

Contact: martino.manca@unito.it | +39.3476563457 | San Mauro T.se (TO), Italy

ORCID: [0000-0002-8954-8448](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8954-8448)

AOS: Philosophy of Literature; Aesthetics; Philosophy of Fiction

AOC: Philosophy of Language; Phenomenology and Hermeneutics; Literary Theory

Education

2022-2026: PhD in Philosophy, FINO Northwestern Italian Philosophy (based at the University of Turin and administratively enrolled at the University of Eastern Piedmont). Final grade: excellent; PhD awarded with Distinction (*summa cum laude*).

Title: *Nonsense: A Study Between Philosophy and Literature*.

Supervisor: Prof. Carola Barbero (University of Turin). Committee: Prof. Carola Barbero; Prof. John Gibson (University of Louisville); Prof. Wolfgang Huemer (University of Parma).

2015-2021: Higher Qualification Degree (equiv. Level 8 EQF), School of Advanced Studies “Ferdinando Rossi” of the University of Turin. 70/70 *summa cum laude*.

2018-2021: MA in Philosophy of Literature (LM-78), Università degli Studi di Torino. 110/110 *summa cum laude*, proposed for publication.

2015-2018: BA in Philosophy (L-05), Università degli Studi di Torino. 110/110.

Visiting Positions

[PhD research] Visiting Graduate Student at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, academic host: Prof. Françoise Lavocat (02-07/2024, Paris, France).

[MA research] Research period at École Normale Supérieure Paris-Ulm funded by School of Advanced Studies “Ferdinando Rossi” of the University of Turin (02/2020-06/2020, Paris, France).

Competitive Grants and Awards

[conference travel grant] “British Society of Aesthetics Travel Stipend” awarded for participation in the Fourth International Congress of the Association for Studies in Fiction and Fictionality (SIRFF/ASIFF) – Fiction and Lies (10-12 June 2026, Edinburgh, UK).

[conference travel grant] “Irene H. Chayes Travel Award” awarded by the American Society for Aesthetics for participation in its 2026 Eastern Division Meeting (10–11 April 2026, Philadelphia, PA, USA).

[archival research] Research in the archives of the publisher *Franco Maria Ricci* funded by Cecilia Gilardi Foundation (03-05/2022, Parma, Italy).

[international symposium] Participation in the symposium “Sentipensar la frontera” at Centro Cultura de España funded by the University of Turin (21-27/01/2020, Santiago de Chile, Chile).

[Erasmus+ for study scholarship] Study period at University of Warwick (10/2017-06/2018, Coventry, UK).

Publications

Monographs

1. (forthcoming) 2026, *Fictional Books. Theory and Functions of a Fictional Entity*, De Gruyter Brill, Berlin (a monograph on fictional books between philosophy and literature – under contract, copyediting phase). ISBN 978-90-04-77588-6. DOI: [10.1163/9789004775893](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004775893).

Book Chapters

2. (forthcoming) 2026, *The Logic Playground: Untangling A Tangled Tale*, in *Studies in Lewis Carroll's Logic*, edited by F.F. Abeles, A. Moktefi, M. Richards, Springer, Berlin (a paper on Lewis Carroll's recreational logic starting from *A Tangled Tale* – accepted, copyediting phase).
3. 2026, *Cold Interpretations: AI and the Phenomenology of Reading*, in *Dreams of an Electric Critic*, edited by D. Raffini, B. Lenk, C. Caloro, Lithos, Roma, pp. 161-169. ISBN: 979-12-565-7060-7.
4. 2025, Down the Rabbit Hole. *Disambientamenti tra letteratura e filosofia*, in *Pensare (con) la "letteratura". Temi e modelli di "filosofia della letteratura"*, «Quaderni di Itinerari», n. 2, Mimesis, Milano-Udine, pp. 143-162. ISBN: [\[979-12-223-1961-2\]](#).
5. 2024, *Il mare colore del vino*, in *Sguardi dal Mediterraneo*, edited by M. Manca, Mesogea, Messina. ISBN: [\[978-88-469-3025-5\]](#).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

6. 2024, *Vivere Wonderland: Entrare, Abitare e Uscire*, in «Comparatismi», 9 (2024), pp. 254-274, Ledizioni, Milano. DOI: [\[10.14672/20242689\]](#).
7. 2023, *Per una fenomenologia dell'iper-lettura*, in «Rivista di Estetica», 84 (3/2023), LXIII, pp. 137-155, Rosenberg & Sellier, Torino. DOI: [\[10.4000/estetica.9711\]](#).
8. 2022, *Esistono libri che non esistono. Pseudobibbia: una definizione e uno studio degli effetti*, in «Discipline Filosofiche», XXXII, 2, 2022, pp. 215-236, Quodlibet, Macerata. DOI: [\[10.1400/290225\]](#).
9. 2021, *La macchina letteraria*, in «Critica Letteraria», XLIX, II, n. 191/2021, pp. 363-378, Paolo Loffredo Editore, Napoli. DOI: [\[10.26379/1507\]](#).
10. 2020, *Rovine. Una tipologia ed un tentativo di definizione*, in «Filosofia», LXV, pp. 9-16, Mimesis, Milano-Udine. DOI: [\[10.13135/2704-8195/5238\]](#).

