

## Personal Details

---

Born: 1989  
Email: [fede.malfatti89@gmail.com](mailto:fede.malfatti89@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://federicamalfatti.weebly.com/>

**Office address:**  
Department for 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

## Grants

---

Leader and PI of the TWF-funded TrAU! Project: <https://trau-project.org/>

## Academic Positions

---

<b>University of Innsbruck</b> <i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i>	since 2020
<b>University of Innsbruck</b> <i>Research and Teaching Assistant</i>	2018 - 2020
<b>University of Innsbruck</b> <i>Research Fellow in the project "Agency and Quantum Physics"</i>	2016 - 2017

## Education

---

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

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Monographs

---

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

### Articles (peer reviewed)

---

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

**On the Epistemological Potential of Worrall's Structural Realism.**

2018

*Philosophical Inquiries 2: 9-24.*

**Book chapters (invited)**

---

**Epistemic Authority.**

forthcoming

Blackwell Companion to Epistemology, Third Edition.

**Understanding and Transmission.**

forthcoming

Blackwell Companion to Epistemology, Third Edition.

**Der Wert des Wissens.** (With Christoph Jäger)

2019

Handbuch Erkenntnistheorie, M. Grajner, G. Melchior (Eds.), J. B. Metzler, Springer, Stuttgart, pp. 102-109.

**Edited Volumes**

---

**True Enough? Themes from Elgin.**

2021

*Synthese*, Topical Collection.

**PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Invited presentation within appointment procedures for Professorships**

---

**University of Stuttgart**

11/2022

Appointment procedure for a Junior Professorship W1 in Theoretical Philosophy (with *tenure track*).

Presentation title: *On the Role of Puzzlement in Understanding.*

**Philosophical-Theological Academy Bressanone/Brixen**

3/2022

Appointment procedure for the Cusanus Professorship in Philosophy.

Presentation title: *Der Mensch zwischen manifestem und wissenschaftlichem Bild der Wirklichkeit.*

**University of Bamberg**

5/2022

Appointment procedure for a Junior Professorship W1 in Theoretical Philosophy.

Presentation title: *Autonom in der Abhängigkeit? Anregungen aus der Debatte zur erklärbaren künstlichen Intelligenz.*

**Humboldt University of Berlin**

7/2020

Appointment procedure for a Junior Professorship W1 in Theoretical Philosophy.

Presentation title: *Do We Deserve Credit for Everything We Understand?*

**Invited Presentations**

---

**University of Karlsruhe**

7/2023

KIT Research Seminar

Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics. The Role of Mechanisms.*

**University of Urbino**

4/2023

Workshop on Mario Alai's Work

Presentation title: *Understanding Realism.*

**Humboldt University of Berlin**

3/2023

Workshop with Catherine Z. Elgin (Harvard)

Presentation title: *Elgin on Agency and Autonomy.*

**University of Zurich**

10/2022

Workshop on The Epistemology of Understanding

Presentation title: *Modelling Understanding (Phenomena)*

**University of Oslo**

8/2022

Testimony and Communication Workshop

Presentation title: *From Knowledge to Understanding? What Testimony Can(not) Teach*

**University of Innsbruck**

6/2022

Workshop "Ein gutes Leben"

Presentation title: *Der Mensch zwischen manifestem und wissenschaftlichem Bild der Wirklichkeit*

<b>University of Berne</b>	5/2022
Conference Reflective Equilibrium: 51 Years after <i>A Theory of Justice</i>	
Presentation title: <i>Are Reflective Equilibrium and Understanding Collective Achievements?</i>	
<b>University of Dresden</b>	12/2021
Research Seminar	
Presentation title: <i>Autonomie und Vertrauen: Konflikt oder Bündnis?</i>	
<b>University of Nottingham</b>	10/2021
Research Seminar	
Presentation title: <i>What is This Thing We Call Grasping?</i>	
<b>Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMU</b>	6/2021
Colloquium in Logic and Philosophy of Science	
Presentation title: <i>Seeing in Understanding</i>	
<b>Caltech University</b>	3/2021
Caltech Reading Group in the Philosophy of Physics	
Presentation title: <i>Ideal Understanding</i> (with Mario Hubert)	
<b>University of Fribourg</b>	11/2020
Workshop Testimony and Beyond	
Presentation title: <i>Do We Deserve Credit for Everything We Understand?</i>	
<b>University of Reykjavik</b>	7/2020
Understanding and Progress Workshop	
Presentation title: <i>Understanding Phenomena (to Some Extent)</i>	
<b>University of Bochum</b>	6/2020
Epistemology Seminar	
Presentation title: <i>Authority, Equilibrium, and Understanding</i>	
<b>Universidad Autonoma de Madrid</b>	1/2020
Research Seminar	
Presentation title: <i>Understanding and its Relation to Knowledge</i>	

