

Bruno Cortesi

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

Education

School of Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia , 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
University College Dublin , 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
University of Pavia , 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
University of Pavia , Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.	2013-2016

Research Experience

University of Graz , OeAD Ernst Mach Scholar - visiting researcher	Oct. 2025-Jun. 2026
Université de Fribourg , Visiting Ph.D. student.	Jan. 2023-Jul. 2023/Oct. 2023-Feb.2024
Cambridge University, Corpus Christi College , Visiting graduate student.	Aug. 2018
Central European University , Visiting graduate student (Erasmus+).	Jan 2018-May 2018

Honours

Fellow (now <i>Alumnus</i>) of the <i>Almo Collegio Borromeo</i> of Pavia. Founded in 1561, the Almo Collegio Borromeo 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

University of Graz , OeAD Ernst Mach Scholarship (€1300.00/ month).	Oct. 2025-Jun. 2026
University of Fribourg , Doctoral Grant (CHF 1900.00/ month).	Oct. 2023-Mar. 2024
IUSS Pavia , Erasmus+ Research Grant (€ 2350).	Jan. 2023-Jul. 2023
IUSS Pavia , Doctoral Grant (€ 16343.00/year).	2020-2023
Almo Collegio Borromeo , 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
University of Pavia and Central European University , Erasmus+ Research Grant (€ 400/month).	Jan. 2018-May 2018

Publications

Articles

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, The Conceivability Wars. *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* 22,2(2026). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31820/ejap.22.2.2>

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

Revelation and the Knowledge Argument

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)

The Conscious Mind at 30, <i>Zombie Worlds are Inconceivable, but Physicalism still Fails</i> , Ruhr-University Bochum (poster presentation)*.	18 Jun. 2026
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Workshop Varieties of Phenomenology, <i>Witness Consciousness and Depression</i> , School of Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia°.	13 May 2026
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Workshop in Aesthetics, <i>That there is something: Phenomenological Reflections on Existence, Witness-Consciousness, and the Fact of Manifestation</i> , University of Graz°.	25-26 Mar. 2026 (projected)
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Workshop on Panpsychism, non-physicalism and the causal powers of consciousness (with Hedda Hassel Mørch) <i>Dual Carving: An Assessment</i> , Ruhr-University Bochum*.	29 Jan. 2026
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16 th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic philosophy – SIFA: Minds and Worlds, <i>The conceivability argument is not an argument about conceivability</i> , University of Turin*.	28 Aug. 2025
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XXXII SIUCC. Inter-University Workshop on David Chalmers' work (with David Chalmers), <i>The conceivability argument is not an argument about conceivability</i> , Universidad de La Laguna*.	27 Jun. 2025
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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 rd 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 th 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 th 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 nd 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 ^{xe} 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 th Italian Conference in Analytic Metaphysics and Ontology, <i>Revelation: a Guide for the Perplexed</i> , University of L'Aquila*.	23 Jun. 2022

14 th 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> ^o , IUSS Pavia.	15 Jan. 2021
93 rd 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

External referee for: *Synthese*, *Acta Analytica*, *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

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

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

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

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

Martine Nida-Rümelin

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ruemelin@unifr.ch

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