Conference Proceedings

11. 2025, *Sense Without (Semantic) Meaning? The Case of Asemic Writing*, in «Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics», 16/2024, pp. 160-192, The European Society of Aesthetics, Fribourg. ISSN: 1664-5278.
12. 2024, *For the Snark was a Boojum*, in «Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics», 15/2023, pp. 384-395, The European Society of Aesthetics, Fribourg. ISSN: 1664-5278.

Introductions

13. 2024, *Ma i filosofi sognano (pecore elettriche)?*, in «Filosofia», LXIX, pp. 9-14, Mimesis, Milano-Udine. DOI: [\[10.13135/2704-8195/11235\]](#) – coauthored with Carola Del Pizzo.

In Preparation/In Review

- *“Manuscripts Don’t Burn”: Biblioclasm and Literature* (a paper on book burnings and the end of literature starting from two cases in science fiction, in preparation).
- *An Aesthetic for Rereading* (a paper on the possibility and phenomenology of genuine rereadings of literary artworks, in preparation).
- *Differentiating Ficta* (a paper on nonsensical fictional entities in the framework of a pluralistic conception of the ontology of ficta, in preparation).

Edited Books and Journal Issues

1. [journal issue, with C. Del Pizzo] 2024, *Sci-Phi*, special issue of «Filosofia», LXIX, Mimesis, Milano-Udine. ISSN: 0015-1823.
2. [book] 2024, *Sguardi dal Mediterraneo*, edited by M. Manca, Mesogea, Messina. ISBN: [\[978-88-469-3025-5\]](#).
Presented with Costantino Cossu at «Mediterranea» festival, 11-16/07/2024, Alghero (Sardinia).

Conference Papers [* = invited]

