Univ.-Ass. Federica Isabella Malfatti, PhD

*Curriculum Vitae*

**Personal Details**

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| *Born*: 1989*Email*: fede.malfatti89@gmail.comWebsite: <http://federicamalfatti.weebly.com> Leader and PI of the TWF-funded TrAU! Project: <https://trau-project.org/> | **Office address**: Department for Christian PhilosophyKarl-Rahner-Platz 1, Room 366020 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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 StuttgartAppointment 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 BambergAppointment 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 BerlinAppointment 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 GenevaConference: Trusting State, Trusting SciencePresentation title: *Scientific literacy: An understanding-based account* | 12/2023 |
| University of DresdenConference: New Waves in the Philosophy of Epistemic Authority and Expert TestimonyPresentation title: *Understanding and the Goals of Science Communication.* | 10/2023 |
| University of KarlsruheKIT Research Seminar Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics.* (With Mario Hubert) | 7/2023 |
| University of UrbinoWorkshop on Mario Alai’s WorkPresentation title: *Understanding and Realism.*  | 4/2023 |
| Humboldt University of BerlinWorkshop with Catherine Z. Elgin (Harvard)Presentation title: *Elgin on Testimony, Teaching and Understanding.* | 3/2023 |
| University of ZurichWorkshop on The Epistemology of UnderstandingPresentation title: *Modelling Understanding (Phenomena)* | 10/2022 |
| University of OsloTestimony and Communication WorkshopPresentation title: *From Knowledge to Understanding? What Testimony Can(not) Teach* | 8/2022 |
| University of InnsbruckWorkshop “Ein gutes Leben”Presentation title: *Der Mensch zwischen manifestem und wissenschaftlichem Bild der Wirklichkeit* | 6/2022 |
| University of BerneConference Reflective Equilibrium: 51 Years after *A Theory of Justice*Presentation title: *Are Reflective Equilibrium and Understanding Collective Achievements?* | 5/2022 |
| University of DresdenResearch SeminarPresentation title: *Autonomie und Vertrauen: Konflikt oder Bündnis?* | 12/2021 |
| University of NottinghamResearch SeminarPresentation title: What is This Thing We Call *Grasping*? | 10/2021 |
| Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMUColloquium in Logic and Philosophy of SciencePresentation title: *Seeing in Understanding* | 6/2021 |
| Caltech UniversityCaltech Reading Group in the Philosophy of PhysicsPresentation 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 ReykjavikUnderstanding and Progress WorkshopPresentation title: *Understanding Phenomena (to Some Extent)* | 7/2020 |
| University of BochumEpistemology SeminarPresentation title: *Authority, Equilibrium, and Understanding* | 6/2020 |
| Universitad Autonoma de MadridResearch SeminarPresentation title: *Understanding and its Relation to Knowledge* | 1/2020 |
| University of CologneBrownbag SeminarPresentation title: *Can testimony Transmit Understanding?* | 11/2019 |
| Düsseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of ScienceResearch SeminarPresentation title: *Modelling Understanding* | 11/2019 |
| University of InnsbruckAustrian Neuroscience Association ConferencePresentation title: *What Is This Thing We Call “Model”?* | 9/2019 |
| Bled Epistemology ConferenceSocial Epistemology and the Politics of KnowingPresentation title: *On Understanding and Testimony* | 6/2019 |
| University of HannoverWorkshop on UnderstandingPresentation title: *Understanding, Truth, and Awareness of Limits* | 12/2018 |
| University of UrbinoWorkshop Realismo Scientifico e SpiegazionePresentation title: *Sul Rapporto tra Comprensione e Spiegazione* | 6/2018 |
| University of CopenhagenCopenhagen Political Epistemology Workshop Presentation title: *Towards an Inquirer Model of Epistemic Authority* (with Christoph Jäger) | 12/2017 |
| University of LausanneWorkshop Understanding Quantum MechanicsPresentation title: *Do We Understand (Through) Quantum Mechanics?* | 11/2017 |
| University of UrbinoWorkshop Riflessioni sul Realismo Scientifico.Presentation title: *La Verità e i Suoi Limiti* | 5/2017 |

