

## AUTHORS

MARGHERITA BIANCHI is a postdoctoral researcher in Philosophy. She holds a BA in Metaethics, an MA in Philosophy of Life Sciences, and earned her PhD in Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome, where her research focused on the philosophical implications of contemporary studies on plant signaling and behavior. Her academic path includes a visiting period at the University of Murcia (MINT Lab) and a postdoctoral position at the University of Padua (Mind the Plant Lab). Her work lies at the intersection of philosophy of cognitive science, philosophy of mind, epistemology, philosophy of biology, and biosemiotics. Bianchi introduced the study of plant behavior in relation to philosophical approaches at the Department of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome. Her first monograph, *La Vita Ramificata. Cognizione e Comportamento nelle Pianta fra Scienza e Filosofia*, published by Mimesis in 2021, was adopted as part of the first course on Plant Cognition at the University of Padua. Her forthcoming book on these topics is about to be published by Springer: *Philosophical Implications of Plant Cognition. A Pluralist Overview*.

FLORENCE BURGAT is a French philosopher and, since 2012, Director of Research at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. Her work focuses on existence, subjectivity, and the condition of animals. She draws on the phenomenological tradition (notably Hegel, Merleau-Ponty, Husserl, and Buytendijk), which allows her to distinguish animal life from that of plants; Freudian psychoanalysis, the Budapest School, and the thought of psychiatrist Henri Ey to interpret animal psyche in its unconscious aspects and psychopathology; and the institution of carnivorous eating, analyzed from the perspective of philosophy and anthropology (both structural and religious). She has also contributed to the epistemological and critical analysis of legislation concerning the protection, use, and killing of animals (for ten years she served as editor-in-chief of the *Revue semestrielle de droit animalier*). She is currently working on a more in-depth study of the use of ethology by psychoanalysts in the 1920s and 1940s.

MASSIMO CACCIARI is an Italian philosopher, political theorist, and public intellectual, widely regarded as one of Italy's most influential contemporary thinkers. Born in Venice in 1944, he has long combined academic work with political engagement, serving multiple terms as mayor of Venice (1993-2000 and 2005-2010). A professor emeritus of aesthetics at the Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele in Milan, Cacciari's philosophical work draws on German Idealism, Heidegger, and Christian mysticism, engaging deeply with themes of negative thought, political theology, and European identity. His major writings include *Negative Thought and the Strength of Affirmation*, *The Necessary Angel*, and *The Archipelago: Italy and Its Plural Identity*. Known for his dense and poetic style, Cacciari explores the limits of reason and the role of philosophy in public life. He is also a frequent contributor to Italian media and cultural debates, bridging the gap between academic philosophy and civic discourse.

PACO CALVO is a Spanish philosopher of science and plant neurobiologist, best known for his pioneering work in the field of plant cognition. He is Professor of Philosophy of Science at the University of Murcia, Spain, where he also directs the *Minimal Intelligence Lab (MINTLab)*, dedicated to exploring the cognitive capacities of plants. With an interdisciplinary background that bridges philosophy, biology, and cognitive science, Calvo challenges traditional views of intelligence by investigating how plants perceive, learn, and make decisions without a nervous system. His research combines theoretical inquiry with experimental methods, and he has collaborated with biologists, physicists, and engineers to develop a new understanding of vegetal behavior. Calvo is the co-author (with Natalie Lawrence) of *Planta Sapiens: The New Science of Plant Intelligence* (2022), a widely discussed work that brings the scientific and philosophical debate on plant sentience to a broader public. He is a frequent speaker at international conferences and a key figure in the emerging field of plant neurobiology.

MARCO CELENTANO is Associate Professor of Ethics and Moral Philosophy at the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio. He is coordinator of the second-level Master's Program in Philosophical Ethology and Environmental Ethics, founder and coordinator of the Advanced School in Philosophy, Ethics, and Ethology, and a member of the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, the Interuniversity Center for Research on Life Sciences *Res Viva*, the Italian Society for Moral Philosophy, the Italian Karl Jaspers Society, and the Social Promotion Associa-

tion *Studi Fortini Masi*. His main research interests concern philosophical ethology. His recent publications include: *Pluriversi cognitivi. Questioni di filosofia ed etologia* (with R. Marchesini), Mimesis 2018; *La produzione sociale del «gregario» nella Genealogia della morale di Nietzsche*, ETS 2020; *Critical Ethology and Post-Anthropocentric Ethics* (with R. Marchesini), Springer 2021; “Kantian Legacies in Past and Present Evolutionary Biology,” in *Research Trends in Humanities*, 2024; and the short essay “Everyday Repressions of the Unsustainable. Harms and Tragedies of Intensive Farming,” in M. De Rosa, G. Mosconi (eds.), *Food and Sustainability*, University of Cassino Press, 2025.

