

NICOLO' D'AGRUMA



RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of principal research interest:

- *Philosophy of Language* (experimental semantics, descriptivism, causal-historical theory of reference, proper names, natural-kinds terms, artifact terms, cross-cultural differences, slurs, insults)
- *Philosophical methodology* (experimental philosophy, the role of intuitions in philosophy, expertise, conceptual engineering)

Other areas of interest:

- *Philosophy of Science* (demarcation problem, falsificationism, growth of knowledge)

POSITIONS

Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele

Milan, Italy

Postdoc fellow

06/2024 – 06/2025

- Research in the EPITHETS project (Explaining Pejoratives In THEoretical and Experimental TermS), Department of Philosophy, PI: Bianca Cepollaro.

EDUCATION

Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, *PhD in Philosophy*

Milan, Italy

Universitat de Barcelona, *PhD in Cognitive Science and Language*

Barcelona, Spain

PhD – Double-degree co-tutorship

01/2021 – 05/2024

- 3-year PhD program
- Thesis: *An experimental defense of the causal-historical theory of reference for proper names*
- My dissertation discusses the intra and cross-cultural variation in intuitions on the reference of proper names, as revealed by the empirical literature, and champions the causal-historical theory of reference by using experimental methods, specifically truth-value judgments and eye-tracking.
- Thesis available in the [UniSR](#) and [UB](#) repository
- Supervision
 - Bianca Cepollaro (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele)
 - Genoveva Martí (Universitat de Barcelona)
 - Filippo Domaneschi (Università degli Studi di Genova)

- Reviewers: Michael Devitt and Edouard Machery
Thesis admitted for defense without any revisions required
- Defense committee: Daniel Cohnitz, Jussi Haukioja, Josep Macià, and Elisabetta Sacchi
PhD awarded with Honors

Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele

Milan, Italy

Master of Arts in Philosophy

10/2018 – 10/2020

- 2-year Master of Arts program
- Thesis: *Experimental studies on the reference of proper names: prospects and challenges*
- Tutor: Andrea Sereni (IUSS Pavia)
- Graduation mark: *110/110 cum laude*

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Munich, Germany

Erasmus-Exchange period

09/2019 – 02/2020

- Courses attended at MCMP (Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy)
- Main courses: *Causality in Philosophy of Science, Pragmatism and Vagueness*

Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele

Milan, Italy

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

10/2015 – 10/2018

- 3-year Bachelor of Arts program
- Thesis: *Il falsificazionismo tra Popper e Lakatos* (Falsificationism between Popper and Lakatos)
- Tutor: Alfredo Tomasetta (IUSS Pavia)
- Graduation mark: *110/110 cum laude*

Liceo Classico Giosuè Carducci

Milan, Italy

High School

09/2010 – 07/2015

- Final mark: *94/100*
- Major in Latin, Greek, Philosophy, History, Classic Literature
- Minor in English and Social Sciences

MEMBERSHIPS

Research groups

- [LC Lab](#) (Laboratory of Language and Cognition), University of Genova 05/2024 – present
- [SIFA](#), Società Italiana di Filosofia Analitica 07/2021 – present
- [LOGOS](#), Research Group in Analytic Philosophy 10/2021 – 05/2024

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

- D'Agruma, N. (2024), "Social facts, circularity and causal-historical connections in experimental semantics", *THEORIA. An International Journal for Theory, History and Foundations of Science*, accepted.

- D’Agruma, N. (2022), “Riferimento dei nomi propri e filosofia sperimentale”, *AphEx. Rivista italiana di filosofia analitica*, 25 ([article](#)).

Critical reviews

- D’Agruma, N. (2023), From the epistemic perspectives in experimental semantics to the ambiguity of proper names: Is the inference warranted? A critical notice of Jincai Li’s *The referential mechanism of proper names*, *Mind and Language*, 38(4), pp. 1138–1146, <http://doi.org/10.1111/mila.12472> ([article](#)).

TALKS

Reviewed

- May 30-31st, 2024, “Reference and proper names: A clash between eye-tracking and truth-value judgments” (with Filippo Domaneschi, Massimiliano Vignolo and Camilo Rodríguez Ronderos), Workshop on Experimental Semantics in Philosophy, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.
- September 8th, 2023, “Testing the reference of proper names: an eye-tracking study” (with Filippo Domaneschi, Massimiliano Vignolo and Camilo Rodríguez Ronderos), 15th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy – SIFA, September 8th – 9th, Alessandria, Italy ([program](#)).
- August 21st, 2023, “Testing the reference of proper names: an eye-tracking study” (with Filippo Domaneschi, Massimiliano Vignolo and Camilo Rodríguez Ronderos), ECAP 11: 11th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, August 21st – 25th, Central European University, Vienna, Austria ([program](#)).
- September 9th, 2022, “Proper names and descriptivist reference failure: a cross-cultural study” (with Litman Huang), 2nd European Experimental Philosophy Conference, September 8th – 10th, Universidad de Granada, Spain ([program](#)).
- September 24th, 2021, “Experimental semantics and the reference of proper names in Jonah-style cases”, 14th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA), Noto (SR), Italy, September 22th – 24th.
- July 14th, 2021, “Experimental semantics and the reference of proper names in Jonah-style cases”, Phigs Summer Colloquium, University of Kent, UK, July 13th and 14th, online event ([program](#)).
- July 8th, 2021, Poster presentation, “Ambiguity and proper names”, XPRAG.it 2021, July 8th – 9th, 2021, online event ([program](#)).

