

# Bruno Cortesi

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AOS: Philosophy of Mind; Metaphysics. | AOC: Phenomenology; Epistemology.

## Education

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<b>School of Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia</b> , Ph.D. in 'Cognitive Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind' (Mark: Excellent <i>cum Laude</i> ; Thesis title: <i>The Argument from Revelation against Physicalism</i> . Supervisors: Alfredo Tomasetta and Martine Nida-Rümelin; External Referees: Martine Nida-Rümelin and Gianfranco Soldati; thesis admitted to the viva without revisions; Examining committee: Gianfranco Soldati, Elisabetta Sacchi and Luca Zanetti).	2020-2024
<b>University College Dublin</b> , Master of Arts in Consciousness and Embodiment (First Class Honors. Thesis title: <i>Reversibility and Chiasm: false equivalents? Trying to secure difference and separation within Maurice Merleau-Ponty's account of the 'the Chiasm'</i> . Supervisor: Timothy Mooney. Second appointed reader: Joseph Cohen).	2019-2020
<b>University of Pavia</b> , Master of Arts in Philosophy ( <i>Summa cum Laude</i> . Thesis title: <i>The Notion of Intentionality and its Relevance in Contemporary Philosophy of Mind</i> . Supervisor: Luca Vanzago. Co-Supervisor: David Weberman).	2016-2019
<b>University of Pavia</b> , Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.	2013-2016

## Research Experience

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<b>University of Graz, OeAD Ernst Mach Scholar - visiting researcher</b>	Oct. 2025-Present
<b>Université de Fribourg</b> , Visiting Ph.D. student.	Jan. 2023-Jul. 2023/Oct. 2023-Feb.2024
<b>Cambridge University, Corpus Christi College</b> , Visiting graduate student.	Aug. 2018
<b>Central European University</b> , Visiting graduate student (Erasmus+).	Jan 2018-May 2018

## Honours

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Fellow (now <i>Alumnus</i> ) of the <i>Almo Collegio Borromeo</i> of Pavia. Founded in 1561, the <i>Almo Collegio Borromeo</i> is recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), as a highly qualified cultural institution.	2013-Present
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## Grants and Awards

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<b>University of Graz</b> , OeAD Ernst Mach Scholarship (€1300.00/ month).	Oct. 2025-Jun. 2026
<b>University of Fribourg</b> , Doctoral Grant (CHF 1900.00/ month).	Oct. 2023-Mar. 2024
<b>IUSS Pavia</b> , Erasmus+ Research Grant (€ 2350).	Jan. 2023-Jul. 2023
<b>IUSS Pavia</b> , Doctoral Grant (€ 16343.00/year).	2020-2023
<b>Almo Collegio Borromeo</b> , visiting allowance. (granted to three outstanding students each year, this scholarship allowed me to spend a summer research period at the <i>University of Cambridge</i> for free, as a visiting student of the <i>Corpus Christi College</i> ).	Aug. 2018
<b>University of Pavia and Central European University</b> , Erasmus+ Research Grant (€ 400/month).	Jan. 2018-May 2018

## Publications

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### Articles

B. Cortesi, *The Conceivability Wars*. Forthcoming in *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*.

B. Cortesi, *That there is something: phenomenological reflections on witness-consciousness, existence, and the fact of manifestation*. Forthcoming in *Metodo - International Studies in Phenomenology and Philosophy*.

B. Cortesi, *La tesi della rivelazione e il problema mente-corpo*, *APhEx - Rivista Italiana di Filosofia Analitica*, 31(2025):98-140. DOI:10.13137/2036-9972/37290

J. Pallagrosi and B. Cortesi, *The Stalemate between Causal and Constitutive Accounts of Introspective Knowledge by Acquaintance*, *Argumenta* 9,2(2023): 433-451. DOI 10.14275/2465-2334/20230.pa

B. Cortesi, *The Thesis of Experiential Revelation in the Philosophy of Mind: a Guide for the Perplexed*, *Argumenta* (2023):1-20. DOI 10.14275/2465-2334/20230.cor

B. Cortesi, A. Oliani and P. Vigiani, *Conversazione con Emanuele Severino*, *Quaderni Borromaici* (2016): 3, Interlinea.

### Under review or in preparation

*Consciousness as Fundamental Reality: the Transcendental, Experience, and the Quantum* (with Simone Nota)

*Witness Consciousness and Depression*.

*Why Zombies are Inconceivable—and Why Physicalism Still Fails*.

*Revelation, Dual Carving and the Argument from Cognitive Connection* (with Jakub Mihálik).

*Revelation and Grounding Physicalism*.

### Book reviews

Review of P. Pecere, *La natura della mente: da Cartesio alle scienze cognitive* (Carrocci Editore), *Syzthesis* XI (2024):385-389. DOI: 10.53242/syzthesis/104 .

