

Vito Balorda, PhD

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<https://sites.google.com/view/vitobalorda/about-me>

ACADEMIC EXPERTISE

Specializations: Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics

Competencies: Epistemology, Philosophy of Medicine, History of Science

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024 – 2025 Postdoc and Senior Research and Teaching Assistant

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka

2019 – 2024 Research Assistant

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka

2022 – 2023 Doctoral Research Fellow

Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, University of Alberta

EDUCATION

2024 PhD Philosophy (*summa cum laude*)

University of Rijeka

Dissertation: *The Causal Explanation in Molecular Biology*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Predrag Šustar

Examiners: Prof. Dr. Bojan Borstner, Prof. Dr. Luca Malatesti and Prof. Dr. Boran Berčić

2018 MA Philosophy and History

University of Rijeka

2016 BA Philosophy and History

University of Rijeka

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2026 Postdoc Research Fellowship (1-month), EPSA: European Philosophy of Science Association Fellowship, Centre for the Philosophy of Science and Society, Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) (1.500 EUR)

2024 – 2025 Postdoc Research Grant, Croatian Science Foundation, University of Rijeka (50.000 EUR)

2023 Rector's Award for Excellent Achievement, University of Rijeka

2022 – 2023 Doctoral Research Fellowship, Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, University of Alberta (26,000 CAD)

2019 – 2024 Doctoral Research Grant, Croatian Science Foundation, University of Rijeka (120.000 EUR)

2021 Research Erasmus Grant, University of Padua

2019 Research Grant, Croatian Science Foundation, Institute Ruđer Bošković (Zagreb)

2018 Award for the best BA thesis, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka

2017 Award for the 2nd best philosophical student paper, Institute for Philosophy (Zagreb)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

Balorda, V., & Šustar, P. (2025). Natural Selection: A Mechanism, A Pathway or A Little Bit of Both? *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 56(3): 417-433. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10838-024-09711-7>. (Q1, Springer)

Balorda, V. (2023). Reductionism Debate in Molecular Biology: Max Delbrück's Complementarity Approach. *Studia Historiae Scientiarum* 22: 587-610. <https://doi.org/10.4467/2543702XSHS.23.016.17707>. (Q1, PAU)

Brzović, Z., Balorda V., & Šustar P. (2021). Explanatory Hierarchy of Causal Structures in Molecular Biology. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 11(2): 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-021-00380-7>. (Q1, Springer)

Journal Articles in Croatian:

Balorda, V. (forthcoming). Znanstveno objašnjenje u biologiji: uzročne strukture (Title in English: Scientific Explanation in Biology: Causal Structures). *Filozofska istraživanja*. (a1, HFD)

Balorda, V. (2025). Mehanicizam: atomisti, Descartes i novi mehanicisti (Title in English: Mechanicism: Atomism, Descartes, and the New Mechanists). *Bogoslovska smotra* 95(4): 851-869. <https://doi.org/10.53745/bs.95.4.9>. (a1, University of Zagreb)

Book Reviews:

Balorda, V. (2020). Justin Garson, A Critical Overview of Biological Functions. *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 20(1): 129-132. (Q1, KruZak)

Book Discussions:

Williamson, T., Berčić, B., Savčić, K., Čeč, F., Jandrić, A., Balorda, V., & Rajter, M. (forthcoming). Overfitting and Heuristics in Philosophy (OUP 2024). *Prolegomena*. (Q3, UPF)

Popular Philosophical Articles:

Balorda, V. & Crnko, T. (2025). How Can Philosophers Rebuild Trust in Science?, *Blog of the APA: Public Philosophy*.

Balorda, V. & Crnko, T. (2025). Pitaj filozofa: Kako vratiti povjerenje u znanost? (Title in English: Ask a Philosopher: How to Restore Trust in Science?), *Kronika: Filozofski magazin*, Institute for Philosophy, Zagreb (Croatia).

SELECTED TALKS

2025 “Waismann’s Open Texture: The Many Faces of Biological Mechanism”, Vienna Circle: A Century of Scientific Philosophy, University of Maribor (Slovenia)

2025 “The Conceptual Mess in Neuroscience: What Counts as a Mechanism?”, Philosophy and Cognitive Science, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2025 “Responsibility Without Blame: Philosophers and the Decline of Trust in Science”, ZAEC 2025: Zagreb Applied Ethics Conference, Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb (Croatia) (with T. Crnko)

2025 “Bridging the Science-Public Communication Gap: Why Philosophy of Science Matters”, EPSA25: European Philosophy of Science Association biennial conference, University of Groningen (Netherlands) (with T. Crnko)

2025 “Mechanisms vs Pathways: Ontological and Conceptual Differences” (poster), EPSA25: European Philosophy of Science Association biennial conference, University of Groningen (Netherlands)

2025 “Mechanisms vs Pathways: Ontological and Conceptual Differences”, ISHPSSB 2025: International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Porto (Portugal)

2025 “Mechanisms vs Pathways: Ontological and Conceptual Differences”, BSPS 2025: British Society for Philosophy of Science, University of Glasgow (Scotland, UK)

2025 “Life and Mechanism Between Vagueness and Open Texture”, Analytic Philosophy, Inter University Center Dubrovnik (Croatia) (with A. Božić)

2025 “The One Over Many as Explanatory Unification: Bridging Metaphysics and Scientific Explanation”, Metaphysics, Inter University Center Dubrovnik (Croatia)

2025 “Causal Explanation in Biology: Mechanisms, Pathways, and Cascades”, Philosophy of Science, Inter University Center Dubrovnik (Croatia)

2024 “Bridging the Science-Public Communication Gap: Why Philosophy of Science Matters”, Public Philosophy: Perspectives and Challenges, Institute for Philosophy Zagreb (Croatia) (with Crnko, T.)

