

Damiano Costa

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Università della Svizzera Italiana
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WEBSITE: www.damianocosta.com
DATE OF BIRTH: April 24, 1986
NATIONALITY: Swiss, Italian
Marital status: married, two children

Areas of Specialization Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy

Areas of Competence Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Logic

ACADEMIC CAREER

2023 –	Assistant Professor	Institute of Philosophy, FTL, USI, Lugano
	▪ Deputy Director of the Institute	
	▪ Director of its Bachelor, Master and PhD programmes in Philosophy	
	▪ Principal Investigator of the SNSF Starting Grant “Temporal Existence”	
2017 – 2023	Lecturer	USI, Lugano
2010 – 2023	Lecturer	Institute of Philosophy, FTL, USI, Lugano
2019 – 2020	Academic Visitor	University of Oxford
2015 – 2017	Lecturer	University of Geneva
2015 – 2017	Post-doc	University of Fribourg
2014 – 2015	Post-doc	University of Neuchâtel
2014	Temporary Lecturer	University of Fribourg
2013 – 2014	Visiting Scholar	Columbia University

EDUCATION

2014	Ph.D. in Philosophy	University of Geneva
2010	M.A. in Philosophy	University of Geneva
2008	B.A. in Philosophy	Institute of Philosophy, Lugano

PUBLICATIONS

Book

(2018), **Esistenza e Persistenza**. Milan: Mimesis. ISBN: 9788857552729

Journal Articles and book chapters

(forthcoming), “Location and mereology” (with C. Gilmore and C. Calosi), in Zalta, E. (ed), **The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**.

(forthcoming), “What is priority monism? Reply to Kovacs”, **Inquiry**.

- (forthcoming), “Mereological Endurantism Defined”, **Inquiry**.
- (2023), “Fine's Monster Objection Defanged” (with A. Cecconi, C. Calosi), **The Philosophical Quarterly**, 73, 435-451.
- (2022), “The Multi-location Trilemma” (with. C. Calosi), **Erkenntnis**, 87, 1063-1079.
- (2021), “An Argument Against Aristotelian Universals”, **Synthese**, 198, 4331-4338.
- (2020), “Persistence in Time”, in Fieser, J. and Dowden, B. (eds.) **Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy**. Link: <https://iep.utm.edu/per-time>.
- (2020), “Aquinas on the Existence of the Future: A Response to Gili”, **European Journal for Philosophy of Religion** 12(3), 225-235.
- (2020), “Was Bonaventure a Four-dimensionalist?”, **British Journal for the History of Philosophy**, 28(2), 393-404.
- (2019), “Aquinas, Geach, and Existence”, **European Journal for Philosophy of Religion** 11(3), 175-195.
- (2018) reprint of (2017a) in M. Roques and F. Goubier (ed.), **The Instant of Change in Medieval Philosophy and Beyond**. Leiden: Brill.
- (2017b) “The Transcendentist Theory of Persistence”, **The Journal of Philosophy**, 114 (2), 57-75.
- (2017a) “The Limit Decision Problem and Four-Dimensionalism”, **Vivarium**, 55 (1-3), 199-216.
- (2016b) “Relativity and Three Four-Dimensionalisms” (with C. Gilmore and C. Calosi), **Philosophy Compass**, 11:2, 102-120.
- (2016a) “In Defence of Transcendentism” (with A. Giordani), **Acta Analytica**, 31:2, 225-234.
- (2015) “Multilocation: Fusions and Confusions” (with C. Calosi), **Philosophia**, 43, 25-33.
- (2014) “Temporal Parts and Spatial Location”, in A. Reboul (ed.), **Mind, Values and Metaphysics**, Berlin: Springer, 199-207.
- (2013) “From Times to Worlds and Back Again: A Transcendentist Theory of Persistence” (with A. Giordani), **Thought: A Journal of Philosophy**, 2:3 (2013), 210-220.
- (2012) “Attualità del presente contro atto d'essere. Geach interprete di Tommaso d'Aquino?”, **RTLu** 3, 349-360.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (selection)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2023-2028 | SNF Starting Grant ‘Temporal existence’, involving two post-docs and one PhD student, led by D. Costa, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation
1'797'074 CHF |
| 2022-2025 | Project funding: project ‘REF2022-25’, involving three senior researchers, led by D. Costa, funded by an anonymous private foundation
558'000 CHF |
| 2013 – 2014 | Visiting Scholarship , Columbia University
funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation
70'000 CHF |
| 2013 | Humbert Award
graduate essay prize
funded by the University of Geneva
2'500 CHF |
| 2013 | Philibert Collart Award
funded by the Genevan Academic Society
annually awarded to the top ranked Ph.D. project in Philosophy at the University of Geneva
5'000 CHF |

