Univ.-Ass. Federica Isabella Malfatti, PhD

*Curriculum Vitae*

**Personal Details**

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| *Born*: 1989  *Email*: [fede.malfatti89@gmail.com](mailto:fede.malfatti89@gmail.com)  Website: <http://federicamalfatti.weebly.com>  Leader and PI of the TWF-funded TrAU! Project: <https://trau-project.org/> | **Office address**:  Department for Christian Philosophy  Karl-Rahner-Platz 1, Room 36  6020 Innsbruck, Austria |

**Research Interests**

AOS: Epistemology, Social Epistemology, Philosophy of Science

AOC: Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Religion

**Academic Positions**

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| --- | --- |
| **University of Innsbruck**  *Assistant Professor within the Erika-Cremer Habilitation Program* | from 2024 |
| **University of Innsbruck**  *Postdoctoral Research Fellow* | 2020 - 2023 |
| **University of Innsbruck**  *Research and Teaching Assistant* | 2018 – 2020 |
| **University of Innsbruck**  *Research Fellow in the project* “Agency and Quantum Physics” | 2016 – 2017 |

**Education**

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| **University of Innsbruck**  *PhD in Philosophy* | 2015-2020 |
| **Harvard University**  *Visiting Fellow* | 2019 |
| **University of Cologne**  *Visiting Fellow* (funded by the DAAD) | 2017 – 2018 |
| **IUSS Pavia**  *Degree in Human Sciences* | 2008 – 2014 |
| **University of Pavia**  *M.A. in Philosophy* | 2011 – 2013 |
| **University of Pavia**  *B.A. in Philosophy* | 2008 – 2011 |

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Monographs**

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| --- | --- |
| The Social Fabric of Understanding: Why We never Understand Alone.  Synthese Library. | in prep. |
| Verstehen verstehen. Eine erkenntnistheoretische Untersuchung*.*  Berlin: Schwabe Verlag. | 2023 |
| *Willard Van Orman Quine e l’incertezza ontologica.*  Milano: Mimesis. | 2016 |

**Articles(peer reviewed)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Towards Ideal Understanding. (With Mario Hubert)  *Ergo*, Vol. tba. | forthcoming |
| Do We Deserve Credit for Everything We Understand?  *Episteme*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1017/epi.2021.14> | forthcoming |
| Understanding Phenomena: From Social to Collective?  *Philosophical Issues* (*Noûs* supplement) 32 (1): 253-267. | 2022 |
| Introduction to the Topical Collection “True Enough? Themes from Elgin”.  *Synthese* 199: 1293-1305. | 2021 |
| The Social Fabric of Understanding: Equilibrium, Authority, and Epistemic Empathy. (With Christoph Jäger)  *Synthese* 199: 1185-1205. | 2021 |
| On Understanding and Testimony.  *Erkenntnis* 86: 1345-1365. | 2021 |
| Can Testimony Transmit Understanding?  *Theoria* (Sweden) 86 (1): 54-72. | 2020 |
| Can Testimony Generate Understanding?  *Social Epistemology* 33 (6): 477-490. | 2019 |
| On the Epistemological Potential of Worrall’s Structural Realism.  *Philosophical Inquiries* 2: 9-24. | 2018 |

**Book chapters (invited)**

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| --- | --- |
| Epistemic Authority.  Blackwell Companion to Epistemology, Third Edition. | forthcoming |
| Understanding and Transmission.  Blackwell Companion to Epistemology, Third Edition. | forthcoming |
| Der Wert des Wissens. (With Christoph Jäger)  Handbuch Erkenntnistheorie, M. Grajner, G. Melchior (Eds.), J. B. Metzler, Springer, Stuttgart, pp. 102-109. | 2019 |

**Reviews**

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| --- | --- |
| Review of: Understanding How Science Explains the World by Kevin Mc Cain  *Philosophical Problems in Science.* | forthcoming |

**Edited Volumes**

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| True Enough? Themes from Elgin.  *Synthese,* Topical Collection. | 2021 |

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Invited presentation within appointment procedures for Professorships**