Review of H. Robinson, *Perception and Idealism: An Essay on How the World Manifests Itself to Us, and How It (Probably) Is in Itself* (Oxford University Press), *Perspectives – International Postgraduate Journal of Philosophy*, 11 (winter 2025).

Review of E. Severino, *Il tramonto della Politica: considerazioni sul futuro del mondo* (Rizzoli), *Quaderni Borromaici* (2018): 5, Interlinea.

### Talks (\* = peer reviewed. ° = invited)

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12<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, *The Conceivability Wars*, Complutense University of Madrid\*. 24-28 Aug. 2026 (projected)

*The Conscious Mind at 30, Zombie Worlds are Inconceivable, but Physicalism still Fails*, Ruhr-University Bochum (poster presentation)\*. 18-19 Jun. 2026 (projected)

Workshop *Varieties of Phenomenology, Witness Consciousness and Depression*, School of Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia°. 13 May 2026

Workshop in Aesthetics, *That there is something: Phenomenological Reflections on Existence, Witness-Consciousness, and the Fact of Manifestation*, University of Graz°. 25-26 Mar. 2026 (projected)

Workshop on Panpsychism, non-physicalism and the causal powers of consciousness *Dual Carving: An Assessment*, Ruhr-University Bochum\*. 29 Jan. 2026

16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic philosophy – SIFA: *Minds and Worlds, The conceivability argument is not an argument about conceivability*, University of Turin\*. 28 Aug. 2025

XXXII SIUCC. Inter-University Workshop on David Chalmers' work (with David Chalmers), *The conceivability argument is not an argument about conceivability*, Universidad de La Laguna\*. 27 Jun. 2025

Why Philosophy? Workshop in honour of Gianfranco Soldati, <i>Metaphysics: Why and What</i> , Champex-Lac°	09 Jan. 2025
Discussant at the book symposium on Matt Duncan's <i>Present to the Mind: Acquaintance and Its Significance</i> . Chapter discussed: Ch. 3, <i>Strong Acquaintance Exists</i> , University of Fribourg°.	10 Aug. 2024
XXV World Congress of Philosophy, 2024, <i>The Argument from Phenomenal Transparency against Physicalism</i> , University of Rome La Sapienza*.	7 Aug. 2024
Ernst Mach Workshop XII 2024, <i>Phenomenal Transparency</i> , Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences*.	28 May 2024
EXRE Colloquia, <i>On the Supposed Metaphysical Neutrality of the Phenomenological Approach</i> , University of Fribourg°.	01 May 2024
Challenging Concepts – Debating Conceptualism and Non-Conceptualism in Epistemology and Metaphysics, <i>Transparent Phenomenal Concepts</i> , University of Padova*.	21 Feb. 2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> European Experimental Philosophy Conference, <i>Knowledge by Acquaintance: a Study in Experimental Philosophy</i> (Poster, with Achille Fusco), University of Zurich*.	15 Sep. 2023
Experimental Philosophy Workshop, Season 2, UK X-PHI, <i>Knowledge by Acquaintance: a Study in Experimental Philosophy</i> (Online, with Achille Fusco and Jacopo Pallagrosi), University of East Anglia*.	12 Jul. 2023
First-Person Science of Consciousness – Methodological Potentials, Challenges and Developmental Perspectives, University of Witten/Herdecke, <i>The Dangers of Dissecting Phenomenology</i> (with Jacopo Pallagrosi), University of Witten/Herdecke*.	12 May 2023
17 <sup>th</sup> CREPH Annual Seminar – The Significance of Subjectivity, <i>Varities of Introspective Knowledge by Acquaintance</i> (with Jacopo Pallagrosi), University of Liege, Center for Phenomenological Research*.	26 Apr. 2023
Thinking at the Limit: Philosophy's Futures, Duquesne University Graduate Students Annual Conference, <i>The Epistemic Oomph of Literature</i> (online), Duquesne University*.	02 Apr. 2023
EXRE Colloquia, <i>The Conceivability Argument is not an Argument about Conceivability</i> (online), University of Fribourg°.	29 Mar. 2023
IUSS Work in Progress Seminars, <i>The Conceivability Argument is not about Conceivability</i> (online)°, IUSS Pavia.	11 Jan. 2023
18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Cognitive Sciences AISC, <i>The Dangers of Dissecting Phenomenology</i> (with Jacopo Pallagrosi), University of Trento, Rovereto*.	16 Dec. 2022
Sophia Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy 2022, <i>Revelation: a Guide for the Perplexed</i> , University of Salzburg*.	09 Sep. 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> Austrian Summer School in Phenomenology: Phenomenological Approaches to Epistemology, Metaethics and Metaphysics, <i>The Dangers of Dissecting Phenomenology</i> (online, with Jacopo Pallagrosi), Austrian Association of Phenomenology*.	05 Sep. 2022
I <sup>x</sup> <sup>e</sup> Congrès triennal de la société de philosophie analytique francophone, <i>The Thesis of Experiential Revelation in the Philosophy of Mind: a Guide for the Perplexed</i> , University of Neuchâtel*.	08 Jul. 2022
2022 Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, <i>The Thesis of Experiential Revelation in the Philosophy of Mind: a Guide for the Perplexed</i> (online), Australasian Association of Philosophy*.	05 Jul. 2022
6 <sup>th</sup> Italian Conference in Analytic Metaphysics and Ontology, <i>Revelation: a Guide for the Perplexed</i> , University of L'Aquila*.	23 Jun. 2022

