

Matteo Costa

Curriculum Vitae and Publications

Department of Philosophy,
Sapienza University of Rome
matteo.costa@uniroma1.it – (+39) 3467427621

CURRENT POSITION

Ph.D. Student at Department of Philosophy,
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 28/05/1999; Nationality: Italian;
Language skills: Italian (native), English (fluent),
French (conversational), Portuguese (basic).

CONTACT

Via Carlo Fea, 2 – 00161 – Rome, Italy
Email: matteo.costa@uniroma1.it
Phone: (+39) 3467427621

Academia.edu:
www.uniroma1.academia.edu/MatteoCosta
ResearchGate:
www.researchgate.net/profile/Matteo-Costa-8

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- September 2024 **MASTER'S DEGREE IN PHILOSOPHY**
University of Pavia – *Full marks and honor*
- December 2023 **MASTER IN “PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY”**
University Ca' Foscari of Venice
- September 2023 **ADVANCED DIPLOMA**
Collegio of Milano
- September 2022 **BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHILOSOPHY**
University of Pavia – *Full marks and honor*

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- 2025 **Grant for periods of mobility abroad for doctoral students**
Sapienza University of Rome
- 2025 **XLV SISFA Conference 2025 Grant**
Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy (SISFA)
- 2025 **Grant for Master's Degree awarded on time**
University of Pavia

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming **The ‘Secret Face’ of Isaac Newton. Anachronisms in the History of Science,**
Studies in History and Philosophy of Science – in review
- Forthcoming **When Anomalies Become Possibilities: Serendipity and the Co-Emergence of
New Affordances in Scientific Discovery** (first author with S. Iaria, F. Giordano &
S. Arfini), *Foundations of Science – in review*

- Forthcoming **'Sponge Words'. Semantic Flexibility and Explanatory Closure in the History of Science** (first author with P. Mazzarello), *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science – in review*
- Forthcoming **Two Faces of Serendipity: From Prospective to Retrospective Explanation. How chance discoveries both *spark* and *explain* scientific breakthroughs** (first author with S. Arfini), *Serendipity Papers – The Serendipity Society – in review*
- Forthcoming **Anachronisms in the History of Science: Newton the Alchemist and Newton the Modern Scientist**, *Atti del XLV Congresso SISFA – Genova 2025 – in review*
- Forthcoming **Book Review: Samantha Copeland, Wendy Ross, Martin Sand (editors), Serendipity Science. An Emerging Field and its Methods, Springer International Publishing, Switzerland 2023, pp. 234**, *Quaderni di Villa Mirafiori – in review*
- 2025 **What kind of explanations can serendipity provide?** (second author with S. Arfini) *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 15(42).
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-025-00670-4>

VISITING PERIODS

- March-June 2026 **Doctoral Research Stay (Ph.D. Visiting Period, funded by Erasmus+)**
Institute of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST)
Université Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris 1, France; Supervisor: Prof. Francesca Merlin
- December-February 2025-2026 **Doctoral Research Stay (Ph.D. Visiting Period, funded by Sapienza University of Rome)**
Freudenthal Institute
University of Utrecht, the Netherlands; Supervisor: Prof. Federica Russo
- January-June 2024 **Erasmus+ Research Stay for Master's Thesis (funded by Erasmus+)**
Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS)
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom; Supervisor: Prof. Tom McClelland

TALKS

- 17-19 June 2026 **When Anomalies Become Possibilities: Serendipity and the Co-Emergence of New Affordances in Scientific Discovery**
The 10th International Conference on Model-Based Reasoning (MBR): Epistemology, Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Science, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- 19 January 2026 **Productive Errors and Failures in Scientific Discovery: Beyond Retrospective Falsification**
The 5th Virtual Conference of Possibility Studies - Productive Friction: Creative Freedom in Times of Political Contestation - Online
- 13 January 2026 **When Anomalies Become Possibilities: Serendipity and Affordances in Scientific Discoveries**
HPS Staff Meeting – Freudenthal Institute, Faculty of Science, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

