

Margherita Benzi

Curriculum Vitae

Personal

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Citizenship: Italian

Current Position: Associate Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science, Dept. of Law and Political, Economic and Social Sciences, Università del Piemonte Orientale (UPO), Alessandria and Vercelli, Italy.

Education

Ph.D. - Philosophy of Science, University of Genova, 1995. Laurea in Philosophy, Università di Bologna Alma Mater (110/110 *magna cum laude*).

Secondary School Diploma in Classics, Bologna (60/60).

Research interests

Causality, causal inference and explanation, Individual models and big data, Uncertainty in artificial intelligence, Causal reasoning in law and medical sciences, Theories of rationality and cognitive biases, and Argumentation theory.

Previous Positions

2020. National scientific qualification as Full Professor in Logic and Philosophy of Science (M-Fil/02).

2013. national scientific qualification as Associate Professor in Logic and Philosophy of Science (M-Fil/02).

2007-2022. Assistant Professor (University of Piemonte Orientale).

2004-2007. Adjunct Professor (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele (Milano)).

1997-1998: Post-Doctoral Fellow (University of Turin).

Teaching Experiences

Undergraduate: Epistemology (Università del Piemonte Orientale), Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science (Università del Piemonte Orientale).

Graduate: Philosophy of Social Sciences (Università Vita e Salute S. Raffaele, Milan (2004-2007), Philosophy of Science (Università di Torino (2004-5) and Università del Piemonte Orientale), Logic and Argumentation Theory, Economic Analysis of Litigation, Individual and Organizational Decision Making (Università del Piemonte Orientale), Causal inference (Università di Padova).

Ph.D. programs: Statistics (Padova 2017), Philosophy (FINO- Filosofia del Nord-Ovest 2018).

Erasmus: lessons on *Explanation and Causality in Medicine*, Erasmus 2009-2010, Universidad La Laguna, Tenerife.

Visiting activities

2014. *Honorary Research Associate*, University College London.

2000. Department of Philosophy, University of Iceland, Reykjavik.
1998. Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.
1997. Department of Philosophy, University of Iceland, Reykjavik.
1995. Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester.

Institutional responsibilities

2022 – present. Member of the Technical and Scientific Committee for the Biobank – UPO.
2021- present. Member of the Steering Committee of the Centre for Simulation in Medicine and in Health Professions-SIMNOVA, UPO.
2019 – present. Coordinator of the UPO section of the research center PhilHead – Philosophy of Health and Disease (Università: Bologna, Ferrara, Firenze, Genova, Milano Bicocca, Padova Piemonte Orientale, Roma III).
2019 – present. Member of the Center IA@UPO (Artificial Intelligence at UPO).
2015 - 2017; 2020 – present. Member of CEIMS (Centro di Eccellenza Interdipartimentale di Servizi per il Management Sanitario) UPO.
2014 – present. Member of the Board of Teaching Activities of the Doctoral Consortium FINO.
2012 – 2013. Member of the Scientific Board of Centro interuniversitario “Agorà scienza” (2012 - 2013).
2017-19. Member of the steering committee of the Doctoral Consortium of Philosophy of the Universities of Torino, Pavia, Piemonte Orientale, Genova (FINO).
2007-2013. Member of the Board of Teaching Activities of the Ph.D. Program in Philosophy, University of Genova.

Recently approved Research Projects

2017- 2021 Local research project *Artificial Intelligence and decision processes* (PI).

Memberships of Scientific Societies

SILFS (Italian Society of Logic and Philosophy of Sciences).
SIFA (Italian Society of Analytic Philosophy).
SWIP (Women in Philosophy Society).
IPMR (International Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable).

Main International Conferences and Workshops

2021. AlmaIdea-PhilHead workshop: *Covid Pandemics: Theoretical and Practical Issues*. The use of war metaphor during the Covid-19 pandemic; online workshop, 17 October, Università di Bologna.
2018. *Singular Causality in Medicine*, Workshop *For a Bottom-up Epistemology*. A workshop in honor of Maria Carla Galavotti, Università di Bologna, Bertinoro.
2015. *Discussant International Workshop “Causality in the special sciences”*, Università di Bologna.
2014. *The Changing Fortunes of Metabolic Syndrome: Causal Mechanism, Nominal Definition or Reminder?* London, UCL 27 October 2014.
2012. *The defeat of malaria in Italy: the role of DDT*, Colloque scientifique organisée par l’Institut d’Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé de l’Université de Genève et la Chaire d’Histoire des Sciences de l’UPO, Vercelli.