2010 – 2013

PhD Scholarship

funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation
funded through the research project “Essentialism and the Mind”
130'000 CHF

2008

Reginaldus Award for Distinguished BA Theses

funded by the Reginaldus Foundation, Lugano
2'000 CHF

RESEARCH TALKS

Since 2010, I have given more than 50 talks, in UK, USA, Canada, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium (# invited, * selected):

1. Aristotelian universals and modes of being (with P. Natali), ECAP 11, CEU Vienna (8/2023)
2. # Aristotelian universals and modes of being (with P. Natali), *Modalità e modi d'essere*, Catholic University of Milan (5/2023)
3. # Aristotelian universals and modes of being (with P. Natali), *Philosophy Colloquium*, University of Zürich (5/2023)
4. # The Perils of Aristotelian Realism, Plenary talk at the *VI Italian Conference on Analytic Ontology* (6/2022)
5. # The Perils of Aristotelian Realism, Neuchâtel Colloquia (3/2022)
6. # The Perils of Aristotelian Realism, GEM Colloquia, Collège de France, Paris (12/2021)
7. # Priority Monism Revisited, University of Tuebingen colloquia in philosophy (11/2020)
8. # Comments on Pasnau's “Medieval Modal Spaces”, *The Virtual Medieval Colloquium 10* (5/2020)
9. # Here and There. The Logic of Multi-location, *3rd Lugano Venice workshop in Analytic Philosophy*, University of Venice (2/2020)
10. The Multilocation Dilemma (with C. Calosi), *Society for the Metaphysics of Science Annual Meeting 2019*, University of Toronto (11/2019)
11. # Relativity and the Afterlife, *13th meeting of the British Society for Philosophy of Religion*, University of Oxford (9/2019)
12. # “The Same but Different”, *2nd Venice Meeting in Analytic Philosophy*, University of Venice (7/2019)
13. # Relativity and Four-Dimensionalism, Catholic University of Milan (5/2019)
14. # Relativity and Four-Dimensionalism, University of Padua (5/2019)
15. # Is Four-dimensionalism Intelligible? University of Padua (5/2019)
16. # Is Four-dimensionalism Intelligible? Corpus Christi College, Oxford (11/2018)
17. # Was Bonaventure a Four-Dimensionalist?, XXth Meeting of the Medieval Philosophy Network in the UK, University of London, London (11/2018)
18. # Persistence revisited, San Raffaele University, Milan (6/2018)
19. # Presentism and Truth-making, *Existence and experience*, Bergamo (5/2018)
20. # The Connective View of Temporal Existence, *Ontoformat*, Milan (5/2018)
21. # The Connective View of Temporal Existence, *Relations*, Manchester (3/2018)
22. The Connective View of Temporal Existence, *The Analogy of Being*, Ligerz (3/2018)
23. # The Connective View of Temporal Existence, *Time after time*, Bonn (2/2018)
24. Comments on Rosenkranz's “The Logic of Justification”, *Metaphysics sans phrase: 10 years of eidos*, Geneva (11/2017)
25. # Six Ways of Being in Time, *Powers and Change*, Oxford (3/2017)
26. Six Ways of Being in Time, *Exre colloquia*, Fribourg (3/2017)
27. # Six Ways of Being in Time, *Quodlibeta*, Geneva (3/2017)
28. # Metaphysical Superdetermination (with A. Giordani), *Objects, Qualities, Structures*, Bergamo (1/2017)
29. Some metaphysical consequences of Relativity Theory, *Gandria workshop*, Lugano (12/2016)
30. Metaphysical Superdetermination (with A. Giordani), *Gandria workshop*, Lugano (12/2016)
31. Comments on Jiri Benovsky's « How to survive eliminativism », *Eliminativism*, Ovronnaz (7/2016)
32. # Existence at a time, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris (5/2016)
33. Emergence does not entail priority monism, *Monism*, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris (5/2016)
34. # The Limit Decision Problem and Four-dimensionalism, *Limit Decision Problem : Medieval and Contemporary Perspectives*, Humboldt University, Berlin (11/2015)
35. Comments on Kris McDaniel's « Modes of Instantiation », *The Metaphysics of Properties and Relations*, Bergamo (7/2015)
36. # Being in Time, Catholic University of Milan, Italy (6/2015)
37. Endurantism and the Grounds of Existence, *Truth and Grounds*, Mount Truth, Switzerland (5/2015)
38. # Special Relativity and Immortality, *Phileas Lectures*, Geneva (11/2014)
39. Fine on existence and location, *Objections to Fine*, Varano Borghi (8/2013)
40. Comments on G. Currie's «Four media in search of fictional characters», *CUSO Aesthetics workshop*, Ovronnaz (6/2013)
41. Endurantism and Standard Theories of Location, *Workshop on location and mereology*, University of Geneva (6/2013)
42. Explaining Identity, *Identity workshop*, University of Zürich (6/2013)
43. # Transcendentism about Persistence, *Time and Existence*, Catholic University of Milan (5/2013)
44. Transcendentism about Persistence, University of Fribourg (4/2013)
45. Transcendentism about Persistence, *CUSO Doctoral Workshop with Josh Parsons*, University of Geneva (3/2013)

