). The Grounding of Identities, *Philosophia* 49 (5): 1943-1952 (with M. Carrara).
- (2021). Are identities unexplainable: towards a non-causal explanation of identity, *Theoria* 87(2): 457-482 (with M. Carrara).
- (2020). Dispositionalism, categoricity, and where to find them, *Synthese* 199(1-2): 2949-2976.
- (2020). Essays on Barbara Vetter's *Potentiality*: Introduction, *Philosophical Inquiries* 8(1) (with A. Borghini).
- (2019). The Question of Realism for Powers, *Synthese* 196(1): 329–354.
- (2018). Structural Properties, Mereology, and Modal Magic, *Synthese* 198(18):4303–4329.
- (2018). Explaining Identities, *Italian Journal of Philosophy of Language / SFL*: 3–15 (with M. Carrara).
- (2014). What is the Nature of Properties?, *RIFAJ* 5:2: 27–42.

4.3 Book reviews

- (2024). *Fragmenting Reality: An Essay on Passage, Causality and Time Travel*, S. Iaquinto and G. Torrenço, London: Bloomsbury (2022). *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*.
- (2018). *Unity & Plurality: Logic, Philosophy, and Linguistics*, eds. By M. Carrara, A. Arapinis, F. Moltmann, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2016). *Dialectica* 72(2): 309–315.

- (2017). *Potentiality: From Dispositions to Modality*, B. Vetter, Oxford University Press (2015). *Argumenta* 3(1): 190–195.

4.4 Book chapters and other entries

- (Forthcoming). Dispositions. *Oxford Bibliographies* (co-author, with J. McKittrick).
- (2014). Causal sufficiency and interferences, in *New Advances in Causation, Agency and Moral Responsibility*, eds. by F. Bacchini, S. Caputo, M. Dell’Utri, Cambridge Scholars (ISBN-13: 978-1-4438-6625-5, ISBN-10: 1-4438-6625-3).

5. Talks (selection)

- “How many worlds could there be?”, *Episteme* seminar (Santiago de Compostela, Spain – October 16, 2025)
- “Powers and the Spotlight: Power-based Dynamic Permanentism” (w/ G. Giannini)
16th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (Turin, Italy – August 27-29, 2025)
Beyond the Present: Perspectives on the Philosophy of Time conference, invited speaker, University of Salzburg (Salzburg, Austria – July 3-4, 2025)
- “No additional glue: governing laws as meta-explainers”, *Powerful Qualities, Powers, Qualities* conference, invited speaker, University of Cyprus (Nicosia, Cyprus – November 24, 2023)
- “Dispositional Reality”, contributed talk, *15th conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy* (Alessandria, Italy – September 7-9, 2023)
- “Dispositional Reality”, *Dispositions and Powers* conference, University of Bristol (Bristol, UK – April 19, 2023)
- “No Work for a Theory of Governance”, *Episteme* research group seminar (Santiago de Compostela, Spain – February 3, 2023)
- “A Journey in Perspicuity”, invited talk, *Episteme* research group workshop in occasion of the 10TH SEFA conference (Santiago de Compostela, Spain – December 12, 2022)
- “Dispositional Reality”, invited talk, *Colloquium in Theoretical Philosophy of the Freie Universität*, Berlin (Berlin, Germany – November 4, 2022)
- “Two outlooks on metaphysical governance, and the case of vacuous governance”, contributed talk, *Issues on the (Im)possible* (Tilburg, Netherlands – October 17, 2022)
- “‘Explanations’ and explanations: Methodological applications of Sider’s notion of structure”, invited talk, *Coloquio Compostelano de Lógica y Filosofía Analítica* (Santiago de Compostela, Spain – November 5, 2021).

- “Truth is not enough”, contributed talk in symposium on ontological and metaontological deflationism, *Episteme* Research Group, X Congress of the *Spanish Society of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science* (Salamanca, Spain – November 17, 2021)
- “Bird’s Structuralist Response to Lowe’s Identity Regress Argument against Dispositional Monism”, invited talk, *Issues around Abstract Objects and Neo Carnapian Metaontology*, (Santiago de Compostela, Spain – July 2, 2019)
- “Powers and Qualities Reconsidered”, keynote speaker, *New Foundations of Dispositionalism* (Exeter, UK – May 23, 2019)
- “Hot to Fix an Identity: Identity Regress Argument(s) against Bird’s Dispositional Monism”, invited talk, University of L’Aquila (L’Aquila, Italy – May 16, 2019)
- “Dispositionalism as Hyperintensional Metaphysics”, contributed talk, *13th conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy* (Novara, Italy – September 7, 2018).
- “Explaining Identities” (w/ M. Carrara)
 - 7th National Meeting in Analytic Philosophy* (Lisbon, Portugal – September 13, 2018).
 - 13th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy* (Novara, Italy – September 5, 2018).
 - XXIV Convegno Nazionale Società Italiana Filosofia del Linguaggio* (Milano, Italy – January 24, 2018).
- “Bridging the Gap from Dispositions to Possibilities”, invited talk, *Potentiality and Possibility* (L’Aquila, Italy – September 14, 2017)
- Powerful Qualities and Realism about Powers, contributed talk, *9th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy* (Munich, Germany – August 28, 2017)
- Relation(s) between a power and its manifestation, contributed talk, *Relations – their nature, their types, their existence* (Ligerz, Switzerland – September 22, 2016).
- “I’m doing my part: mutual powers and joint actions against collectivization duties” (w/ V. Butti), contributed talk, *12th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy* (Pistoia, Italy – September 6, 2016).
- “No grounds for identity”
 - Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy*, (Salzburg, Austria – 2016). (accepted)
 - 12th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy* (Pistoia, Italy – September 7, 2016).
- “Dispositional arrays: why so scared of possible worlds?”
 - OntoForMat Metaphysical Seminars* (Milan, Italy – April 27, 2017)
 - Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)possible IV* (Bratislava, Slovakia – August 31, 2016).
 - Fifth Italian Conference on Analytic Ontology* (Padua, Italy – June 28, 2016)
- “Dispositions, manifestations, possibilities: for a safe and sane (actualist) ontology of modality”

Sixth National Conference of Dutch-Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy (Groningen, Netherlands – January 30, 2014).

Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (Salzburg, Austria – September 14, 2013)

- “Is causation discrete?”, contributed talk, *10th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy* (Alghero, Italy – September 15, 2012)

6. Teaching (courses & seminars)

- “Change, becoming, dynamism: beyond the flipbook view of the world”, doctoral course, Santiago de Compostela (June 2025).
- “Structuring and writing a philosophical paper”, workshop, IUSS Pavia (MA: Philosophical knowledge: foundations, methods, applications, Bergamo/Pavia) (May 2024).
- “Elementary Logic”, course, University of Santiago de Compostela (2021-2023)
- “Appearance & Reality: old and new compatibilist ways out of Moorean Arguments”, doctoral course, University of Santiago de Compostela (May 2021)
- “Fine’s Relatively Unrestricted Quantification”, seminar, University of Santiago de Compostela (February 25, 2021)
- “Regularities, Laws, Dispositions”, seminar, Catholic University of Milan (May 2018)
- “Fine’s mereological pluralism”, seminar, SNS Pisa (March 8, 2016)
- “Due piedi in due sostanze: una versione contemporanea del riduzionismo sulle relazioni in Leibniz” (in Italian), graduate seminar, SNS Pisa (May 2014)
- “Logical n -Valuedness as Inferential Many-Valuedness”, graduate seminar, SNS Pisa (February 10, 2014)
- “Generalized truth-values and many-valued logics”, graduate seminar, SNS Pisa (January 27, 2014)

7. Participation in projects

- (2023-2025) “The Varieties of Grounding”
(2022NTCHYF)
Funded by: Ministero dell’Università e della Ricerca (Italy)
Project member
- (09-2021/08-2024) “Deflationist views in ontology and metaontology”
(PID2020-115482GB-I00)
Funded by: Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva (Spain)

Project member

- (01-2018/12-2020) “Abstract Objects: For and Against. A Neo Carnapian Way Out”
(FFI2017-82534-P)

Funded by: Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (Spain)

Project member

- (23-05-2019/24-05-2019) “New Foundations of Dispositionalism” (*conference*)

Funded by: Mind, Analysis, RIP, and the University of Exeter.

Conference organizer

8. Organization & scientific committees

- *Tenth Conference of the Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy*, University of Santiago de Compostela. Organizer & scientific committee (December 14-16, 2022)
- *Sixth Italian Conference on Analytic Metaphysics and Ontology*, University of L’Aquila. Organizer & scientific committee (June 20-23, 2022)
- *Argumenta Workshop on the Epistemology of Metaphysics*, University of Padua (FISPPA). Organizer & scientific committee (May 10, 2022)
- *It’s impossible! Historical and contemporary perspectives on the Logic and Epistemology of Modalities*. Organizer and moderator (January–June 2021)
- *New Foundations of Dispositionalism* conference, University of Exeter. Organizer & scientific committee, with A. Raimondi (May 23-24, 2019)
- *Spring Lectures in Logic and Metaphysics*, SNS Pisa. Organizer (April–June 2017)
- *10th National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*, Alghero. Staff volunteer (September 13–15, 2012)
- *ECAP 7: Seventh European Conference of Analytic Philosophy*. Milan, staff volunteer (September 1–6, 2011)

9. Other academic activities

9.1 Student supervision

- “Dispositionalism without dispositions: a powers ontology account of empirical regularities”, MA thesis of Andrea Abbondandolo, University of Pisa (external supervisor)

9.2 Editor

- Special Issue (TC): New Foundations of Dispositionalism (*Synthese*), with A. Raimondi.
- Special Issue: The Epistemology of Metaphysics (*Argumenta*), with M. Carrara & V. Morato.
- Special Issue: Vetter's Potentiality (*Philosophical Inquiries*), with A. Borghini.

9.3 Reviewer

Analysis, Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Philosophical Studies, Synthese, Dialectica, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Acta Analytica, Philosophia, Organon F, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Ergo, Ratio, Dialogue, Topoi, Argumenta, Philosophical Inquiries, Ágora, Syzetesis.

9.4 Dissemination

- “Di cosa c’è bisogno per creare il mondo? Grounding e simili strumenti con cui la metafisica struttura la realtà” (in Italian), *Questioni filosofiche – XII edizione* (Padova, Italy – May 4, 2024)
- “Il motore dentro al mondo: spiegare l’ordine naturale con poteri ed altri marchingegni metafisici” (in Italian), *Questioni filosofiche – IX edizione* (Padova, Italy – November 7, 2020).

10. Affiliations

- *Episteme* Research Group (Department of Philosophy and Anthropology, University of Santiago de Compostela)
- SIFA (Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy)
- SEFA (Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy)
- ECAP (European Society for Analytic Philosophy)

11. Contacts

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