CARLO CHIURCO (Trieste, 1971) is Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy at the Department of Engineering for Innovation in Medicine at the University of Verona, where he teaches applied ethics and bioethics for Medicine, Computer Science, and Biotechnology. He founded and directs the research centers ERMES – Ethics, Rights, Medicine and Science and *Circolo Nietzsche Verona*, as well as their associated book series *CARES – Care, Environments, Research and Society* and *La stella danzante*, both published by Mimesis. His research focuses on applied ethics and the thought of Nietzsche. His major works include the monographs *Etica e sacro. Il bene e l'autentico oltre l'Occidente* (Mimesis 2012) and *Europa trasfigurata. Per una filosofia della potenza tra Nietzsche e Guardini* (ETS 2022), as well as numerous essays and articles in Italian and international volumes and journals.

FEDERICO COMOLLO is a PhD candidate in Sustainable Development and Climate Change at IUSS, Pavia (Italy), and Ethics and Politics of Plant Conservation in the Anthropocene at Luiss, Rome (Italy). He obtained his Master's in Philosophy and Languages of Modern Times in 2022 at the University of Trento. Currently, he is working on plant ethics with Professor Gianfranco Pellegrino in Rome. He was teaching assistant for Professor Luca Lo Sapio's chair of Bioethics in 2023/2024 at Luiss in Rome and his research interests are biosemiotics, phytosemiotics, philosophy of plants and non-human and environmental ethics.

GUIDO CUSINATO conducted research and taught in Germany for about ten years, focusing on German idealism and phenomenology. In Italy, he became Full Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Verona. His research centers on two fundamental questions: “What is the function of feeling in living beings?” and “What is the meaning of emotions

for social ontology and for the processes of personal singularization?" From these questions, he has explored the intersections between philosophical anthropology, philosophy, and psychiatry. He has developed an original conception of philosophy as an exercise in transformation, based on practices of emotional sharing and the "care of desire". Notable publications include: *Katharsis* (Naples, 1999); *Person und Selbsttranszendenz* (Würzburg, 2012); *Biosemiotica e psicopatologia dell'ordo amoris* (Milan, 2018); *Periagoge. Theory of Singularity and Philosophy as an Exercise in Transformation* (Leiden-Boston, 2023); *Vuoto aurorale* (Genoa, 2025).

VIOLA DI TULLIO obtained her post-graduate degree in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology at the University of Turin, with a thesis in anthropology of climate change exploring the social dimensions of fog and *atrapaniblas* in Peña Blanca, a farming community in northern Chile. In 2022, her thesis was awarded a prize dedicated to Valeria Solesin, issued by the Lavoroperlapersona Foundation, and it was published by FrancoAngeli with the title *I cacciatori di nebbia. Per un'antropologia del cambiamento climatico a Peña Blanca, Cile*. Today, she is a PhD student in *Sustainable Development and Climate Change*, a joint program between the IUSS (Pavia) and the Luiss (Rome). Furthermore, she is a Visiting PhD Student at INRAE (Paris). Her research tackles the ethics and anthropology of plant life, investigating the contemporary, relational dimensions between humans and plants and how such relations influence perceptions, politics, and governance of green spaces.

ANDREA LE MOLI is Full Professor of History of Philosophy at the University of Palermo, where he coordinates the PhD Program in Humanities and teaches Global Philosophy and Philosophy of Technology. He has been Visiting Professor at the Universities of Sydney, Tbilisi, and College Station (TX), and is a translator of works by Martin Heidegger and Paul Friedländer. His publications explore the relationships between classical thought and contemporary philosophy, studies in environmental and technological philosophy, and include the monographs: *Heidegger e Platone* (2002), *Novecento platonico* (2005), *Heidegger: soggettività e differenza* (2011), *Platonismo e antiplatonismo da Nietzsche a Derrida* (2018), and *Technophysis: le tecniche della natura* (revised and expanded second edition, 2023). His research interests include the historical-philosophical foundations (ancient and modern) of hyper-contemporary theories of the non-human, including philosophical botany and philosophies of animality.

