

GLORIA SANSÒ

University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Department of Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Technology (especially AI), Applied Ontology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Critical Thinking, Ethics

EDUCATION

May 2024 (expected graduation)
ABD

University at Buffalo
PhD in Philosophy
Dissertation: “The Ontology of Finance”

Abstract

My dissertation presents a twofold contribution to the development of a computational ontology of finance. In chapter one, I elucidate the practical applications of such an ontology, and I argue for ontological realism as the more appropriate methodology to build it. In the following chapters, I provide a metaphysical exploration of key financial entities. Such an investigation, in addition to being a resource for the ontology developer, solves some of the problems characterizing current debates in social metaphysics. In particular, in chapters two and three, I offer a characterization of financial transactions that does not have the limitations of the *Action Theory of Exchanges*. In chapter four, I offer a characterization of money that goes beyond the discussion about its physical (or abstract) nature.

Committee: Barry Smith (chair), John Beverley, David Braun, Neil E. Williams

April 2019

University of Turin
MA in Philosophy
Thesis: “Uptake in Document Acts”
Advisors: Maurizio Ferraris, Angela Condello

April 2016

University of Turin
BA in Philosophy
Thesis: “Inscriptions or Intentions? Self-fulfilling
Prophecy and Financial Crisis”
Advisor: Maurizio Ferraris

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED VOLUMES

- fc 2023 Ontology of finance (with B. Smith), *Rivista di Estetica*
- 2021 [Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Biomedical Ontology](#)
(with A. Diehl and W. Duncan), *CEUR Workshop Proceedings*, 2931

ARTICLES IN REFERRED JOURNALS

- fc 2023 “Ownership, preferences, and offers”, *Rivista di Estetica*
- 2018 [“What is a Speculative Bubble?”](#), *Symposia Melitensia*, 14, 367-376

INTRODUCTION

- 2023 “Ontology of finance: an introduction” (with B. Smith), *Rivista di Estetica*

BOOK REVIEW

- 2021 [“B. Fisher \(Ed.\), *The Routledge Handbook of Animal Ethics*, 2018”](#),
Metapsychology, 15(10)

OTHER PUBLICATION

- 2020 [“Social/Natural”](#), *Post-colonial Studies*, LabOnt Blog

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Why we need a computational ontology of finance (and how philosophers can help build it)”
(invited to be included in the collection of papers “Philosophy and Finance: Eleven Issues and
Open Questions” published by *Synthese*; currently under review, draft available upon request)

“Ontology of the financial transaction”
(in progress)

“Money, functions, and causal powers”
(in progress)

TALKS

Invited talks are marked with an [I], peer-reviewed talks are marked with a [P], talks at events I
organized are marked with an [O]

- 11/30/2023 “Are automated trading systems social agents?” [P]
2nd International Conference on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
Universidade do Porto, Portugal

- 08/17/2023 “Deontic States of Affairs: The Case of Money” [P]
Social Ontology 2023 (ISOS Conference)
 University of Stockholm, Sweden
- 05/24/2023 “Advantages and Challenges of Building a Realism-based Ontology of Finance” [I]
Basic Formal Ontology Summit Meeting
 University at Buffalo, NY, USA
- 03/18/2023 “Classifying Bitcoin: The Priority of the Descriptive Approach” [P]
Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable
 University of Memphis, TN, USA
- 02/28/2023 “Ontology of the Financial Transaction” [I]
Phinance Online Seminar
 Phinance, the Philosophy & Finance Network
- 08/25/2022 “What is an Investment?” [P]
Social Ontology & Collective Intentionality 2022 (ISOS Conference)
 University of Vienna, Austria
- 05/07/2022 “Foundations for an Ontology of Finance” [O]
Ontology of Finance (Workshop)
 University at Buffalo, NY, USA
- 08/20/2021 “Dispositional Properties in the Social Realm” [P]
Social Ontology 2021 (7th Biennial ENSO Conference)
 University of California, San Diego, CA, USA
- 03/31/2021 “Some Proposals to Improve the PhilPapers Categorization System” [O]
Classifying Philosophy: Problems and Strategies (Workshop)
 University at Buffalo, NY, USA
- 01/11/2021 “Che cos’è un atto sociale?” [I]
Labont Seminar
 University of Turin, Italy
- 07/15/2020 “The Weak Textualist Dilemma” [P]
Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality 2020 (ISOS Conference)
 Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- 08/24/2019 “Simulation of Consent in Complex Document Acts” [P]
Social Ontology 2019 (6th Biennial ENSO Conference)
 Tampere University, Finland