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| --- | --- |
| University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt  Appointment procedure for a Professorship (W2 with tenure track W3)  Presentation title: Der Mensch zwischen manifestem und wissenschaftlichem Bild der Wirklichkeit | 6/2023 |
| University of Stuttgart  Appointment procedure for a Junior Professorship W1 in Theoretical Philosophy (with *tenure track*).  Presentation title: *On the Role of Puzzlement in Understanding.* | 11/2022 |
| Philosophical-Theological Academy Bressanone/Brixen Appointment procedure for the Cusanus Professorship in Philosophy.  Presentation title: *Der Mensch zwischen manifestem und wissenschaftlichem Bild der Wirklichkeit.* | 3/2022 |
| University of Bamberg  Appointment procedure for a Junior Professorship W1 in Theoretical Philosophy.  Presentation title: *Autonom in der Abhängigkeit? Anregungen aus der Debatte zur erklärbaren künstlichen Intelligenz.* | 5/2021 |
| Humboldt University of Berlin  Appointment procedure for a Junior Professorship W1 in Theoretical Philosophy.  Presentation title: *Do We Deserve Credit for Everything We Understand?* | 7/2020 |

**Invited Presentations**

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| --- | --- |
| University of Rome  XXV World Conference of Philosophy  Presentation title: *tba* | 8/2024 |
| University of Geneva  Conference: Trusting State, Trusting Science  Presentation title: *Scientific literacy: An understanding-based account* | 12/2023 |
| University of Dresden  Conference: New Waves in the Philosophy of Epistemic Authority and Expert Testimony  Presentation title: *Understanding and the Goals of Science Communication.* | 10/2023 |
| University of Karlsruhe  KIT Research Seminar  Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics.* (With Mario Hubert) | 7/2023 |
| University of Urbino  Workshop on Mario Alai’s Work  Presentation title: *Understanding and Realism.* | 4/2023 |
| Humboldt University of Berlin  Workshop with Catherine Z. Elgin (Harvard)  Presentation title: *Elgin on Testimony, Teaching and Understanding.* | 3/2023 |
| University of Zurich  Workshop on The Epistemology of Understanding  Presentation title: *Modelling Understanding (Phenomena)* | 10/2022 |
| University of Oslo  Testimony and Communication Workshop  Presentation title: *From Knowledge to Understanding? What Testimony Can(not) Teach* | 8/2022 |
| University of Innsbruck  Workshop “Ein gutes Leben”  Presentation title: *Der Mensch zwischen manifestem und wissenschaftlichem Bild der Wirklichkeit* | 6/2022 |
| University of Berne  Conference Reflective Equilibrium: 51 Years after *A Theory of Justice*  Presentation title: *Are Reflective Equilibrium and Understanding Collective Achievements?* | 5/2022 |
| University of Dresden  Research Seminar  Presentation title: *Autonomie und Vertrauen: Konflikt oder Bündnis?* | 12/2021 |
| University of Nottingham  Research Seminar  Presentation title: What is This Thing We Call *Grasping*? | 10/2021 |
| Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMU  Colloquium in Logic and Philosophy of Science  Presentation title: *Seeing in Understanding* | 6/2021 |
| Caltech University  Caltech Reading Group in the Philosophy of Physics  Presentation title: *Ideal Understanding* (with Mario Hubert) | 3/2021 |
| University of Fribourg  Workshop Testimony and Beyond  Presentation title: *Do We Deserve Credit for Everything We Understand?* | 11/2020 |
| University of Reykjavik  Understanding and Progress Workshop  Presentation title: *Understanding Phenomena (to Some Extent)* | 7/2020 |
| University of Bochum  Epistemology Seminar  Presentation title: *Authority, Equilibrium, and Understanding* | 6/2020 |
| Universitad Autonoma de Madrid  Research Seminar  Presentation title: *Understanding and its Relation to Knowledge* | 1/2020 |
| University of Cologne  Brownbag Seminar  Presentation title: *Can testimony Transmit Understanding?* | 11/2019 |
| Düsseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science  Research Seminar  Presentation title: *Modelling Understanding* | 11/2019 |
| University of Innsbruck  Austrian Neuroscience Association Conference  Presentation title: *What Is This Thing We Call “Model”?* | 9/2019 |
| Bled Epistemology Conference  Social Epistemology and the Politics of Knowing  Presentation title: *On Understanding and Testimony* | 6/2019 |
| University of Hannover  Workshop on Understanding  Presentation title: *Understanding, Truth, and Awareness of Limits* | 12/2018 |
| University of Urbino  Workshop Realismo Scientifico e Spiegazione  Presentation title: *Sul Rapporto tra Comprensione e Spiegazione* | 6/2018 |
| University of Copenhagen  Copenhagen Political Epistemology Workshop  Presentation title: *Towards an Inquirer Model of Epistemic Authority* (with Christoph Jäger) | 12/2017 |
| University of Lausanne  Workshop Understanding Quantum Mechanics  Presentation title: *Do We Understand (Through) Quantum Mechanics?* | 11/2017 |
| University of Urbino  Workshop Riflessioni sul Realismo Scientifico.  Presentation title: *La Verità e i Suoi Limiti* | 5/2017 |