2010. Panel, *Work in progress in Causal and Probabilistic Reasoning*, 28 - 29 June, University of Kent, Paris Campus.
2008. *Diagnosis, Explanation and Token Causation*, International workshop *Themes from Causality*, Università dell'Aquila.
2006. *Contexts for Causal Models*, "Causality and Probability in the Sciences", University of Kent.
2006. *Causal Reasoning and Contexts*, "Frames. A colloquium in Linguistics, Philosophy, and Economics" University of Bologna.
2005. *Discovering Causes: What input for Causal Machines?* "International Colloquium on Truth, Verisimilitude and Simulation Models. Functional Realism, Objectivism and Knowledge Construction", University of Rome "Tor Vergata".
2005. *Causal Networks and Contexts*, "Workshop on Causality, Probability, and Rationality", Bologna.
2002. *Type-level Causation, Token-level Causation, and Causal Inference*, "9th Italo-Spanish Meeting of Analytic Philosophy", Padua.
2001. Discussion of M. Dorato "*Laws of Nature, Causation and Mental Causation*", "International Workshop on Mind, Reason and Action. Perspectives on Mental Causation", Vercelli.
2000. *Probability and Manipulation in Causal Theories*, University of Iceland, Reykjavik
1999. *Reti bayesiane e causalità*, "VI Coloquio Hispano-italiano de Filosofia Analitica Conceptos, significado y causalidad", Granada.
1999. Discussion of the talk *Reasoning Without Meaning* di M. Colombetti, workshop "Reasoning: the Logical and the Psychological Perspectives", Padova.
1995. *Logicians vs. Probabilists in AI: a Long Lasting Debate*. The University of Rochester. Rochester (NY).

Selected Publications (*)

Volumes

1. M. Benzi, *Cause singolari*, Aracne, 2020
2. M. Benzi, *Il ragionamento incerto. Probabilità e logica in intelligenza artificiale*. Angeli, Milano 1997.
3. M. Benzi, *Scoprire le cause. Reti causali, contesti, probabilità*. Angeli, Milano 2003, ristampa 2005.
4. M. Marsonet, M. Benzi (eds.) *Logic and Metaphysics*, Name, Genova, 2004.
5. M. Benzi and G. Rampa (eds.) *Networks 5(2005). Numero monografico: Errori nel ragionamento/Mistakes in Reasoning*, 2005.
6. M. Benzi e R. Ferrario (eds.) *Networks 6(2006). Numero monografico: Ontologia/Ontology*, 2006.
7. M. Benzi, F. Barone Adesi e R. Campaner (eds.) *Argumenta 7 (1) Special Issue. Modeling the COVID-19 Pandemic: Epidemiological, Epistemological, and Ethical Challenges*, 2021

Articles

1. M. Benzi, "Sull'applicabilità della regola di successione di Laplace", *Statistica* **42** 4 (1982), pp. 567 – 78
2. M. Benzi, "Interpretazioni e applicazioni della probabilità", *Energia e innovazione* 2 (1985), pp. 66 – 72
3. M. Benzi, "Un probabilista neoclassico: F. P. Cantelli", *Historia Mathematica* 14 (1988), pp. 53 - 72. DOI: 10.1016/0315-0860(88)90049-3
4. Benzi, "Hacking e l'emergere della probabilità moderna", *Intersezioni* 3 (1989), pp. 553 - 562.