CHIARA MAGNI obtained her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Roma Tre University, under joint supervision with Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her main research focuses on Hegel's philosophy of right, particularly on his theory of punishment and its contemporary reinterpretation in light of current ethical debates. On this topic, she has published numerous essays in both Italian and international journals and edited volumes. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Roma Tre University, working on the research project *Hegelian Constellations of the Feminine: A Hyper-Archive for an Inclusive Bildung*. She investigates the biographical and intellectual legacy of some significant female figures in Hegel's time and its relevance for contemporary debates in legal philosophy. She is also one of the Italian ambassadors of the international network SAFI (Societas Aperta Feminarum in Iuris Theoria).

MICHAEL MARDER is professor of philosophy at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. He is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in environmental philosophy, phenomenology, and political theory, with a particular focus on the philosophy of plants. Marder has contributed significantly to the emerging field of "plant-thinking", challenging anthropocentric views of subjectivity and agency. He earned his Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New York and has held research and teaching positions at institutions across North America and Europe. His major works include *Plant-Thinking: A Philosophy of Vegetal Life*, *The Philosopher's Plant*, and *Energy Dreams*, among others. Marder's interdisciplinary approach draws on thinkers such as Heidegger, Derrida, and Levinas, integrating continental philosophy with ecological awareness. He is also an active public intellectual, contributing essays to *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

ALICE NAPOLIONE holds a master's degree in Philosophical Sciences, with a particular focus on the influence of political emotions, explored through the work of Martha Nussbaum. She is currently pursuing a PhD with a research project centered on plant thinking, which engages with philosophical reflection, cognitive science, botany, ethics, and economics. Her work is characterized by a strong interdisciplinary approach and a commitment to fostering meaningful cross-pollination between different fields of knowledge.

MIGUEL SEGUNDO ORTÍN is a Ramón y Cajal Research Fellow at the Universidad de Murcia (Spain), affiliated with the Minimal Intelligence

Lab (MINTLab). His research lies at the intersection of philosophy and the cognitive sciences, with a particular focus on ecological (neo-Gibsonian) psychology and other embodied and situated approaches to cognition. He currently leads a research project exploring the extent to which embodied and situated theories of cognition can mitigate the impact of ‘anthropobias’ (anthropocentrism, anthropomorphism, anthropectomy, and anthropofabulation) within comparative cognitive science. His broader research interests encompass the theory of affordances, minimal cognition, and the role of socio-cultural norms in shaping human agency. He has published the book *Ecological Psychology* (Cambridge University Press) and is currently editing the *Routledge International Handbook of Ecological Psychology* (Routledge).

CHIARA PASQUALIN studied Philosophy at the University of Padua and the Galilean School of Higher Studies. In 2013, she earned her PhD in Philosophy with a joint supervision between the University of Padua and the University of Innsbruck. From 2014 to 2016, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of São Paulo (USP, Brazil), and from 2016 to 2020, a research fellow (Habilitationsstipendiatin) at the University of Koblenz-Landau (now RPTU in Kaiserslautern). From February 2022 to July 2025, she was a fixed-term researcher at the Department of Antiquity, Philosophy and History of the University of Genoa. She is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Oxford. She is the author of the monograph *Il fondamento “patico” dell’ermeneutico: affettività, pensiero e linguaggio nell’opera di Heidegger* (Inschibboleth, 2015) and numerous essays and articles on central topics in phenomenology, existential philosophy, and animal ethics.

ALBERTO PERATONER is Professor of Metaphysics and Philosophical Theology and of Philosophical Anthropology at the Theological Faculty of Triveneto in Padua, of Metaphysics and Epistemology at the Patriarchal Seminary of Venice, and of Philosophy of Nature and Science at the Benedict XVI School – Fraternity of St. Charles (Rome). His publications include *Blaise Pascal. Ragione, Rivelazione e fondazione dell’etica* (Venice, 2002, 2 vols.), *Pascal* (Rome, 2011), *Rousseau* (Milan, 2019), *Cartesio* (Milan, 2020), and *Della stessa sostanza del Padre. Il Concilio di Nicea e il nostro Credo* (Aragona, 2025). His work focuses especially on the thought of Antonio Rosmini, the unity of knowledge in modern encyclopaedism, and environmental ethics in relation to the philosophy of nature, natural sciences, and sustainability issues. In 2014-15 and 2017, he contributed

to the *Grandangolo* and *Filosofica* series of *Corriere della Sera*, curating eight volumes in each, on authors including Pascal, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Comte, and Bergson.