**Peer–Reviewed Presentations**

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| University of Toronto  SURe – Scientific Understanding and Representation Workshop  Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics* (with Mario Hubert) | 5/2023 |
| Humboldt University of Berlin  GAP11 – Conference of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy  Presentation title: *From Knowledge to Understanding? What Testimony Cannot Teach* | 9/2022 |
| Radboud University  3rd Scientific Understanding and Representation (SURe) annual workshop  Presentation title: *Ideal Understanding* (with Mario Hubert) | 4/2021 |
| University of Cologne  The Cologne Knowledge  Commentary on the paper “In Defense of Epistemic Autonomy: A Kantian Proposal” by Alexis Cohen (Edinburgh) | 3/2021 |
| University of Milan  SMS 2018 - IV Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science  Presentation title: *Worrall’s Structural Realism, Knowledge, and Scientific Understanding* | 8/2018 |
| University of Amsterdam  EEN – *European Epistemology Network*  Presentation title: *Do We Need a (True) Explanation in Order to Understand?* | 6/2018 |
| University of Ghent and VU Amsterdam  International Workshop Explanation and Understanding  Presentation title: *On the Possibility of Understanding Without (True) Explanation* | 5/2018 |
| University of Salzburg  SOPhiA2017 –Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy  Presentation title: *Worrall’s Structural Realism: From the Limits of Knowledge to the Possibility of Understanding* | 9/2017 |
| Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU  ECAP9 – 9th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy  Presentation title: *What Worrall’s Structural Realism Might Have Been About* | 8/2017 |
| University of Bologna  SILFS2017 – Triennal International Conference of the Italian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science  Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics: a Tentative Modal Account* | 6/2017 |
| University of Pavia  New Trends in Epistemology Conference  Presentation title: *Testimony as a Source of Understanding* (with Johannes Findl) | 6/2017 |
| University of Oviedo  SEFA8 – 8th Meeting of the Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy  Presentation title: *How We Understand Through Models in Science* | 11/2016 |
| University of Oporto  The second Portuguese Congress for Philosophy  Presentation title: *Understanding Through Models. The Role of Structure* | 9/2016 |
| University of Pistoia  SIFA – XII Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy  Presentation title: *Scientific Realism as the Most Reasonable Choice?* | 8/2016 |
| University of Urbino  SILFS – Third Postgraduate Conference for Logic and Philosophy of Science  Presentation title: *Understanding Through Models. The Role of Structure* | 5/2016 |
| University of Köln/Bonn  GAP Doktorandenworkshop  Presentation title: *Ontologische Relativität. Was bleibt von Quines Realismus übrig?* | 11/2014 |

**Talks/comments in events I organized**

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| University of Bochum  Conference Understanding: One or Many?  (Conference funded by the Thyssen Stiftung)  Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics* (with Mario Hubert) | 7/2023 |
| University of Innsbruck  International Workshop Authority and Autonomy  Comment on the paper “Science or Science Fundamentalism?” by Katherine Dormandy (Innsbruck) | 6/2022 |
| University of Innsbruck  International Book Symposium: “True Enough?” with Prof. Catherine Z. Elgin (Harvard)  Presentation title: *Epistemic Authority, Reflective Equilibrium, and Understanding* (with Christoph Jäger) | 3/2018 |
| University of Innsbruck  International Workshop: “Believing on Authority?” with Dr. Arnon Keren (Haifa/Oxford)  Presentation title: *Testimony as a Source of Understanding?* (with Johannes Findl) | 5/2017 |

**TEACHING**

**University of Innsbruck** – *Bachelor Courses*

2023/24 Hermeneutics: An Introduction.