- 04/09/2019 “Artworks as Capital” (with M. Bertolino) [P]
Philosophy of Art (8th Dubrovnik Conference)
 Dubrovnik, Croatia
- 08/22/2018 “Felicity Conditions of Document Acts” [P]
Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality (ISOS Conference)
 Tufts University, MA, USA
- 09/18/2017 “What is a Speculative Bubble?” [P]
Connections (Annual International Multi-Disciplinary Conference)
 G. F. Abela Junior College, Malta

POSTER PRESENTATION

- 30/03/2023 “Towards a Realism-based Ontology of Finance”
IAD days
 Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Data, University at Buffalo, NY,
 USA

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

- Summer 2023 Primary Instructor – Intro to Ethics
 Winter 2023 Primary Instructor – Contemporary Moral Problems
 Summer 2022 Primary Instructor – Critical Thinking
 Winter 2022 Primary Instructor – Critical Thinking
- Fall 2022 Teaching Assistant to Neil E. Williams – Philosophy of Science
 Spring 2022 Teaching Assistant to David Hershenov – Medical Ethics
 Fall 2021 Teaching Assistant to Duane Long – Contemporary Moral Problems
 Fall 2020 Teaching Assistant to Lewis Powell – Introduction to Philosophy
 Fall 2019 Teaching Assistant to David Braun – Philosophy of Mind
- Fall 2023 Research Assistant to Neil E. Williams – Metaphysics
 Spring 2023 Research Assistant to Neil E. Williams – Metaphysics
 Spring 2021 Research Assistant to Barry Smith – Applied Ontology
 Spring 2020 Research Assistant to Barry Smith – Applied Ontology

SERVICE

EVENT ORGANIZATION

- 11/03/2023 Co-organizer of *Grounding Powers* (Workshop)
Richardson Hotel, Buffalo, NY
- 05/07/2022 Lead organizer of *Ontology of Finance* (Workshop)
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
- 03/31/2021 Lead organizer of *Classifying Philosophy: Problems and Strategies* (Workshop)
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
- Winter 2020 Abstracts Reviewer for *Philosophy of Sex and Love* (Graduate Conference)
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

INVITED REFEREEING

Applied Ontology, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Rivista di Estetica

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2019-2024 Graduate Scholarship
5 years of full PhD funding: tuition, stipend, and health insurance
University at Buffalo
- 2019-2023 Dean's Scholarship
\$4000 per year
University at Buffalo
- 2023 Hourani Memorial Fund for Teaching Ethics
\$3000
University at Buffalo
- 2023 Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award
\$1000
Department of Philosophy, University at Buffalo
- 2022 Grant for the organization of the workshop "Ontology of Finance"
\$600
ISOS (International Social Ontology Society)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

APA (American Philosophical Association)
ISOS (International Social Ontology Society)
NCOR (National Center for Ontological Research)
LabOnt - Center for Ontology

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Metaphysics	Neil E. Williams
Social Ontology	Neil E. Williams
Philosophy for the intelligence analyst	Barry Smith
Time, tense, and temporal perspective	Maureen Donnelly
Aesthetics	Alex King
Social and political philosophy	Ryan Muldoon
Teaching philosophy	Lewis Powell
History of modern philosophy	Lewis Powell
Financial economics I	Sally Abell
Financial economics II	Sally Abell
Philosophy of Language	David Braun
Modal Logic	David Braun
Metaphysics and ethics of transhumanism	David Hershenov

UNIVERSITY OF TURIN

Ontology	Maurizio Ferraris
Theoretical philosophy	Maurizio Ferraris
Mind & Language	Alberto Voltolini
Philosophical arguments	Diego Marconi
Philosophy of art	Tiziana Andina
History of philosophy I	Guido Bonino
History of philosophy II	Paolo Tripodi
History of ideas	Guido Bonino
Philosophy of literature	Carola Barbero
Metaphysics	Graham Harman
Bioethics	Maurizio Mori
Games, preferences, and decisions	Paolo Maffezoli

LANGUAGES

Italian (native speaker), English (fluent)

REFERENCES

Barry Smith
SUNY Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Julian Park Chair
Department of Philosophy
University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Phone: (716) 645 0160
phismith@buffalo.edu

Neil E. Williams
Professor and Department Chair
Department of Philosophy
University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Phone: (716) 645 0161
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David Braun
Professor and Patrick & Edna J. Romanell Chair in Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Phone: (716) 645 0162
dbraun2@buffalo.edu

David E. Gray (teaching reference)
Associate Teaching Professor
Department of Philosophy
University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Phone: (716) 645 0164
degray@buffalo.edu