46. # Do traditional theories of persistence rest on a category mistake?, *The Ontology of the Mind and the Semantics of Nominalizations*, IHPST, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne (2/2013)
47. Grounding Identity, Lemming Graduate Conference, University of Cologne (D) (11/2012)
48. Comments on B. Caplan's «Truth in Fiction over Time», *PERSP Space & Time Workshop*, University of Barcelona (11/2012)
49. # Location in Space and Time, *Spatial Representation and Logic*, Université de Lausanne (10/2012)
50. # Grounding Identity, *Paris-Hamburg Ontology Workshop*, IHPST, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne (9/2012)
51. Property Exemplification and the Temporal Parts of Events, *Joint Session of the Mind and Aristotelian Society*, University of Stirling (7/2012)
52. Events as Kind Instantiations, *SOPHA 2012*, École Normale Supérieure, Paris (5/2012)
53. # What is a Criterion of Identity?, Catholic University of Milan (5/2012)
54. # Events and Objects in Time, *Time and Ontology*, Université de Namur (5/2012)
55. Derivative Location, Université de Fribourg (4/2012)
56. Essence and Persistence, *Logic and Metaphysics of Essence*, Lugano (1/2012)
57. Essence and Endurance, *Candoc Colloquium*, Ovronnaz (9/2011)
58. On and Against Enduring Events, *ECAP7*, san Raffaele University, Milano (7/2011)
59. On and Against Enduring Processes, *7th BCN/GVA meeting* – University of Barcelona (5/2011)
60. What is a Temporal Part?, *eidós meeting*, Université de Genève (4/2011)
61. Property Exemplification and the Nature of Events, *eidós meeting*, Université de Genève (5/2010)
62. Comments on Simon Prosser's "Temporal Passage and Awareness", *XVI eidós workshop*, Université de Genève (11/2009)
63. Substances, i.e. Structured Particulars, *SOPHA 2009*, Université de Genève (9/2009)
64. Substances & Modes of Persistence, *eidós meeting*, Université de Genève (5/2009)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

2017 - 2019 Member of the Consulting Board of Ideatorio, USI's science communication organ