<b>University of Cologne</b> Brownbag Seminar Presentation title: <i>Can testimony Transmit Understanding?</i>	11/2019
<b>Düsseldorf Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science</b> Research Seminar Presentation title: <i>Modelling Understanding</i>	11/2019
<b>University of Innsbruck</b> Austrian Neuroscience Association Conference Presentation title: <i>What Is This Thing We Call "Model"?</i>	9/2019
<b>Bled Epistemology Conference</b> Social Epistemology and the Politics of Knowing Presentation title: <i>On Understanding and Testimony</i>	6/2019
<b>University of Hannover</b> Workshop on Understanding Presentation title: <i>Understanding, Truth, and Awareness of Limits</i>	12/2018
<b>University of Urbino</b> Workshop Realismo Scientifico e Spiegazione Presentation title: <i>Sul Rapporto tra Comprensione e Spiegazione</i>	6/2018
<b>University of Copenhagen</b> Copenhagen Political Epistemology Workshop Presentation title: <i>Towards an Inquirer Model of Epistemic Authority</i> (with Christoph Jäger)	12/2017
<b>University of Lausanne</b> Workshop Understanding Quantum Mechanics Presentation title: <i>Do We Understand (Through) Quantum Mechanics?</i>	11/2017
<b>University of Urbino</b> Workshop Riflessioni sul Realismo Scientifico. Presentation title: <i>La Verità e i Suoi Limiti</i>	5/2017

## Peer-Reviewed Presentations

---

### **Humboldt University of Berlin**

9/2022

GAP11 - Conference of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy

Presentation title: *From Knowledge to Understanding? What Testimony Cannot Teach*

### **Radboud University**

4/2021

3rd Scientific Understanding and Representation (SURE) annual workshop

Presentation title: *Ideal Understanding* (with Mario Hubert)

### **University of Cologne**

3/2021

The Cologne Knowledge

Commentary on the paper "In Defense of Epistemic Autonomy: A Kantian Proposal" by Alexis Cohen (Edinburgh)

### **University of Milan**

8/2018

SMS 2018 - IV Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science

Presentation title: *Worrall's Structural Realism, Knowledge, and Scientific Understanding*

### **University of Amsterdam**

6/2018

EEN - European Epistemology Network

Presentation title: *Do We Need a (True) Explanation in Order to Understand?*

### **University of Ghent and VU Amsterdam**

5/2018

International Workshop Explanation and Understanding

Presentation title: *On the Possibility of Understanding Without (True) Explanation*

### **University of Salzburg**

9/2017

SOPhiA2017 - Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy

Presentation title: *Worrall's Structural Realism: From the Limits of Knowledge to the Possibility of Understanding*

- Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU** 8/2017  
 ECAP9 – 9th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy  
 Presentation title: *What Worrall's Structural Realism Might Have Been About*
- University of Bologna** 6/2017  
 SILFS2017 – Triennial International Conference of the Italian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science  
 Presentation title: *Understanding Quantum Mechanics: a Tentative Modal Account*
- University of Pavia** 6/2017  
 New Trends in Epistemology Conference  
 Presentation title: *Testimony as a Source of Understanding* (with Johannes Findl)
- University of Oviedo** 11/2016  
 SEFA8 – 8th Meeting of the Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy  
 Presentation title: *How We Understand Through Models in Science*
- University of Oporto** 9/2016  
 The second Portuguese Congress for Philosophy  
 Presentation title: *Understanding Through Models. The Role of Structure*
- University of Pistoia** 8/2016  
 SIFA – XII Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy  
 Presentation title: *Scientific Realism as the Most Reasonable Choice?*
- University of Urbino** 5/2016  
 SILFS – Third Postgraduate Conference for Logic and Philosophy of Science  
 Presentation title: *Understanding Through Models. The Role of Structure*
- University of Köln/Bonn** 11/2014  
 GAP Doktorandenworkshop  
 Presentation title: *Ontologische Relativität. Was bleibt von Quines Realismus übrig?*



## Talks/comments in events I organized

---

### University of Bochum

7/2023

Conference Understanding: One or Many?

Presentation title: *The Role of Memory in Understanding*  
(with Alfredo Vernazzani)

### University of Innsbruck

6/2022

International Workshop Authority and Autonomy

Comment on the paper "Science or Science  
Fundamentalism?" by Katherine Dormandy (Innsbruck)

### University of Innsbruck

3/2018

International Book Symposium: "True Enough?" with Prof.  
Catherine Z. Elgin (Harvard)

Presentation title: *Epistemic Authority, Reflective  
Equilibrium, and Understanding* (with Christoph Jäger)

### University of Innsbruck

5/2017

International Workshop: "Believing on Authority?" with Dr. Arnon  
Keren (Haifa/Oxford)

Presentation title: *Testimony as a Source of  
Understanding?* (with Johannes Findl)

## TEACHING

---

### University of Innsbruck - Bachelor Courses

2023	Special Topics in Contemporary Epistemology.
2022/23	Hermeneutics: A Critical Introduction.
2022/23	Epistemology and Philosophy of Science: Feministic Perspectives.
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.
2020	Introduction 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	Classical and Contemporary Criticism of Religion
2022/23	Critical Analysis of Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews.
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**

2022	Philosophy of Language. An Introduction
------	---

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

---

### **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, 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, Ratio, 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****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

[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