5. M. Benzi, D. Palladino, “Probabilità e statistica. Guida bibliografica ragionata”, *Nuova Secondaria* 3 (1992), pp. 55 - 58.
6. M. Benzi, D. Palladino, “La logica induttiva. Guida bibliografica ragionata”, *Nuova Secondaria* 8 (1994), pp. 55 - 58.
7. M. Benzi, “Dubbiezze e controversie. Il dibattito su logica e probabilità in Italia nei primi anni del Novecento”, *Historia Mathematica* 22 (1995), pp. 43-63. DOI: 10.1006/hmat.1995.1004 .
8. M. Benzi, “Reti bayesiane e ragionamento causale” *Sistemi intelligenti* Vol. 11, n. 2 (1999), pp. 239 – 260.
9. M. Benzi, “Il ‘Critical Thinking’: 1. Lo statuto epistemologico”, *Nuova Secondaria*, 3 (2002), pp. 86 -89.
10. M. Benzi, “Il “Critical Thinking”: 2. Insegnare ad argomentare”, *Nuova Secondaria*, 5 (2003), pp. 81 – 84.
11. M. Benzi, “Filosofi e scienziati: il caso delle cause”, in *Sistemi intelligenti* (agosto 2005), pp. 195-202.
12. M. Benzi, “Introduzione” e curatela del *Numero monografico: Errori nel ragionamento/Mistakes in Reasoning, Networks* 5 (2005)) pp. i-v.
13. M. Benzi, “Introduzione” e curatela (with R. Ferrario) del *Numero monografico su Ontologia/Ontology, Networks* 6 (2006) (ISSN 1126-4780), pp.i-iv.
14. M. Benzi, “Discovering causes: What input for causal machines?”, in *La Nuova Critica*, N.S.I-II (2006), 119-146.
15. Margherita Benzi, Michele Benzi, Eugene Seneta, “Francesco Paolo Cantelli”, *International Statistical Review* (2007), **75**, 2, 127-130.
16. M. Benzi, “Medical Diagnosis and Actual Causation”, in *Logic and Philosophy of Science*, 9 (2011), 365-372.
17. M. Benzi, “Probabilistic Causation”, in Bordoni, S. and Matera S. (eds) 2014, *Forecasting the Future: Scientific, Philosophical and Historical Perspectives*, Special Issue of *Isonomia Epistemologica*, 31-55.
18. M. Benzi, “Thought Experiments and Actual Causation”, in *Topoi* (2016) (doi: 10.1007/s11245-016-9427-7)
19. M. Benzi, M. Benzi, “Norma e caso individuale nella diagnosi medica: stili di ragionamento”, *Mefisto. Rivista di medicina, filosofia e storia* 1 (2017), 173-192.
20. M. Benzi, “Defining metabolic syndrome: how much causality, if any, is required?”, *Disputatio* Special Issue on Modelling and Causality in the Sciences 47, (9), 2017, 553-580.
21. M. Benzi, Carlo Penco, “Context-dependent Kinds of Defeasible Arguments”, *Paradigmi* 3 (2018), 561-578.
22. M. Benzi, “Il ragionamento in condizioni di incertezza” *ApHex* 20(2019), 1-35.
23. M. Benzi, “Per una più moderna cultura giuridica. Parte III” *Giustizia insieme*, october 2019.
24. M. Benzi, F. Barone Adesi, and R. Campaner, “Introduction: COVID-19 Models and the Difficult Balance between Methods and Values”, in *Argumenta* 7 (1), 2021, 9-17.
25. M. Benzi and M. Novarese, “Metaphors we lie by: our ‘war’ against COVID-19”, *History and Philosophy of Life Sciences* 44 (2), 18.

Chapters

1. Benzi, “La ‘teoria astratta’ della probabilità di F. P. Cantelli”, in M. L. Dalla Chiara and M. C. Galavotti (eds.) *Temi e prospettive della logica e della filosofia della scienza contemporanee*, Vol.2. CLUEB, Bologna 1988, pp. 213 - 16.
2. M. Benzi, “Probabilità, senso comune, razionalità”, in F. Castellani and L. Montecucco (eds.) *Normatività logica e ragionamento di senso comune*, Il Mulino, Bologna 1998, pp. 181 - 198.

