



MATTIA DELLA ROCCA, PhD

CURRICULUM VITAE ET STUDIORUM

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TOPICS OF INTEREST

History of contemporary neuroscience and neurotechnology
Cultural issues in brain/mind sciences
Science and society in 21st century Europe

CURRENT POSITION

TEMPORARY FELLOW, FAST - ISTITUTO PER LA FILOSOFIA DELL'AGIRE
SCIENTIFICO E TECNOLOGICO, CAMPUS BIO-MEDICO UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Research topics: history and epistemology of *in silico* medicine and biomedical technologies (organs-on-a-chip); history and philosophy of contemporary STEM disciplines.

P.I.: Doctor Marta Bertolaso

EDUCATION

PHD IN PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF SCIENCE,
XXIX CYCLE, UNIVERSITY OF PISA AND UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

Research topics: history and epistemology of contemporary neuroscience, brain research between biomedicine and technoscience, social history of science, technology and medicine in the second half of 20th century

Thesis title: *A Brave New Science. On some historical and epistemological aspects of contemporary neuroscience (1945- 1976)*

Supervisor: Professor Claudio Sergio Pogliano

VISITING PHD STUDENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY
OF SCIENCE (MIΘE), NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS,
GREECE - 2015

Main subjects covered: theory and methodology of historiography of science, historiography and philosophy of contemporary science, science and society and the Mediterranean countries

Host tutors: Professor Kostas Gavroglu, Professor Jean Christianidis, Professor Kostantinos Moutoussis and Professor Athanassios Protopapas

B.A. and M.A. IN MUSICOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ROME "TOR VERGATA", ITALY -
2005-2012

Main subjects covered: theory of music, acoustics, history of science, history of psychology, aesthetics and philosophy of music, psychology of music

Final work: *Storie, teorie e modelli della psicologia della musica*

Degree mark: 110/110 with honours (B.A.), 110/110 with honours (M.A.)

Advisors: Professor Carmela Morabito, Professor Claudia Colombati and Professor Barbara Continenza

PAPERS, ARTICLES AND ESSAYS (SELECTION)

- Della Rocca, M. (in press), "A machine like a brain - not *vice versa*. On the historical development of neuromorphism and the 'reverse engineering' of the brain", in *Nuncius. Journal of the Material and Visual History of Science*, 37(2).
- Della Rocca, M. (in press), "From brains as machines to machines as brains", in Cilia, N.D., Tonetti, L. (eds.), *Macchina/Organismo*, Roma: Quaderni del CNR.
- Della Rocca, M. (2017), "Histories of the Brain. Towards a critical interaction of the humanities and the neurosciences", in Leefman, J., Hildt, E. (eds.), *The Human Sciences after the Decade of the Brain*, Amsterdam: Elsevier, pp. 61-77.
- Della Rocca, M. (2016), "Sulla questione ideologica nelle neuroscienze", in Gagliasso, E., Morganti, F., Passariello, A. (eds.), *Percorsi Evolutivi. Lezioni di filosofia della biologia*, Milano: Franco Angeli, pp. 175-189.
- Della Rocca, M. Morabito, C. (2015), "Dalla riforma della psichiatria alla neuroetica, tra scienza, medicina e società. Attualità di alcuni aspetti del pensiero di Giovanni Berlinguer", in *Bioetica. Rivista Interdisciplinare*, 23(4): 563-580.
- Della Rocca, M. (2015), "In the Flesh? Appunti critici sul neuroessenzialismo", in *Scienza e Società*, 21/22, pp. 35-42.
- Morabito, C., Della Rocca, M. (2015), "Aldo Fasolo (1943-2014)", in *Scienza e Società*, 21/22, pp. 1-2.
- Della Rocca, M., Galloni, G., Morabito, C. (2014) "La storia delle scienze dall'errore all'ostacolo epistemologico" in Pedone, S., Tedeschini, M. (eds.) *Sensibilia 7 - 2013 - Errore*, Milano: Mimesis, pp. 229-241.
- Della Rocca, M. (2015), "Ideologia delle/nelle neuroscienze contemporanee", in Gagliasso, E., Della Rocca, M., Memoli, R. (eds.) *Marcello Cini e il presente. Epistemologia, storia e politiche della ricerca*, Pisa: ETS, pp. 189-199.
- Della Rocca, M., Galloni, G., Morabito, C. (2015), "La mente musicale è modulare?", in Ruggiero, G., Brunì, D. (eds.) *Il ritmo della mente. La musica tra scienza cognitiva e psicoterapia*. Milano-Udine: Mimesis, pp. 33-46.
- Della Rocca, M., Morabito, C. (2013) "Agostino Gemelli" in Clericuzio, A., Ricci, S. (eds.), *Il contributo italiano alla storia del pensiero. Appendice VIII della Enciclopedia Italiana di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, vol. IV, Scienze*, Roma: Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana.
- Della Rocca, M., Galloni, G., Morabito, C. (2013) "Dal suono alle cose: gli oggetti acustici nelle scienze cognitive" in Rotili, M., Tedeschini, M. (eds.) *Sensibilia 6 - 2012 - Cose*, Milano: Mimesis.
- Della Rocca, M., (2013) "The "other" localization: XIX century French neurophysiology's models for the seat of musical faculty in the brain", in *Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia*, 4 (2): 134-142.
- Della Rocca, M., Galloni, G., Morabito, C. (2013) "Localizzare nel cervello le funzioni cognitive" in *Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia*, 4 (2), pp. 107-115.

