

PAOLO MUSSO – CURRICULUM 2021

ACADEMIC CAREER

I studied at the University of Genova, where in 1990 I graduated in Philosophy with first-class honours with a thesis on the problem of scientific realism in Rom Harré, supervised by Evandro Agazzi, one of the most distinguished philosophers of our time. In 1997 I got my Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science with a thesis on the philosophical implications of chaos and complexity theory, still supervised by Agazzi and also by Tito Fortunato Arecchi, Director of the National Institute of Optics, one of the world leading scientists in this field.

For three years I taught the course of *Philosophy of nature* as adjunct professor at two Pontifical Universities, the Urbaniana (2001-2002) and the Santa Croce (2002-2004), both in Roma. Then, in 2004 I started teaching the course of *Philosophy of science* as adjunct professor at the University of Insubria. In 2007 I won the competition for a permanent Researcher position for the disciplinary sector M-FIL/02 (Logic and Philosophy of Science) and in 2008 I was hired by the University of Insubria. In 2017 I qualified for the position of Associate Professor for the same sector M-FIL/02 and for the sector M-FIL/01 (Theoretical Philosophy). After having opted for the latter, in 2018 I was hired by the University of Insubria, where I am currently teaching *Theoretical and social foundations of modernity* and *Science and science fiction in the media and literature*, the only Italian university course on science fiction.

Furthermore, in 2012 and 2013 I taught the courses *Reason, science and scientism: at the origins of modernity* and *Doesn't technology think? The relationship between culture and technology in Western civilization* for the Doctorate in *Person formation and labor market* of the University of Bergamo.

From 2014 to 2017 I taught the course of *Philosophy of nature and science* as adjunct professor at the Theological Faculty of Northern Italy of Milano.

DOCTORAL BOARDS

From 2011 to 2013 I participated in the Board of the Doctorate in *Person formation and labor market* of the University of Bergamo (supervised theses 1).

In 2013-2014 and then from 2017-2018 on I participated in the Board of the Doctorate in *Law and human sciences* of the University of Insubria (supervised theses 4).

VISITING PROFESSOR POSITIONS

From 2005 to 2013 and from 2015 to 2019 I was visiting professor at the UCSS (Universidad Católica Sedes Sapientiae) of Lima (Peru), where I taught the course of *Epistemology* of the Faculties of Education and Medicine. Furthermore, in 2013 I taught the *Galileo II* course of the Master in Philosophy and Religion of the Faculty of Education, in 2016 the specialization course in *Methodology of social sciences* of the Faculty of Economics and in 2019 a unit of the Master in Bioethics and Biolaw of the Faculty of Medicine.

In 2017 I was visiting professor at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos of Lima (Peru), where I taught the course of *History of science* of the Doctorate in Philosophy of the Faculty of Literature and Humana Sciences.

Still in 2017 I was Fellow to Latin America of the Oxford University, on behalf of which I directed the project *La vida en el universo: su origen, su naturaleza, su sentido*.

RESEARCH FIELDS

My main fields of research are the following:

- 1) The problem of scientific method, defending scientific realism against the relativistic positions predominant nowadays, retaking and further developing the peculiar form of objectualist realism by Evandro Agazzi.
- 2) The philosophical interpretation of chaos and complexity, developed in a rather systematic way, according to a perspective that could be approximately defined as neo-Aristotelian.
- 3) The conception of reason in the modern age, especially with reference to the history of science and epistemology. He criticizes the reductionist idea of reason, demonstrating that it was not originally born in the scientific field, but in the philosophical one, since real science is based on an “open” idea of reason, which naturally leads to ask the classic “big questions” of philosophy and theology, although science cannot answer them.
- 4) The search for life in the universe (generally called bioastronomy or astrobiology), mainly focusing on the philosophical and theological implications of the possible discovery of extraterrestrial life (especially if intelligent), and on the problem of creating a suitable language to communicate with other civilizations (if any) in the context of the SETI (*Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence*) program.
- 5) Finally, although I would have much preferred not to, in recent times I have considered it a grave moral duty to study and let everyone know the truth about the catastrophic management of the virus by the WHO and Western governments, which are the main culprits of what has happened.

RESEARCH GROUP AND PROJECTS

From 2004 on I am member of the SETI Committee, an interdisciplinary research group of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), which is the world reference point for the search for intelligent life in the space.

In 2017 I was Fellow to Latin America of the Oxford University, on behalf of which I directed a research project called *La vida en el Universo: su origen, su naturaleza, su sentido* [Life in the universe: its origin, its nature, its meaning] in collaboration with the universities UCSS and UNIFÉ of Lima and many other cultural institutions throughout Peru, which was a very huge success.