3. M. Benzi, “Eppur ragiona”, in P. Cherubini, P. Giaretta, A. Mazzocco, (eds.) *Ragionamento: psicologia e logica*, Giunti, Firenze 2000, pp. 171 - 176.
4. M. Benzi, “Alcune critiche all’epistemologia femminista”, in M. Marsonet (ed.) *Donne e filosofia*, Erga, Genova 2000, pp. 254 - 268.
5. M. Benzi, “Il problema logico delle fallacie”, in G. Mucciarelli and G. Celani (eds.) *Quando il pensiero sbaglia. La fallacia tra psicologia e scienza*, UTET-Libreria, Torino 2002, pp. 62 - 95 and 182 - 185.
6. M. Benzi, “Cause e contesti”, in C. Penco (ed.) *La svolta contestuale*, McGraw-Hill, Milano 2002, pp. 99 - 120.
7. M. Benzi, “Contexts for causal models”, in F. Russo, and J. Williamson, (eds.) *Causality and Probability in the Sciences*, College Publications, London 2007, pp. 467 - 486.
8. Margherita Benzi, Pierdaniele Giaretta, “Causalità e diagnosi”, in Giaretta, P., Moretto, A. Gensini G.F. Trabucchi, M. (eds.) *Filosofia della medicina. Metodo, modelli, cura ed errori*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009, pp. 481-518 (paragrafi 4-6).
9. Margherita Benzi, Carlo Penco, “Gesti, azioni, argomentazioni” in *La svolta argomentativa. 50 anni dopo Perelman e Toulmin: 1958-2008*, in P. Cantù, A. Cattani. I. Testa, P. Vidali, Loffredo (eds.)- University Press, Napoli 2009, 99-110.
10. M. Benzi, R. Campaner, “Spiegazioni e cause in medicina”, in A. Pagnini (ed.) *Filosofia della medicina: epistemologia, ontologia, etica, diritto*, Carocci, Roma 2010 pp.165-201.
11. M. Benzi, “Thought Experiments”, in Davies, R. (ed.) *Analisi*, Mimesis, Milano 2011, pp. 265-276.
12. M. Benzi, “Cause, scienza e senso comune”, in A. Lavazza, M. Marraffa, (ed.) *La guerra dei mondi? Scienze e senso comune*, Codice, Torino, 2016, pp. 88-102.
13. M. Benzi, “Modelli individuali in medicina. Dalla classe di riferimento ai *digital twins*”, in M. Cruciani and F. Gagliardi (eds.) *Medicina, Filosofia Cognizione*, Roma, Aracne, 2019, pp. 45-72.
14. M. Benzi e C. Penco, “Nonlinguistic aspects of linguistic contexts”, in Bella, G. and Bouquet, P. (eds.), *Modeling and Using Context: 11th International and Interdisciplinary Conference, CONTEXT 2019, Trento, Italy, November 20–22, 2019, Proceedings*. Springer Nature, pp. 1-13.
15. M. Benzi, La difficile impresa di concettualizzare la vecchiaia: bias cognitivi e problemi aperti, in Pedrini, P. e Borri, M. (eds.) *La conoscenza e la cura. Omaggio ad Alessandro Pagnini*, ETS 2021, pp. 89-97.
16. M. Benzi, “Models of Medical Reasoning”, in N. Rezaei (ed.) *Brain, Decision Making and Mental Health*, (Integrated Science, vol.6), Springer 2023, 115-125.

Critical reviews

1. M. Benzi, “Recensione di E. Eells, T. Maruzewski (eds.) *Probability and rationality. Studies on L. Jonathan Cohen’s Philosophy of Science*, Rodopi, Amsterdam Atlanta 1991”, *Epistemologia* 18 (1995), pp. 167 - 184.
2. M. Benzi, “Recensione di J. M. Keynes, *Trattato sulla probabilità*. A cura di A. Pasquinelli e S. Marzetti dall’Aste Brandolini, CLUEB, Bologna 1994”, *Epistemologia* 19 (1996), pp. 304 - 362.
3. M. Benzi, “Recensione di L. Floridi, *L’estensione dell’intelligenza*. Armando Editore, Roma 1996, e di V. Bitti, F. Dipalo, *Filosofia e scuola: due percorsi sulla rete Internet italiana*. La Goliardica, Roma 1997”, *Epistemologia* 20 (1997), pp. 373 - 388.
4. M. Benzi, “Recensione di S. Marzetti Dall’Aste Brandolini and R. Scazzieri (eds.) *La probabilità in Keynes. Premesse e influenze*. CLUEB, Bologna 1999”, *Epistemologia* 25 (2002), pp. 163 - 166.

5. M. Benzi, “Recensione di F. D’Agostini e N. Vassallo (eds.) *Storia della filosofia analitica*, Einaudi, Torino 2002”, *Epistemologia* 28 (2005), pp. 158-163.
6. M. Benzi, “Review of M. C. Galavotti, P. Suppes, D. Costantini (eds.), *Stochastic Causality*. CSLI Publications, Stanford 2001”, *History and Philosophy of Logic* 24 (2003), pp. 174-177.
7. M. Benzi, “Recensione di Giovanni Federspil e Pierdaniele Giaretta (eds.) *Forme della razionalità medica*, Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli (Catanzaro), 2004, *Epistemologia* 29 (2006), 2, pp. 524-526.
8. M. Benzi, “Review of D. Christensen, *Putting Logic in its Place. Formal Constraints on Rational Belief*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 2004”, *History and Philosophy of Logic* 27 (2006), pp.207-208.
9. M. Benzi, review of Maria Carla Galavotti, *Philosophical Introduction to Probability*, CSLI publications, Stanford 2005, *Erkenntnis* 68, 2 (2008), 299-303.
10. M. Benzi e C. Penco, “Critical Review of Luciano Floridi, ‘The Logic of Information. OUP 2019’”, *Notre Dame Philosophical Journal. An electronic Journal*, 2019-12-03. <https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/the-logic-of-information-a-theory-of-philosophy-as-conceptual-design/>

(*)For a complete list, see

https://iris.uniupo.it/browse?type=author&authority=rp01949&sort_by=2&order=DESC