1. Public lecture on the self with C. Esposito, Lugano (Switzerland), March 2022
2. Public lecture on time, Lugano (Switzerland), November 2021
3. Public round table on machine consciousness, Lugano (Switzerland), April 2021
4. Interview for USI's series on covid-19, Lugano (Switzerland), May 2020
5. Public round table on artificial intelligence, Lugano (Switzerland), October 2019
6. Public lecture on the passage of time, Locarno (Switzerland), May 2018
7. Public lecture on the passage of time, Lugano (Switzerland), April 2018
8. Interview in the Swiss Italian Newspaper "Corriere del Ticino", March 2016
9. Public lecture on personal identity, Lugano (Switzerland), April 2015
10. Public lecture on personal identity, Mendrisio (Switzerland), April 2015
11. Public lecture on temporal passage, Lugano (Switzerland), April 2013
12. Interview, Swiss National Radio, on the metaphysics of time, May 2012
13. Public lecture on eternalism, Mendrisio (Switzerland), April 2012

Organized public lecture series on:

1. Philosophy of quantum mechanics, Lugano, November-December 2022
2. Time, Lugano, November-December, 2021
3. Philosophy and artificial intelligence, February 2021
4. Rationality, Lugano, September 2020
5. The history of philosophy of mind, Lugano, February 2020
6. Emotions between philosophy and literature, Lugano, September 2019
7. God and being, Lugano, February 2019
8. Aristotle and its legacy, Palermo, September 2018
9. Dante and philosophy, Lugano, September 2018
10. Free will, Lugano, February 2018
11. Causation, Lugano, September 2017
12. Aristotle and truth, Lugano, September 2016

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2023 | Ninth annual meeting of the international society for philosophy of time (with C. Mariani)
A five-day conference based at USI |
| 2023 | Plato on change (with P. Gigli)
A three-day workshop based at USI |

- 2023 **Summer School on Reality+ with D. Chalmers, N. Wildman, B. Balcerak Jackson**
A 5-day summer school in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2023 **Lugano Philosophy Colloquia**
A series of colloquia in philosophy based at USI
- 2022 **Workshop on mereology and location** (with C. Calosi)
A two-day workshop based at USI
- 2022 **Lugano Philosophy Colloquia**
A series of colloquia in philosophy based at USI
- 2022 **Summer School on Truthmaker Semantics with K. Fine and M. Jago**
A 5-day summer school in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2022 **Summer School on Relations with A. Marmodoro and J. Marenbon**
A 5-day summer school in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2022 **Workshop on Material Objects**
A one day workshop with T. Sattig, A. Marmodoro, C. Calosi, A. Giordani
- 2021 **Lugano Philosophy Colloquia**
A series of online colloquia in philosophy based at USI
- 2019 **The Metaphysics of Quantities II**
A 2-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2019 **God and Time III**
A 2-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2019 **Venice International Workshop on Analytic Philosophy**
A 2-day workshop held in Venice, Italy
- 2019 **Lugano Undergraduate Philosophy Conference 2019**
A 2-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2018 **Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science** (with A. Facchini and S. Wolf)
A 2-day conference held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2018 **International Conference “Aristotle’s Metaphysics. Yesterday and Today”** (with K. Mulligan, G. Ventimiglia and P. Blum)
A 2-day conference held in Palermo, Italy
- 2018 **Summer School “Aristotle’s Metaphysics. Yesterday and Today”** (with K. Mulligan, G. Ventimiglia and P. Blum)
A 4-day summer school held in Caltanissetta, Italy
- 2018 **The Fragmentation of Reality** (with J. Plate)
A 2-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2018 **Lugano Undergraduate Philosophy Conference 2018**
A 2-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2017 **Spacetime, Quantities and Location** (with C. Calosi)
A 1-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2017 **The Metaphysics of Quantities I** (with K. Mulligan)
A 2-day conference held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2015 **Truth and Grounds** (with K. Mulligan)
A 5-day conference held on Mount Truth, Ascona, Switzerland