2024 “The Role of Philosophers in Rebuilding Trust in Science”, Contemporary Philosophical Issues, University of Rijeka (Croatia) (with Crnko, T.)

2024 “Causal Explanations in Metaphysics”, Philosophy and Science, University of Rijeka (Croatia) (with Berčić, B.)

2024 “From Crisis to Confidence: Rebuilding Trust in Science”, Wirth Alumni Network Conference, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2024 “Metaphysical Explanations”, Metaphysics, Inter University Center Dubrovnik (Croatia) (with Berčić, B.)

2023 “Causal Explanation in Molecular Biology”, XV Annual Convention of the Centers for Austrian and Central European Studies, University of California, Berkeley (USA)

2023 “Causal Explanation in Molecular Biology”, Central European Talks 2023, University of Alberta (Canada)

2022 “Natural Selection: A Mechanism or a Pathway?”, EASPLS 2022: European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences: Complexity in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences, University of Bordeaux (France)

2022 “Natural Selection: Pathway or Mechanism? Insights from Cancer Research”, GWP.2022: International Conference of the German Society for Philosophy of Science, University of Berlin (Germany)

2021 “Categories of Reductionism in Molecular Biology”, ESHS 2021: Second Early Career Scholars Conference, University of Athens (Greece)

2021 “Categories of Reductionism in Molecular Biology”, 22nd Rijeka Conference in Philosophy: Contemporary Philosophical Issues, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2021 “Molecular Biology Origins: Max Delbrück’s Complementarity Approach and the Reductionism Debate”, ISHPSSB 2021: International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York (USA)

2021 “Molecular Biology: Origins”, 1st international PhD Student Conference: Contemporary Philosophical Issues, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2019 “Explanation in Molecular Biology: The Explanatory Force of the Details” EPSA19: European Philosophy of Science Association biennial conference, University of Geneva (Switzerland) (with Šustar, P.)

2019 “Explanation in Molecular Biology: The Explanatory Force of the Details”, ISHPSSB 2021: International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Oslo (Norway)

2018 “New Mechanistic Debate: The Devil is in the Details”, SOPhIA 2018: Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy, University of Salzburg (Austria)

OUTREACH TALKS

2025 "Znanost na aparatima? Filozofi dolaze u pomoć!" (Title in English: "Is Science on the Ropes? Philosophers Are Coming to Help!"), Pint of Science, Rijeka (Croatia) (with T. Crnko)

2022 “Causal Explanation in Molecular Biology”, Rijeka PhD Café (Croatia)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

2025 European Researchers' Night in Rijeka, Croatia (over 2000 participants)

2025 Philosophy Promotions in Croatian High Schools (visited over 15 high schools)

TEACHING

Lecturer:

2024 – 2026 Philosophy of Science – at the Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka, MA (in Croatian)

2024 – 2026 Philosophy of Science – at the Division for Cognitive Sciences, University of Rijeka, MA, and Erasmus (in English)

2024 – 2026 Philosophy of Biology – at the Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka, BA, MA, and Erasmus (in Croatian and English)

2024 – 2026 Philosophical Module – at the Division for Cognitive Sciences, University of Rijeka, MA, and Erasmus (in English)

Leading Seminar Classes:

2025 – 2026 Introduction to Philosophy – at the Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka, BA (in Croatian)

2019 – 2021 Philosophical Research and Writing – at the Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka, BA (in Croatian)

Guest Lecturer:

2019 – 2020 Philosophy of Science – at the Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka, MA

2019 – 2020 Philosophy of Biology – at the Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka, BA and MA

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES

2025 26th Edition of the Contemporary Philosophical Issues Conference, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2024 25th Edition of the Contemporary Philosophical Issues Conference, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2024 Philosophy and Science Workshop, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2022 – 2023 Central European Cafes, University of Alberta (Canada)

2021 1st International PhD Student Conference: Contemporary Philosophical Issues PhD, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2019 ThUMB 2019 Summer School in Philosophy of the Life Sciences: Molecular Biology and Evolution, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

2018 Volunteered at the ESPP: 26th Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Psychology, University of Rijeka (Croatia)

UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA: REPRESENTATIVE IN COMMITTEES

2021 – 2022 University Senate

2021 – 2023 Doctoral School Board

2020 – 2023 Faculty Board of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

2019 – 2023 Governing Board of the University Library

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

2023 Philosophy of Science, Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania
(Coursera course, Prof. Michael Weisberg)

2022 Certified karate coach, issued by the World Karate Federation

2018 Certified fitness instructor, issued by the Croatian Ministry of Tourism and Sport

2018 2nd degree karate black belt

2014 Croatian karate referee

2012 1st degree karate black belt

2003 – 2009 Elementary music school, instrument: guitar