**Peer–Reviewed Presentations**

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| University of TorontoSURe – Scientific Understanding and Representation WorkshopPresentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics* (with Mario Hubert) | 5/2023 |
| Humboldt University of BerlinGAP11 – 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 workshopPresentation title: *Ideal Understanding* (with Mario Hubert) | 4/2021 |
| University of CologneThe Cologne Knowledge Commentary on the paper “In Defense of Epistemic Autonomy: A Kantian Proposal” by Alexis Cohen (Edinburgh) | 3/2021 |
| University of MilanSMS 2018 - IV Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of SciencePresentation title: *Worrall’s Structural Realism, Knowledge, and Scientific Understanding* | 8/2018 |
| University of AmsterdamEEN – *European Epistemology Network*Presentation title: *Do We Need a (True) Explanation in Order to Understand?* | 6/2018 |
| University of Ghent and VU AmsterdamInternational Workshop Explanation and UnderstandingPresentation title: *On the Possibility of Understanding Without (True) Explanation* | 5/2018 |
| University of SalzburgSOPhiA2017 –Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic PhilosophyPresentation title: *Worrall’s Structural Realism: From the Limits of Knowledge to the Possibility of Understanding* | 9/2017 |
| Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMUECAP9 – 9th European Congress of Analytic PhilosophyPresentation title: *What Worrall’s Structural Realism Might Have Been About* | 8/2017 |
| University of BolognaSILFS2017 – Triennal International Conference of the Italian Society for Logic and Philosophy of SciencePresentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics: a Tentative Modal Account*  | 6/2017 |
| University of Pavia New Trends in Epistemology ConferencePresentation title: *Testimony as a Source of Understanding* (with Johannes Findl) | 6/2017 |
| University of OviedoSEFA8 – 8th Meeting of the Spanish Society for Analytic PhilosophyPresentation title: *How We Understand Through Models in Science* | 11/2016 |
| University of OportoThe second Portuguese Congress for PhilosophyPresentation title: *Understanding Through Models. The Role of Structure* | 9/2016 |
| University of PistoiaSIFA – XII Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic PhilosophyPresentation title: *Scientific Realism as the Most Reasonable Choice?* | 8/2016 |
| University of UrbinoSILFS – Third Postgraduate Conference for Logic and Philosophy of SciencePresentation title: *Understanding Through Models. The Role of Structure* | 5/2016 |
| University of Köln/BonnGAP DoktorandenworkshopPresentation title: *Ontologische Relativität. Was bleibt von Quines Realismus übrig?* | 11/2014 |

**Talks/comments in events I organized**

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| University of BochumConference Understanding: One or Many?(Conference funded by the Thyssen Stiftung) Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics* (with Mario Hubert) | 7/2023 |
| University of InnsbruckInternational Workshop Authority and AutonomyComment 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 InnsbruckInternational 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 ProgramMentor in the mentoring program for first-year Bachelor and Master students  | from 2022 |
| Chair of the semi-annual Department’s Staff AssemblyUniversity of Innsbruck | from 2021 |
| Scientific Managerof the Doctoral Research Group “Philosophy of Religion”University of Innsbruck | from 2021 |
| Student Leaderof the Doctoral Research Group “Philosophy of Religion” with role as mediator between doctoral students and facultyUniversity of Innsbruck | 2018-20 |
| Commission memberwithin the Habilitation process in Christian Philosophy of Dr. Patrick Zoll SJ, University of Innsbruck | 2021-22 |
| Commission memberwithin the appointment procedure for a Full Professorship in Old Testament, University of Innsbruck | 2021-22 |
| Commission memberwithin 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+1-617-496-0504 | **Prof. Dr. Stephen Grimm**Fordham University, New Yorksgrimm@fordham.edu+1-718-817-3282 |
| **Prof. Dr. Christoph Jäger**University of Innsbruckchristoph.jaeger@uibk.ac.at+43 512 507-8520 |  |