PRESENTATIONS, TALKS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SELECTION)

2017

- *Dal cervello-macchina alla macchina-cervello. Da dove viene, cosa significa e dove va il neuromorfismo?*, invited talk at 2017 OrvietoScienza festival, "Robot Sapiens", February 24-25, Palazzo dei Capitani del Popolo, Orvieto (TR), Italy.
- *On predictive possibilities of in silico simulations*, invited talk at the international workshop "Sliding Doors. Prediction and Contingency in Life Sciences", February 2-4, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

2016

- *Sogno e narrazione*, invited talk at the conference "Le Porte del Sogno", MACRO Museum of Rome, September 17, Rome, Italy.
- *A machine like a brain (not vice versa). On the simulation and the "reverse engineering" of the brain*. Invited talk for the doctoral seminar "EcoEvoEcog 2016: Macchina e Organismo", Sapienza University of Rome, June 22, Rome, Italy.
- *Normal and Pathological in the Age of Brain Machine. American psychiatry, neurophysiology and cybernetics at the half of 20th century*. Invited talk at the international conference "Oeconomia Corporis, The Body's Normal and Pathological Constitution at the Intersection of Philosophy and Medicine", University of Florence-Museo Galileo, May 13-14, Florence, Italy.
- *Oltre i Confini: "Conflitto, emozioni, rappresentazioni. La Grecia e l'Europa"*, seminar (as discussant) with Stathis Gourguris (Columbia University), University of Pisa, February 4, Pisa, Italy.

2015

- *Due culture, una crisi?*, talk for the international seminar "Una filosofia della cultura per la crisi" of the Eranos Foundation (in collaboration with the Universities of Pisa, Florence, Bergamo and Tübingen), June 18-19, Casa Eranos, Ascona, Helvetic Confederation.
- *Dov'è il cervello nei Progetti Cervello Umano?*, talk at the conference "Cervello/ Linguaggio/ Macchina", April 28, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy.
- *Histories of the brain. Towards a critical interaction between neurosciences and the humanities*. Talk at the International Conference "The Humanities after the Decade of the Brain", March 30-31, Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Deutschland.

2014

- *The brain and the polis: on the political implications of neuroscientific discourse*, talk at the international Conference "Science and Political Discourse, XIXth-XXIst century", November 13-14, Université Grenoble 3 - Stendhal, Grenoble, France.
- *Neuroessenzialismo e dipendenze: ricadute sociali e di politiche della ricerca*. Short communication at the Summer School of Neuroethics, September 22-25, SISSA, Trieste, Italy.
- *Com'è fatto il mio corpo?*, theatrical performance for scientific communication, (with Marco Solari and Gustavo Frigerio, written by Giulia Frezza and Mattia Della Rocca), at "La fabbrica del corpo umano dagli studi di Vesalio a oggi", Notte Europea dei Musei, May 17, Museo di Storia della Medicina, Rome, Italy.

2013

- *Big risks for a big science: le neuroscienze contemporanee tra vecchi ostacoli epistemologici e nuovi pericoli comunicativi* (with Carmela Morabito) - at "Progetti Cervelli Umano: implicazioni etiche e sociali", November 29, Department of Biology and Biotechnologies "Charles Darwin", Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy.
- *La storia delle scienze dall'errore all'ostacolo cognitivo* (with Carmela Morabito) - at "Sensibilia Colloquium on Perception and Experience", November 22, H.C. Andersen Museum, Rome, Italy.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM (SELECTION)

- Referee and juror for the 2015 Italian Scientific Communication and University Press Award ("Premio Nazionale di Divulgazione Scientifica ed Editoria Universitaria") promoted by Associazione Italiana del Libro.
- Della Rocca, M., Conte, S., "Giocare a calcio con qualcosa in meno", in *Il Post*, June 11, 2014.
- Della Rocca, M., "Un algoritmo per la neutralità della mente", in *il manifesto*, July 24, 2013.
- Author for the blog "... and science for all" for *Nuovo Paese Sera*, (2010 - 2012).

TEACHING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING (SELECTION)

Since **2016**, tutor and teaching assistant for the Philosophy of Science class, Doctoral School in Biomedical Engineering, Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome.

Since **2015**, teaching assistant for the chair of History of Science (Professor Claudio Sergio Pogliano), University of Pisa.

Since **2013**, teaching assistant for the chair of General Psychology and Introduction to Behavioral Sciences (Professor Carmela Morabito), University of Rome "Tor Vergata".