1. (accepted) *"One cannot read a book: one can only reread it": rilettura e instabilità dell'esperienza letteraria* in "Convegno annuale CompaLit" (16-18/12/2026, Roma, Italy).
2. (accepted) *L'autorità dell'esperienza. Comunicare l'allucinazione nelle ghost stories tardo-vittoriane* in "XXXI Convegno della Società di Filosofia del Linguaggio" (24-26/09/2026, Torino, Italy).
3. *The Necronomicon Effect: Simulating Truths in Fictional Books* in "Fourth International Congress of the Association for Studies in Fiction and Fictionality (SIRFF/ASIFF) – Fiction and Lies" (10-12/06/2026, Edinburgh, UK) – British Society of Aesthetics Travel Stipend.
4. *An Aesthetic for Rereading* in "European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2026" (08-10/06/2026, Jyväskylä, Finland).
5. *An Aesthetic for Rereading* in "Eastern Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics" (10-11/04/2026, Philadelphia, PA, USA) – Irene H. Chayes Travel Award.
6. *Truer-in-fiction. Pseudobibbia e livelli di realtà* in "Convegno annuale CompaLit" (11-13/12/2025, Pisa, Italy).
7. *From Constraints to Conundrums: Rules in Puzzle Literature* in "PEA Conference – Rule-constituted entities: From Games and Institutions to Artworks and Artifacts" (10-12/11/2025, Genova, Italy) – Travel Grant.
8. *The Meaning of Nonsense: Good Answers to a Bad Question* in "American Society for Aesthetics 83rd Annual Meeting" (22-25/10/2025, Baltimore, MD, USA) – Student Travel Grant.
9. *Framing the Unwritten: Fictional Books and Their Role in Fiction* in "European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2025" (16-18/06/2025, Athens, Greece).
10. *Countercultured Alice: Re-Signifying a Fictional Character* in "Crossroads between Arts and Politics Conference", org. by Università del Piemonte Orientale (05/06/2025, Vercelli, Italy).
11. *Nonsense Poetry, Nonsense in Poetry: The Case of the Limerick* in "PEA Conference – Philosophy of Poetry" (27-29/01/2025, Genova, Italy).
12. *Gli Illettori, ovvero il non-leggere nel 2024* in "Convegno annuale CompaLit" (11-13/12/2024, Bologna, Italy).
13. * *(Meta-)Fictional Books* in "Metafiction: Stories within Stories, Games within Games workshop", org. by N. van de Mosselaer and N. Wildman (1-3/12/2024, Tilburg, Netherlands).
14. *Lower Degrees of Fiction as Meta-Fiction* in "Third International Colloquium of the Association for Studies in Fiction and Fictionality (SIRFF/ASIFF) – Degrees of Fictionality" (18-20/10/2024, Hyogo, Japan).
15. *Nonsense Dynamic: Pull to Fiction, Push to Interpretation* in "XXV World Congress of Philosophy – Philosophy across Boundaries" (1-8/08/2024, Roma, Italy).
16. * *Living the Nonsense. Entering, Dwelling and Exiting the Wonderland* in "Colloqui di Comparatismi" (25/07/2024, Roma, Italy).
17. *Sense Without (Semantic) Meaning? The Case of Asemic Writing* in "European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2024" (6-8/06/2024, Napoli, Italy).
18. *Down the Rabbit Hole. Disambientamenti tra letteratura e filosofia* in "III Convegno Società Italiana Filosofia Teoretica – Pensare (con) la letteratura. Temi e modelli di 'filosofia della letteratura' in prospettiva teoretica" (12-14/10/2023, Chieti, Italy).
19. *The Thin Ice. The Uncanniness of Fourth Wall Breaking* in "British Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference 2023" (15-17/09/2023, Oxford, UK) – Student Travel Grant.
20. *There on the poplars we hung our harps. AI writing literature and digital authorship* in "Digital Research in the Humanities and Arts 2023" (11-13/09/2023, Torino, Italy).
21. *A Discomforting Aesthetics of Discomfort: For a Positive Aesthetics of Literary Nonsense (from Carroll to AI)* in "European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2023" (29/06-01/07/2023, Budapest, Hungary) – paper shortlisted for essay prize.
22. *Touch the Screen, Change the Story. An Overview of Bodily Participation in Touchscreen Interactive Narrative* in "Annual Conference of the Nordic Society for Aesthetics 2023" (1-2/06/2023, Paris, France).
23. *For a Phenomenology of the Scientific Work* in "Annual Conference of the Central and East European Society for Phenomenology 2022" (13-15/09/2022, Padova, Italy).

24. *An Ergodic Pleasure: Sensible Aspects of Reading* in “European Society for Aesthetics Conference 2022” (28-30/06/2022, Tallinn, Estonia).

Organisation of Events and Seminars

1. [co-organiser, study day] *Sguardi del Mediterraneo. Prospettive di frontiera* – research group *Encrucijada*, Department of Philosophy and Education Science of the University of Turin (10/01/2022, Torino, Italy).
2. [co-organiser, monthly seminar] *Seminario Mediterraneo. Incontri sulla frontiera* – research group *Encrucijada*, Department of Philosophy and Education Science of the University of Turin (02-10/2021, Torino, Italy).
3. [co-organiser, study day] *Proprio sul filo della frontiera* – research group *Encrucijada*, Department of Philosophy and Education Science of the University of Turin (15/01/2020, Torino, Italy).

Teaching Experience

[Guest Lecturer] “Alice, Nonsense, and the Philosophy of Literature”, MA module *Philosophy and Literature*, University of Turin, 10 May 2023, 2 hours. Course coordinator: Francisco Martín Cabrero.

Peer-Reviewing Activity: Implications Philosophiques (2023); Philosophy Kitchen (2024); Filosofia (2024, 2025); Rivista di Estetica (2026); Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio (2026).

Other Projects

- Italian translation and commentary of Susan Sontag’s *Alice in Bed* (1993).

Affiliations: Association for Studies in Fiction and Fictionality; Società Italiana di Estetica; European Society for Aesthetics; British Society of Aesthetics; American Society for Aesthetics; Associazione per gli Studi di Teoria e Storia comparata della Letteratura; Modern Language Association.

Linguistic Competences: English (advanced), French (intermediate), Spanish (reading), Italian (native), Latin (reading).

References

Carola Barbero
Professor of Philosophy
University of Turin
carola.barbero@unito.it

Françoise Lavocat
Professor of Comparative Literature
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
françoise.lavocat@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr

John Gibson
Professor of Philosophy
University of Louisville
john.gibson@louisville.edu

Wolfgang Andreas Huemer
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Parma
wolfgang.huemer@unipr.it

Stefano Gualeni
Professor at the Institute of Digital Games
University of Malta
stefano.gualeni@um.edu.mt