2023/24 Epistemology and Philosophy of Science – Knowledge and Understanding.

2023/24 Critical Analysis of Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews.

2023 Special Topics in Contemporary Epistemology.

2022/23 Hermeneutics: A Critical Introduction.

2022/23 Epistemology and Philosophy of Science: Feministic Perspectives.

2022/23 Critical Analysis of Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews.

2022 Special Topics in Contemporary Epistemology.

2022 Contemporary Philosophy: Quine on Language and Reality.

2021/22 Hermeneutics: An Introduction.

2021/22 Epistemology and Philosophy of Science.

2021 Social and Cultural Philosophy – Trust and Trustworthiness.

2020Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind.

2018/19 Theoretical Philosophy – Quine on Language and Reality.

2018 Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind.

**University of Innsbruck** – *Master and PhD Courses*

2023/24 Religion and Ethics

2023 Classical and Contemporary Criticism of Religion

2022 Contemporary Philosophy: Quine on Language and Reality.

2022 Special Topics in Contemporary Epistemology.

2021/22 Key Texts in Theoretical Philosophy.

2021/22 Research Seminar (with Katherine Dormandy)

2021 Classic Texts from the History of Philosophy.

2020/21 Key Texts in Theoretical Philosophy.

2019/20 Practical Philosophy – Ethics Without Ontology?

2019/20 Research Seminar (with Christoph Jäger).

2019 Practical Philosophy – Exemplarist Moral Theory (with Bruno Niederbacher).

2019 Epistemology Master Course – Social Epistemology (with Christoph Jäger).

2017 Epistemology Master Course – Social Epistemology (with Christoph Jäger).

**Guest Professorships**

**Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, Frankfurt**

2022Philosophy of Language. An Introduction

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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| UIBK Mentoring Program  Mentor in the mentoring program for first-year Bachelor and Master students | from 2022 |
| Chair of the semi-annual Department’s Staff Assembly  University of Innsbruck | from 2021 |
| Scientific Manager  of the Doctoral Research Group “Philosophy of Religion”  University of Innsbruck | from 2021 |
| Student Leader  of the Doctoral Research Group “Philosophy of Religion” with role as mediator between doctoral students and faculty  University of Innsbruck | 2018-20 |
| Commission member  within the Habilitation process in Christian Philosophy of Dr. Patrick Zoll SJ, University of Innsbruck | 2021-22 |
| Commission member  within the appointment procedure for a Full Professorship in Old Testament, University of Innsbruck | 2021-22 |
| Commission member  within the appointment procedure for a Full Professorship in Theoretical Philosophy, University of Innsbruck | 2019 |

**Refereeing for**

**Journals**: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Disputatio, Episteme, Erkenntnis, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Grazer Philosophische Studien, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Journal for General Philosophy of Science, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Mind, Open Philosophy, KRITERION, Philosophia, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy of Science, Ratio, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Science and Education, Social Epistemology, Synthese, The Philosophical Quarterly, Theoria.*

**Other**: *Israel Science Foundation (ISF).*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Language skills**

Italian (native), German (native level), English (Toefl [IBT] 109/120), Spanish (advanced), modern Hebrew (bet), Latin and ancient Greek (advanced).

**Referees**

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| --- | --- |
| **Prof. Dr. Catherine Z. Elgin**  Harvard University  [catherine\_elgin@harvard.edu](mailto:catherine_elgin@harvard.edu)  +1-617-496-0504 | **Prof. Dr. Stephen Grimm**  Fordham University, New York  [sgrimm@fordham.edu](mailto:sgrimm@fordham.edu)  +1-718-817-3282 |
| **Prof. Dr. Christoph Jäger**  University of Innsbruck  [christoph.jaeger@uibk.ac.at](mailto:christoph.jaeger@uibk.ac.at)  +43 512 507-8520 |  |