From 2019 on I am member of the Advisory Board of the international research project GRADS (*Global Research on the Aesthetic Dimensions of Science*) directed by Brandon Vaidyanathan, Chairman of the Department of Sociology of The Catholic University of America of Washington DC, which is currently being carried out in USA, UK, India and Italy.

From 2020 on I am the Scientific Director of the InCosmiCon (*Intelligence in the Cosmic Context*) international research center at the University of Insubria.

POSITIONS

In 2003 I was appointed Rapporteur of the *SETI II* session of the IAC (International Astronautical Congress), of which in 2012 and 2020 I was appointed Chairman, position confirmed also for the 2021 edition.

From 2012 to 2015 I was the Editorial Secretary of *Epistemologia*, an international class A journal of philosophy of science created and directed by Evandro Agazzi.

Currently I am member of the Scientific Board of the Euresis international association for the promotion of scientific culture, of the Edizioni Studium of Roma, of the Peruvian journal *Phainomenon* and of the Italian journals *Emmeciquadro*, *Expressio*, *IO01*.

AWARDS

In 2012 my paper *Las matemáticas, Dios y la inmortalidad del alma* was awarded the Second Prize (£ 800) of the *Competition on Science and Religion for Latin American Scholars* of the project CYRAL (*Ciencia Y Religión en América Latina*), a big research program sponsored by the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science & Religion at the University of Oxford and the John Templeton Foundation, which involved tens of Universities and hundreds of professors and investigators.

In 2014 *Acta Astronautica*, the most important journal of the world in the field of space sciences, awarded me the title of *Outstanding Reviewer 2012-2014*.

In 2015, in recognition of my research activity and in particular of the book *La scienza e l'idea di ragione*, I was appointed member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA).

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

So far, I have published 85 articles and 7 books:

- 1) *Rom Harré e il problema del realismo scientifico* [Rom Harré and the problem of scientific realism], Franco Angeli, Milano, 1993, pp. 202;
- 2) *Filosofia del caos* [Philosophy of chaos], Franco Angeli, Milano, 1997, pp. 259;
- 3) *Convivere con la bomba. Dalla bioetica alla biopolitica* [Living with the bomb. From bioethics to biopolitics], ESI, Napoli, 2002, pp. 103;
- 4) *Forme dell'epistemologia contemporanea. Dal realismo all'antirealismo* [Forms of contemporary epistemology. Between realism and anti-realism], Urbaniana University Press, Roma, 2004, pp. 271 (translated in Spanish in 2012 by Fondo Editorial UCSS of Lima);
- 5) *La scienza e l'idea di ragione. Scienza, filosofia e religione da Galileo ai buchi neri e oltre* [Science and the idea of reason. Science, philosophy and religion from Galileo to the black holes and further], Mimesis, Milano-Udine, 2011, pp. 620 (2nd ed. completely revised, updated and expanded 2019, pp. 706).
- 6) *Una razón más grande. El hombre, el universo y Dios desde el cosmos de Aristóteles hasta la búsqueda de la vida en el espacio* [], Fondo Editorial UCSS – Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Lima, 2019, pp. 446.
- 7) *La vita extraterrestre. Stato della ricerca, prospettive future e implicazioni culturali. Con una lettera inedita di Benedetto XVI* [Extraterrestrial life. State of research, future perspectives and cultural implications. With an unpublished letter from Benedict XVI], Edizioni Studium, Roma, 2021, pp. 249.

DISSEMINATION AND OTHER

For some years I collaborated with the newspapers *Avvenire* and *La Repubblica*. Currently, I write for *La Provincia di Como* and the online newspapers *ilSussidiario.net* and *Globe Today's*.

From 2005 to 2007 I organized the *Bioastronomy Day* for the Festival of Science of Genova.

In 2007 I was one of the main characters of *Calling E.T.*, the best documentary ever on SETI, made by the director Prosper De Roos for the Dutch television, which premiered at the Amsterdam International Documentary Festival on 24/11/2008, where I was invited as a guest star together with the Dutch logician Alexander Ollongren.

From 2020 on I am collaborating with the David Hume Foundation, chaired by the eminent sociologist Luca Ricolfi, on whose site (www.fondazionehume.it) I have published various papers with analysis on the Covid-19 pandemic.

I have also published a book of poeties (*Le mezzanotti* [The midnights], Sabatelli, Savona, 1995) and two short science fiction stories (*Azure Planet* and *Nuclear disarmament*) on the webzine *Things from other worlds* (<https://www.altrimondi.org/category/drabble/>).