Invited

- May 25th, 2024, “Reference and proper names: A clash between eye-tracking and truth-value judgments” (with Filippo Domaneschi, Massimiliano Vignolo and Camilo Rodríguez Ronderos), Theoretical and Experimental Advances in Theories of Meaning and Reference, University of Warsaw, Poland ([program](#)).

Internal

- December 15th 2022, “Proper names: a cross-cultural study” (with Litman Huang), LOGOS Graduate Reading Group, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.
- November 28th, 2022, “Testing the reference of proper names: an eye-tracking study” (with Filippo Domaneschi, Massimiliano Vignolo and Camilo Rodríguez Ronderos), Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, online.
- October 26th, 2021, “Experimental semantics and the reference of proper names in Jonah-style cases”, Work-In-Progress seminar CRESA (Center for Experimental and Applied Epistemology), Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy.

TEACHING

Teaching assistance

- **Università degli Studi di Milano and Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele** Milan, Italy
Departments of Social and Political Sciences, and Philosophy 10/2022 – 12/2022
40 hours of tutoring, first trimester a.y. 2022-2023, for the module “Critical Thinking” of the course “Governing the future: goals and tools” taught by Bianca Cepollaro, within the Master Course “Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs”, jointly organized by Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele (Department of Philosophy) and Università degli Studi di Milano (main department: Department of Social and Political Sciences; associated department: Department of Philosophy).
- **Università degli Studi di Milano and Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele** Milan, Italy
Departments of Social and Political Sciences, and Philosophy 10/2021 – 12/2021
Subject Expert (“Cultore della Materia”), first trimester a.y. 2021-2022, for the module “Critical Thinking” of the course “Governing the future: goals and tools” taught by Bianca Cepollaro, within the Master Course “Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs”, jointly organized by Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele (Department of Philosophy) and Università degli Studi di Milano (main department: Department of Social and Political Sciences; associated department: Department of Philosophy).

Lessons

- May 9th, 2022, “Il ruolo delle intuizioni in filosofia. Il caso del riferimento dei nomi propri” (“The role of intuitions in philosophy. The case study of the reference of proper names”), lesson within the Bachelor Course “Philosophy of Language” (course coordinator: Elisabetta Sacchi), Department of Philosophy, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.
- October 20th and 25th, 2021, “Il riferimento dei nomi propri e la svolta kripkeana” (“The reference of proper names and the Kripkean revolution”), lesson within the Master Course “Semiotics of the arts” (course coordinator: Bianca Cepollaro), Department of Philosophy, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.
- May 18th, 2021, “Il dibattito filosofico sulla finzione in dialogo con le scienze cognitive” (“The philosophical debate on fiction in dialogue with cognitive science”), lesson within the Master Course “Semiotics of the arts” (course coordinator: Bianca Cepollaro), Department of Philosophy, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.
- March 25th, 2021, “Il riferimento dei nomi propri e la svolta kripkeana” (“The reference of proper names and the Kripkean revolution”), lesson within the Master Course “Semiotics of the arts” (course coordinator: Bianca Cepollaro), Department of Philosophy, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Collaborator for the thematic section “Experimental Philosophy” of the XXV World Congress of Philosophy in Rome, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, August 1st – 8th, 2024.
- Workshop “Experimental methods” led by Markus Kneer (University of Zurich), March 29th, April 5th and April 12th, 2022, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.
- Edouard Machery (University of Pittsburgh), “Experimental Semantics”, PhD seminar, March 7th and 8th, 2022, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.
- Member of the organizing Committee for CRESA Work in Progress Seminars 2021-22 and 2022-23, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.

- Member of the organizing Committee of UniSR School of Philosophy 2021 “Mind, Language, and the First-Person Perspective”, organized within the project PRIN *The Mark of the Mental*, September 28th – 30th, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.
- Member of the organizing Committee of UniSR Orientation Summer School 2021 for high-school students, June 14th – 18th, and direction of the afternoon activities on June 15th dedicated to the intersection between Economy and Philosophy, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan.

PEER REVIEWER

- Reviewer for *APhEx. Rivista italiana di filosofia analitica* (×1)
- Reviewer of the papers submitted for the experimental-philosophy section of the *World Congress Philosophy Rome 2024*, August 1st – 8th 2024, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”.
- Reviewer of a chapter of *The Handbook of Intuitions. Perspectives from global philosophy*, currently in the proposal stage with Springer.

LANGUAGES PROFICIENCY

- *Italian*: Mother-tongue
- *English*: Professional

DIGITAL SKILLS

- Word, Power Point (good user)
- Excel (advanced user): methods and calculation techniques (unconditional calculation, managed calculation, parameterized calculation), methods and techniques for tables (data validation for input control, conversion to data table), methods and techniques for data search (filter function, data query)
- Statistical Analysis on Excel with PHStat add-in (good user)
- SPSS, JASP, jamovi (good user): regression, logistic regression, t-test, ANOVA, ANCOVA, non-parametric tests, chi-square, mixed-effect models with crossed or nested effects
- RStudio (basic user): mixed-effect models with crossed or nested effects
- PsyToolkit for programming and designing experimental surveys (good user)

REFERENCES

- Bianca Cepollaro
Tenure-Track Assistant Professor
Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele
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- Filippo Domaneschi
Fixed-term Assistant Professor
Università degli Studi di Genova
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- Genoveva Martí
ICREA Research Professor
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