- 2015 **The Metaphysics and Phenomenology of Thought** (with M. Nida-Rumelin, J. Naito, F. Correia, M. Scarpati)
A workshop held in Fribourg, Switzerland
- 2013 **The Philosophy of Kit Fine** (with P. Blum)
A 6-day conference held in Villa Borghi, Varano, Italy
- 2013 **Workshop on location and mereology** (with M. Hämmerli)
A 1-day workshop held in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2013 **Workshop with Josh Parsons** (with M. Hämmerli)
A 1-day workshop held in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2012 **Logic and Metaphysics of Essence** (with A. Giordani)
A 2-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2012 **Topics in the Metaphysics of Properties** (with A. Giordani)
A 1-day workshop held in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2012 **Nominalism: A Reassessment** (with G. Guigon, G. Rodriguez Pereyra and M. Hämmerli)
A 3-day conference held in Geneva, Switzerland

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2018 - **Deputy Director and Member of the Faculty Board** – Institute of Philosophy, FTL, USI, Lugano
- I am the de facto main supervisor of the Institute of Philosophy in Lugano, where I lead the local BA, MA and PhD programmes in philosophy. I take also care of supervision of collaborators (one administrative manager, three PhD assistants, five student assistants, 35 lecturers), marketing, organization and supervision of academic events, financial budgeting, statistical analysis, relations with other institutions and the press. As a member of the Faculty Board, I contribute to the strategic planning and financial budgeting of the Faculty, and the appointment of new professors.
- 2017 - **Coordinator and then Director (2022 -) of MAP** – the Research Master in Philosophy – USI, Lugano
- In collaboration with Kevin Mulligan, I have created from scratch and currently run the MAP – the Research Master in Philosophy in Lugano. My administrative responsibilities span from curriculum design, selection, recruitment and evaluation of teaching of 25 visiting professors, supervision of collaborators (one PhD assistant, five student assistants), strategic development, marketing, mentoring of students, overseeing day-to-day administration of teaching, institution of international exchange programmes, organization and supervision of academic events, financial budgeting, statistical analysis.
- 2017 - 2019 **Member** - Consulting Board of Ideatorio
- Ideatorio is the official science communication organ of USI and the regional chapter of the Swiss Science Cité, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' competence centre for dialog.
- 2016 - 2018 **Supervisor of studies and Member of the Faculty Board** – Institute of Philosophy, FTL, Lugano
- The Supervisor of studies at the Institute acts as a typical UK director of undergraduate studies, overseeing curriculum design, day-to-day administration of teaching, taking care of the selection, recruitment and evaluation of teaching of the 20 visiting professors of the Institute, mentoring of students.
- 2010 - **Member** – Eidos, the Centre in Metaphysics
- Members of Eidos are allowed to participate in the Eidos weekly research meeting as well as in the yearly conference.
- 2016, 2017-18 **Deputy Director** (2016) and then **Director** (2017-18) – Aristotle College
- Aristotle College is a private university college in Lugano. It offers board, lodging and a supplementary training to 25 students of any of Lugano's universities, which are selected on the basis of merit. My duties

included student selection and mentoring, design of the supplementary training, financial budgeting, relations with other institutions and private sponsors.

2010 - 2013 **Member of the editorial committee** – *Dialectica*, An International Journal of Philosophy

My duties included internal refereeing, selection of external referees, participation in the final decisions of the papers I have internally refereed.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As of autumn 2023 (and until 2028), I am on teaching relief thanks to my SNSF Starting Grant project.

