



Venice International University
Graduate Seminar
Critical Phenomenology:
Theory and Applications

Venice International University
June, 2-6, 2025

Faculty

Andrea Altobrando, University of Padova (Scientific Coordinator)
Elena Billwiller, University of Padova
Valentina Bortolami, University of Padova
Christine Daigle, Brock University
Luna Dolezal, University of Exeter
Rebecca Lynch, University of Exeter
Elisa Magrì, Boston College
Paddy McQueen, Swansea University
Elif Yavnik, Sabanci University

Agenda

Monday, June 2

9:00-9.15	<i>Registration</i>
9.15-9.30	Opening and introduction (VIU & Scientific Coordinators)
9.30-10.10	A General Introduction to the Seminar - Issues in Critical Phenomenology Elena Billwiller & Valentina Bortolami
10.10-10.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.30-12.00	The Prehistory of Critical Phenomenology Andrea Altobrando
12.00-13.00	Myself in 3 minutes
<i>Lunch</i>	
14.15-15.15	Myself in 3 minutes
15.00-16.30	Posthumanist Phenomenology: a necessary material feminist approach Christine Daigle

Tuesday, June 3

9.30-11.00	Feminist Phenomenology and Oppression-Related Emotions Valentina Bortolami
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-13.00	From biology to morality and back: The 'sick animal' and visions of health from a Nietzschean perspective Elif Yavnik

Lunch

14.15-16.15	Group discussion of selected texts.
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Wednesday, June 4

9.30-11.00	Power and subjectivity. A reconsideration of power relations in light of Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology Elisa Magrì
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-13.00	The life and death of gender: Authenticity, Authority and Abolitionism Paddy McQueen

Lunch

	<i>Free afternoon</i>
Evening	<i>Social Dinner (tbc)</i>

Thursday, June 5

9.30-11.00	Structural Shame and Emotional Privilege Luna Dolezal
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-13.00	Critical Phenomenology and Anthropology Rebecca Lynch
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.15-16.15	Group discussion of selected texts

Friday, June 6

9.30-11.00	Group presentations
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-13.00	Group presentations

Lunch

14.15-15.45	Round-table discussion
15.45-16.00	Final Remarks

Faculty's short bio



Prof. Andrea Altobrando is a Professor in Theoretical Philosophy at the FISPPA-Department of the University of Padua. His research focuses mainly on metaphysical issues (the self, the individual-totality relationship, personal identity), philosophy of mind (self-awareness, perception, imagination) and epistemology (the nature of judgement, self-knowledge, individuation) from a predominantly phenomenological perspective. Still from a phenomenological perspective, he has devoted several researches to the development of the concept of the monad and an experiential foundation of the idea of infinity. He is PI of the 'Understanding Homo Individualis' project. Andrea is also a visiting professor at the China University of Political Science and Law.



Elena Billwiller is doing her PhD in Philosophy at the University of Padua. Her research interests lie within the phenomenological tradition, paying particular attention to the two contemporary directions of Critical Phenomenology and Feminist Phenomenology, in relation to the acquisitions of feminist theoretical practice and ethics of care about the working condition of women.



Dr. Valentina Bortolami is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow at the University of Padova. Her areas of specialization are feminist epistemology, feminist standpoint theory, and feminist new materialism. She is currently working on the Conceptualizing Oppression-Related Emotions (CORE) project, bringing together Philosophy, Women's and Gender Studies, and Psychology to respond to a scenario in which women (along with other marginalized groups) experience acts of violence and oppression that trigger unpleasant emotions to a much greater extent than other subjects.



Prof. Christine Daigle is a Professor of Philosophy, Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence at Brock University. Her research has focused on Existentialism and Phenomenology, specifically the works of Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Simone de Beauvoir. Her current research focuses on critical posthumanism with a focus on material feminism as she investigates posthumanist vulnerability and its ethical potential. She is also researching environmental posthumanities, including a rethinking of the notion of sustainability. She is a member of

the research team of the UNESCO Chair on Community Sustainability. She is also leading a research project on the cultural and philosophical representations of the Anthropocene and extinction.



Prof Luna Dolezal is Professor of Philosophy and Medical Humanities at the University of Exeter. Her research is primarily in the areas of applied and feminist phenomenology, philosophy of embodiment, philosophy of medicine and medical humanities. Her current research is focused on three inter-related themes: (1) shame and self-conscious emotions; (2) embodiment and self-other relations; and (3) emerging medical and body-based technologies.



Dr Rebecca Lynch is a Lecturer in Medical Anthropology and the Anthropology of Science at the University of Exeter. Her research primarily focuses on the body, health, and illness and how these are 'made' and categorized in different contexts, particularly in relation to biomedicine and the biomedical sciences. Drawing on anthropological theory, and practice-based and material approaches, Rebecca's work sees the body as always in the process of becoming. She has three inter-related areas of work: fluid bodies; bodies, environments and place; and biomedical classification and categorization.



Prof. Elisa Magri is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Boston College, who teaches and writes on 19th and 20th century European philosophy, including German idealism (especially Hegel) and phenomenology. Her research interests cover issues concerning perception, habit, memory, and empathy. She co-edited the books *Empathy, Sociality, and Personhood* (2018), *Hegel and Phenomenology* (2020), and *Empathy, Intersubjectivity, and the Social World* (2022). For Polity, she is the co-author, with Paddy McQueen, of *Critical Phenomenology: An Introduction* (2022). Prof. Magri also

serves in the editorial collective of the Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology.



Dr Paddy McQueen is a senior lecturer in Philosophy at Swansea University. His areas of research span ethics, political theory and social philosophy, with a main focus on the construction of identities and how they shape human behaviour and well-being. He has written on topics including the politics of recognition, feminism and gender theory, freedom, medical ethics, regret and transformative experiences. He is currently working on topics in sexual ethics, the politics of the family and critical phenomenology. His most recent publication is *Regret* (OUP, 2024).



Elif Yavnık is a visiting instructor at Sabancı University in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She works in the areas of phenomenology and feminist philosophy, as well as on Nietzsche. Her research focuses on the relation of morality and biology, with a view to understanding philosophical and ethical practice as a way of healing. She is a member of the American Philosophical Association (APA), the Friedrich Nietzsche Society (FNS), and the Society for Women in Philosophy in Turkey (SWIP-TR).