- 22 Nov. 2025 **Serendipity and Scientific Discovery: a New Way to ‘See’ Science?**
PSA Around the World Conference, Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Online
- 08-09 Sept. 2025 **Anachronisms in the History of Science. The Secret Face of Isaac Newton**
XLV SISFA (Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy) Conference 2025,
 Department of Physics, University of Genoa, Italy
- 28 July – 02 August 2024 **Serendipity and Scientific Discovery: a New Way to ‘See’ Science?**
COGSCI Conference 2025, Cognitive Science Society (CSS), Online
- 30 June – 04 July 2025 **What Kind of Explanations can Serendipity Provide?**
5PSC: 5th International Possibility Studies Conference, Maynooth University, Ireland
- 22 May 2025 **Anachronisms in the History of Science. The Secret Face of Isaac Newton**
British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Postgraduate Conference, University of
 Leeds, United Kingdom
- 20 Feb. 2025 **Anachronisms in the History of (Natural) Science. The Secret Face of Isaac
 Newton**
Early Career Symposium - Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH), online

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- 17-19 June 2026 **Local Organizer and Member of the Scientific Committee** for the 10th
 International **Conference on Model-Based Reasoning (MBR): Epistemology,
 Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Science**, Department of Philosophy, Sapienza
 University of Rome, Italy
- 17-19 June 2026 **Co-Organizer of the Symposium “Models of Serendipity: How to Map the Role
 of Chance in Discovery”** during the 10th International Conference on Model-Based
 Reasoning (MBR): Epistemology, Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Science,
 Department of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

TEACHING

- 31 March 2026 **Seminar “Sponge Words: Semantic Flexibility and Explanatory Closure in the
 History of Science”** for the course of Philosophy of Science (for undergraduates),
 held by Prof. Selene Arfini, Department of Humanities – Philosophy Section,
 University of Pavia, Italy
- 22 May 2025 **Seminar “Serendipity and (Lost) Scientific Discoveries”** for the course of
 Philosophy of Science (for graduated students), held by Prof. Lorenzo Magnani,
 Department of Humanities – Philosophy Section, University of Pavia, Italy
- 9 April 2025 **Seminar “Anachronisms in the History of Science. The secret face of Isaac
 Newton”** for the course of Philosophy of Science (for undergraduates), held by Prof.
 Selene Arfini, Department of Humanities – Philosophy Section, University of Pavia,
 Italy
- Oct.-Dec. 2023 **Organizer of Seminars in Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Language**
 Collegio del Maino, University of Pavia, Italy. Under the supervision of Prof. Luca
 Fomesu and Prof. Tommaso Piazza

SUMMER SCHOOLS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- 19-20 Jan. 2026 Conference “Contested Concepts: From Conceptual Change to Conceptual Ethics”, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Trippenhuis Amsterdam, organized by the Faculty of Philosophy and Religion, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- 24-28 Nov. 2025 Winter School in History of Science “Dietro le quinte di un museo”, the Italian Society of History of Science (SISS) at the Museo Galileo in Florence, Italy
- 13-17 April 2025 Utrecht University Summer School “Forms of Knowledge and Values in Science and Society”, Faculty of Science, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- 5-9 Sept. 2024 SIFA (Italian Society of Analytical Philosophy) Summer School “The Methodology and the Meta-philosophy of Analytic Philosophy, and the Teaching of Philosophy”, Department of Philosophy and Educational Sciences, University of Turin, Italy
- 27-30 Aug. 2024 VI Urbino Summer School in “Epistemology”, Department of Applied Sciences, University of Urbino, Italy
- 10-16 Sept. 2023 International Autumn School “Proof and Computation”, Haus der bayerischen Landwirtschaft in Herrsching, University of Munich, Germany
- 5-9 June 2023 XXVI International Summer School “Philosophy of Physics: Philosophy of Dark Matter”, the Italian Society of Logic and Philosophy of Science (SILFS), Department of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Urbino, Italy
- 27 Aug. – 3 Sept. 2022 Summer School “Consciousness and Cognition”, Department of Information Engineering, University of Pisa, Italy.

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- since 2025 Italian Association for Cognitive Sciences (AISC)
- since 2024 Computational Philosophy Laboratory (CPL) – University of Pavia
The British Society for the History of Science (BSHS)
Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)
European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA)
The Serendipity Society
The British Society for the Philosophy of Science (BSPS)
Italian Society of Analytical Philosophy (SIFA)
- since 2023 Italian Society of Logic and Philosophy of Science (SILFS)
Italian Society for the History of Science (SISS)
Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy (SISFA)
Italian Society of Philosophy (SFI)
Italian Association of Logic and its Applications (AILA)