Graduate courses

1. Metaphysics (Lugano, English, with C. Calosi)	2023
2. Metaphysics and Physics (Lugano, English, with C. Calosi)	2022
3. Research Seminar (Lugano, English, with C. Calosi)	2022
4. Metaphysics and Physics (Lugano, English, with C. Calosi)	2022
5. PhD Skills in Philosophy (Lugano English, with others)	2021
6. Metaphysics (Lugano, English)	2021
7. Time (Lugano, English, with C. Calosi)	2021
8. Existence (Lugano, English)	2020
9. The Metaphysics of Time (Lugano, English)	2020
10. Temporal Existence (Corpus Christi College, Oxford, English)	2019
11. Time in Philosophy (Lugano, English)	2019
12. The Metaphysics of Time (Lugano, English)	2019
13. Time in Philosophy (Lugano, English)	2018
14. The Metaphysics of Time (Lugano, English)	2018
15. Time in Philosophy (Lugano, English)	2017
16. Metaphysics (Geneva, French)	2015
17. Normativity (Geneva, French, with Julien Deonna)	2015
18. Problems in Metaphysics (Geneva, English, with others)	2013

Undergraduate courses

1. Philosophy of Mind (Lugano, Italian, with P. Natali)	2022
2. Metaphysics and its History (Lugano, Italian, with P. Natali)	2022
3. Philosophy of Mind (Lugano, Italian, with P. Natali)	2021
4. Philosophy of Mind (Lugano, Italian, with P. Natali)	2020
5. Metaphysics and Its History (Lugano, Italian, with P. Natali)	2020
6. Philosophy of Mind and Its History (Lugano, Italian, with P. Natali)	2019
7. Philosophy of Mind and Its History (Lugano, Italian)	2018
8. Philosophy of Mind and Its History (Lugano, Italian)	2017
9. Philosophy of Time (Lugano, Italian)	2017
10. Metaphysics (Geneva, French)	2017
11. Philosophy of Time (Geneva, French)	2017
12. Logic (Lugano, Italian)	2017
13. Philosophy of Mind and Its History (Lugano, Italian)	2016
14. Logic (Lugano, Italian)	2016
15. Personal Identity (Fribourg, French, with M. Nida-Ruemelin)	2016
16. Reading seminar (Fribourg, German, with M. Nida-Ruemelin)	2015
17. Philosophy of Mind (Lugano, Italian)	2015
18. Logic (Lugano, Italian, with A. Giordani)	2015
19. Seminar on Universals (Fribourg, French and German)	2014
20. Logic (Lugano, Italian, with A. Giordani)	2013
21. Philosophy of Mind and Its History (Lugano, Italian, with G. Ventimiglia)	2012
22. Seminar in Metaphysics (Geneva, French, with O. Massin)	2012
23. Reading Seminar (Geneva, French, with others)	2012
24. Logic (Lugano, Italian, with A. Giordani)	2012
25. Reading Seminar (Geneva, French, with others)	2011
26. Logic (Lugano, Italian, with A. Giordani)	2011

Graduate dissertation supervision in Philosophy

Vanessa Bruseghini (Lugano, 2021)
Federica Sbiroli (Lugano, 2020)
Daniele Garancini (Lugano, 2019)
Alberto Tassoni – Master dissertation (Lugano, 2019)

Undergraduate dissertation supervision in Philosophy

Fabio Affronti (Lugano, 2022)
Tannaz Najafi (Lugano 2018)
Federica Sbiroli (Lugano 2018)
Vanessa Bruseghini (Lugano, 2018)
Maxime Rebourg (Geneva, 2018)
Thomas Cornut (Geneva, 2017)
Daniele Cereghetti (Lugano, 2015)

Graduate or undergraduate dissertation examining in Philosophy

Max Petrowitsch (Lugano 2022)
Sara Silvano (Lugano 2019)
Maria Zanella (Lugano 2019)
Carola Calabrese (Lugano 2019)
Eric Tremolanti (Lugano 2018)
David Anzalone (Lugano, 2017)
Dario Affronti (Lugano, 2017)
Marco Saccà (Lugano, 2017)
Giulia Besagni (Lugano, 2017)
Dominika Krawczynska (Lugano, 2016)
Carolina Sassi (Lugano, 2016)

OFFERS AND SHORTLISTS

Shortlisted for the final selection phase of: a permanent lectureship at King's College London (2015), a professorship at the University of Neuchâtel (2019), an SNF Eccellenza grant (2021). Offered a permanent research professorship at the International Center for Formal Ontology at Warsaw's Technological University (2018).