2016

- *Biomimetics and neuromorphism. A case study in the history and philosophy of 20th century science*, seminar for the Philosophy of Science class, Doctoral School in Biomedical Engineering, November 21, Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome.
- *REST-EX*, pitch presentation for the start-up competition "Start Cup Lazio 2016", University "Niccolò Cusano", July 18, Rome, Italy.
- *Ragionamento logico-critico e comunicazione*. Seminar for the graduate students of the Master in Information, Communication and Publishing Sciences, March-April, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy.
- *La scienza dell'ecologia / 2*. Public debate about the life and work of Giovanni Berlinguer, April 11, Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy.

2015

- *Histories of the brain. Milestones, paths and developments of the neuroscience*. Short course for the undergraduate and graduate students of the Department of Philosophy and History of Science (MIOE), November 26 - December 2, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.
- *On the economical and political determinations in and on life sciences*. Seminar for the undergraduate class of Bioethics, Department of Biology and Biotechnologies "Charles Darwin", November 2, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
- *Testa il Test*. Preparation course in Logic, Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking for Biomedicine and Engineering students, July 22 - August 5, University of Rome "Tor Vergata".
- *Neuroscienza e tecnoscienza: esiste una questione ideologica?* Seminar for the Philosophy of Science class, March 27 and April 29, Department of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy.
- *Sull'enhancement*. Seminar for General Psychology classes and the Lab of History and Philosophy of Psychology and Neurosciences, 2014/2015, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy.
- *La scoperta dell'inconscio*. Seminar and performance for General Psychology classes and the Lab of History and Philosophy of Psychology and Neurosciences, October 21, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy.

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC EVENTS (SELECTION)

- *Nexus. Human-Machine Interaction in Contemporary Culture, Technology and Science*, exhibition organized by Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Istituto di BioRobotica (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy), Museo Galileo - Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Firenze, Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali, Politiche e Cognitive, Università di Siena, January 23 - March 15, 2016, Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, Florence, Italy.
- *La scienza e l'Europa. Dalle origini al XIII secolo*, debate on Pietro Greco's book, with the author, Professor Carmela Morabito and Professor Lucio Russo (University of Rome "Tor Vergata"), April 30, 2015, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy.
- *Scienza, politica, società*. Debate with Pietro Greco (Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy) and Walter Tocci (Senator of the Italian Parliament), May 8, 2014, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy.
- *Marcello Cini e il presente. Epistemologia, storia e politiche della ricerca*. Conference and workshop, February 7, 2014, Department of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy.
- *Naturale e artificiale: Convegno per i dieci anni della scomparsa di Vittorio Somenzi (1918-2003)*. Conference and workshop, December 13-14, 2013, Department of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy.

GRANTS, PRIZES AND AWARDS

- "Percorsi di Scienza: orientamento sostenibile e cittadinanza scientifica tra Università, scuola e lavoro", *Torno Subito 2016 - European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) - European Social Fund 2014-2020* (grant awarded: €11.041,60).

AFFILIATIONS TO LABS AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

- Member of the *History and Philosophy of Psychology and Neurosciences Lab*, University of Rome "Tor Vergata".
- Member of the *STEP - Science and Technology in the European Periphery* international research group.
- Member of *RES Viva - Interuniversity Research Centre on Epistemology and History of Life Sciences*.
- Student member of the *International Society for the History of Neurosciences*.
- Student member of the *SISS - Società Italiana di Storia della Scienza*.
- Student member of the *BIOM - Società Italiana di Storia e Filosofia della Biologia e della Medicina*.

LANGUAGES

Mother tongue: Italian

Other languages:

Language/Skill	Reading	Writing	Speaking
English	C1	C1	C1
French	C1	C1	C1
Spanish	B2	B2	B2

ICT SKILLS

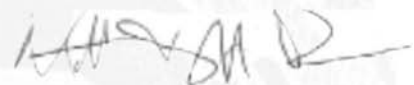
- **Languages:** HTML5, PHP, XML, SQL.
- **Tools:** Wordpress (programming, managing, layout architecture and content publishing), general-purpose Content Managing System, Adobe Dreamweaver, Photoshop Suite, Microsoft Office, LibreOffice.
- **Operating systems:** Windows, Linux (Ubuntu), Mac OS X.
- **Social Networking:** skilled user of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn.

OTHER ACTIVITIES I AM INVOLVED IN

- Teacher of Foundations of Neuroscience for the Animal-Assisted-Intervention training course provided by Centro ASI, certified by the Italian Ministry of Public Health.
- Previous work experience as health and social worker, especially with kids affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- Collector of ancient books and documents on the history of sciences and medicine.
- Proud blood and bone marrow donor since 2003.
- Cat lover.

For Italian administrations: curriculum reso sotto forma di dichiarazione sostitutiva di atto di notorietà, ai sensi degli artt. 46 e 47 del D.P.R. 445/2000 (si allega fotocopia documento di identità valido).

Consapevole, secondo quanto prescritto dall'art. 76 del D.P.R. 445/2000, della responsabilità penale cui può andare incontro in caso di dichiarazione mendace, falsità negli atti ed uso di atti falsi, il sottoscritto dichiara sotto la propria responsabilità la veridicità di quanto riportato.



ME, THE UNDERSIGNED
MATTIA DELLA ROCCA