14 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy SIFA, <i>On the distinction between simple acquaintance and knowledge by acquaintance: does it apply to cognitive states?</i> , University of Messina, Noto*.	24 Sep. 2021
University of Waikato 2021 Postgraduate Conference: Perspectives on Intentionality and Consciousness, <i>The early Husserl and Merleau-Ponty on Intentionality: a brief review of Merleau-Ponty's account of our pre-reflective encounter with the environment</i> , University of Waikato*.	26 Mar. 2021
IUSS Work in Progress Seminars, <i>The early Husserl and Merleau-Ponty on Intentionality: a brief review of Merleau-Ponty's account of our pre-reflective encounter with the environment</i> <sup>o</sup> , IUSS Pavia.	15 Jan. 2021
93 <sup>rd</sup> Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, <i>Is an Objective Phenomenology Possible?</i> , University of Durham.	21 Jul. 2019

## Service to the Academic Profession

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External referee for: *Synthese, Argumenta, Synthesis, Phenomenology and Mind, RIFL – Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio, Metodo - International studies in Phenomenology and Philosophy.*

*Where is my mind? Il ruolo degli esperimenti mentali nella filosofia della mente contemporanea* (with Jacopo Pallagrosi), Scuola di orientamento universitario SOU, IUSS Pavia, Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa, Scuola Sant'anna Pisa, Lecturer.

## Memberships

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2017P9E9NF PRIN Project <i>The Mark of the Mental (MOM)</i>	01 Oct. 2020-01. Jun. 2023
Italian Association of Analytic Philosophy SIFA	2021-present
Société de Philosophie Analytique SoPHA	2022-2023
Australasian Association of Philosophy	2022-2023
Aristotelian Society	2019-2020

## Organization of Academic Events

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Co-organizer of the workshop <i>Analytic Intentionality, Phenomenology and Consciousness</i> at IUSS Pavia	2021
Co-organizer of the seminar cycles <i>Kinds of Minds</i> and <i>Philosophy of Mind</i> at IUSS Pavia, with L&PiC <i>Linguistic and Philosophy IUSS Center</i> and 2017P9E9NF <i>The Mark of the Mental (MOM)</i> PRIN Project	2020-2024
Co-organizer of the seminar cycle <i>On the concept of Game</i> at Almo Collegio Borromeo	2017
Organizer of Emanuele Severino's <i>Lectio Magistralis Sulla Tecnica (On Technology)</i> at Almo Collegio Borromeo	2015

## Summer Schools

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Second Austrian Summer School in Phenomenology: Phenomenological Approaches to Epistemology, Metaethics and Metaphysics, Austrian Association of Phenomenology (online, as speaker with Jacopo Pallagrosi)	07 Sep. 2022-09 Sep. 2022
First Austrian Summer School in Phenomenology: Phenomenological Approaches to Epistemology, Metaethics and Metaphysics, Austrian Association of Phenomenology (online, as audience)	06 Sep. 2021-08 Sep. 2021
Copenhagen Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind (as audience), University of Copenhagen, Center for Subjectivity Research.	10 Aug. 2021-14 Aug. 2021
Copenhagen Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind (as audience), University of Copenhagen, Center for Subjectivity Research.	12 Aug. 2019-16 Aug. 2019
Summer School of Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy - <i>Human, not enough Human</i> (as audience), Ca' Foscari University, Venice.	01 Jul. 2019-05 Jul. 2019

International Summer School of high formation *La cura della memoria* (The Care of Memory) and “EX|ART Film Festival” (as audience), University of Pavia. 24 Sep. 2018-28 Sep. 2018

## Languages & IT

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**Italian** (native); **English** (full professional proficiency. *I.E.L.T.S* May 2019, Overall Band Score: C1); **French** (Intermediate. Certificate issued by the University of Fribourg, level achieved: B1); **German** (Basic: A2); **Spanish** (elementary).

GNU Linux; Windows; MAC OS; MS Office and alternative Office platforms; TeX; Video-conferencing platforms.

## Referees

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Martine Nida-Rümelin

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