GIACOMO PEZZANO (b. 1985), PhD, is Assistant Professor in Theoretical Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy and Education Sciences of the University of Turin. His research moves across philosophical anthropology, contemporary ontology, philosophy of technology, philosophy of images, and media philosophy. As Principal Investigator, he has led two research projects exploring the theoretical and practical rethinking of the production and dissemination of philosophical knowledge in light of the transformations introduced by new media. His recent publications include the books *Pensare la realtà nell'era digitale* (Rome, 2023) and *Digitalmente* (Milan, 2024), and the papers *Playable Concepts?*, *Comic Ideas*, *The Medium Is the (Discriminatory) Message*, *How to Do Philosophy with Sci-Fiction* (with Stefano Gualeni), and *Understanding Philosophical Media* (with Marco Pavanini).

SYLVIE POUTEAU is a senior research scientist in philosophy at the French National Institute of Research in Agriculture, Food and Environment – INRAE. After leading a career in plant developmental biology, she has specialized in plant philosophy and agricultural ethics with a special emphasis on inter- and transdisciplinary research actions with stakeholders. She has contributed to establishing the growing field of plant ethics and more recently to introducing virtue ethics in the context of agriculture and food production. Besides her publications in plant sciences, the scope of her articles in philosophy covers plant ethics with regard to genetic engineering and farming, agricultural and food ethics, agroecological virtue ethics, plant epistemological and aesthetic issues, and art–science–philosophical frameworks. She has recently co-edited a volume on environmental virtue ethics (with G. Hess) *Is environmental virtue ethics a 'virtuous' anthropocentrism?* (MDPI Books, 2025).

LUCIANA REPICI, formerly Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Turin, focuses primarily on Aristotle and the Aristotelian tradition as represented by the main figures of his school, in dialogue with emerging Hellenistic philosophies. Her research and publications focus particularly on logic and theory of argumentation, as well as themes in natural philosophy. In addition to numerous essays and studies, she has authored: *La logica di Teofrasto* (1977), *Uomini capovolti. Le piante nel*



*pensiero dei Greci* (2000; 2nd ed. 2020), *Nature silenziose. Le piante nel pensiero ellenistico e romano* (2015), *Predire il futuro. I filosofi antichi e la divinazione* (2022), and *La disputa sulla natura in età ellenistica. Il caso dell'aristotelico Stratone di Lampsaco* (2025). She has also edited *Aristotele. Il sonno e i sogni* (2003), *Teofrasto. Metafisica* (2013), and *Aristotele. La fiamma nel cuore* (2017).

CHIARA SCARLATO is Research Fellow (RTD-b) in Philosophy at the “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti – Pescara (Italy). Her research interests include the relationship between philosophy and literature, the phenomenology of reading, and topics in gender studies. She is the author of *Attraverso il corpo. Filosofia e letteratura in David Foster Wallace* (2020) and *Il discorso filosofico intorno alla letteratura. Percorsi teoretici nel pensiero francese* (2024), as well as numerous essays and chapters published in academic journals and books. She is member of the international research groups “L&gend. Literature and Gender Identity” and “Philature”. She is associate member of the “Centre Prospéro. Langage, image et connaissance”, the “Institut de Recherches Philosophiques” of the University Jean Moulin – Lyon 3 and the “IRIS-L – Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire Saint Louis” of the UCLouvain Saint-Louis.

FRANCESCO TERENCE is a Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophical, Pedagogical and Social Sciences at the University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara. After completing his MA at the same university, his early research focused on “*The Content of Locke’s Journals and Pocket Memorandum Books*”, a project that led him to study Locke’s manuscripts in the Special Collections of the Weston Library, Oxford. His doctoral dissertation investigated Locke’s demonstrations of the existence of God, with particular attention to the unpublished entries of the *Journals*. He is currently working at the University of Chieti on a research about philosophy of artificial intelligence, with a special focus on the concept of vulnerability.

ORESTE TOLONE is Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, where he teaches Applied Ethics and Ethical Theories. At the same university, he is Director of the Advanced Training Center for the Teaching of Philosophy and History and Scientific Coordinator of the journal *Itinerari* (Mimesis). His main research interests lie in philosophical anthropology, medical anthropology, philosophy of religion, and organic philosophy, with particular attention to the interrelations between humans, animals, plants, and the environment.



Among his publications: *Alle origini dell'antropologia medica. Viktor von Weizsäcker* (2016); *Adolf Portmann e l'animale prematuro* (2022); *Salute normativa e crisi ecologica. Canguilhem, Goldstein, Weizsäcker* (2023); *Biological Precursors of Ethics and Religion. Antonio Damasio and the Homeostatic Imperative* (2023); *La proliferazione dei "soggetti". Animali, piante, batteri* (2025). With M. Anzalone, he co-edited the volume *Applied Ethics and New Moral Subjects* (2024).