

Mefisto

Rivista di medicina, filosofia, storia

Vol. 9, 2, 2025

(già Medicina&Storia)

Direttori / Editors in Chief

Massimo Marraffa (Università Roma Tre),

Emiliano Loria (Università del Piemonte Orientale)

Comitato direttivo / Executive Board

Maria Cristina Amoretti (Università di Genova), Stefano Canali (Università Roma Tre), Valentina Cardella (Università di Messina), Carlo Gabbani (Liceo Ulisse Dini, Pisa), Matteo Galletti (Università di Firenze), Marko Jurjako (University of Rijeka), Elisabetta Lalumera (Università di Bologna), Alessandro Pagnini (past editor), Marica Setaro (Archivio Franco e Franca Basaglia, Venezia), Marco Viola (Università Roma Tre).

Comitato Scientifico / International Scientific Board

Adriano Ardivino (Università 'G. d'Annunzio' Chieti-Pescara.), Marta Bertolaso (Università Campus Bio-medico Roma), Domenico Bertoloni Meli (Indiana University), Francesco Bianchini (Università di Bologna), Luciano Boi (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris), Giovanni Boniolo (Università di Ferrara), Paola Borsellino (Università Milano Bicocca), Roberto Brigati (Università di Bologna), Raffaella Campaner (Università di Bologna), Andrea Carlino (Université de Genève), Marco Ciardi (Università di Firenze), Barbara Continenza (Università di Roma Tor Vergata), Chiara Crisciani (Università di Pavia), Mario De Caro (Università Roma Tre), Liborio Di Battista (Università di Bari), Bernardino Fantini (Université de Genève), Francesco Ferretti (Università Roma Tre), Vinzia Fiorino (Università di Pisa), Pierdaniele Giaretta (Università di Padova), Lorenzo Greco (Università dell'Aquila), John Henderson (University of London), Lauren Kassell (Cambridge UK e Istituto Universitario Europeo di Firenze), Andrea Lavazza (Università di Milano), Antonello La Vergata (Università di Modena-Reggio Emilia), Sabina Leonelli (University of Exeter), Paolo Mazzarello (Università di Pavia), Luciano Mecacci (Università di Firenze), Maria Teresa Monti (Università del Piemonte Orientale), Carmela Morabito (Università di Roma Tor Vergata), Germana Pareti (Università di Torino), Katherine Park (Harvard University), Alessandro Pastore (Università di Verona), Patrizia Pedrini (Université de Genève), Pietro Perconti (Università di Messina), Davide Perrotta (Università Roma Tre), Valentina Petrolini (Università di Bologna), Alessio Plebe (Università di Messina), Marco Piazza (Università Roma Tre), Giovanni Pizza (Università di Perugia), Claudio Pogliano (Università di Pisa), Simone Pollo (Sapienza-Università di Roma), Fabrizio Rufo (Università di Roma La Sapienza), Marta Spranzi (Université de Versailles, Saint-Quentin-en-Yveline), Alain Touwaide (Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions), Giorgio Val-lortigara (Università di Trento), Tiziana Vistarini (Università di Chieti/Pescara), Paolo Vineis (Imperial College London), Fabio Zampieri (Università di Padova).

Direttore di redazione / Managing Editor

Davide Serpico (Università di Milano Statale)

Redazione / Editorial Office

Miriam Aiello, Matteo Borri, Simone Capozzi, Giovanni Cerro, Jacopo Colelli, Natacha Fabbri.

Contatti / Contact us

rivistamefisto@gmail.com

Mefisto

Vol. 9, 2, 2025

Edizioni ETS

Essays published on “Mefisto” are double-blind peer-reviewed.

six-monthly journal / periodico semestrale

Subscription (paper, individual): Italy € 60,00, EU € 90,00, World € 100,00
Subscription (paper, institution): Italy € 70,00, EU € 110,00, World € 130,00
Subscription (online, individual): 60,00 €
Subscription (online, institution): 80,00 €
Subscription (paper + online, individual): 100,00 €
Subscription (paper + online, institution): 135,00 €

Subscription fee payable via Bank transfer to
Edizioni ETS
Banca Intesa, Sede centrale, Corso Italia 2, Pisa
IBAN IT 21 U 03069 14010 100000001781
BIC/SWIFT BCITITMM
reason: abbonamento “Mefisto”
info@edizioniets.com - www.edizioniets.com

Registrazione presso il Tribunale di Firenze n. 8/2017

Direttrice responsabile: Alessandra Borghini

© Copyright 2025
EDIZIONI ETS
Lungarno Mediceo, 16, 56127 Pisa
info@edizioniets.com
www.edizioniets.com

Distribuzione / Distribution
Messaggerie Libri SPA, via G. Verdi 8 - 20090 Assago (MI)

Promozione / Promotion
PDE PROMOZIONE SRL, via Zago 2/2 - 40128 Bologna

ISBN 978-884677466-8
ISSN 2532-8255

Indice / Table of Contents

Saggi / Essays

- Mirko Di Bernardo, Francesco Verde, *Philosophical reflections on the generative dimension of meaning in natural language* 9
- Maria Chiara Milighetti, *Le donne di Francesco Redi. Scritture femminili nel carteggio familiare dello scienziato aretino* 31

Focus

Function and Dysfunction: Revising, Expanding, and Questioning Two Core Concepts in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences Part one: Theoretical Foundations

A cura di / Edited by

M. Cristina Amoretti, Rebecca R. Cuciniello, Claudio Davini

- Introduction 61
- Antoine C. Dussault, *Generalized Selected Effects Functions, the Liberality Problem, and Interspecific Competition* 65
- Tiago Rama, León Trelles, *Towards other hybrid theories on mental health: A critical revision of Wakefield's theory from the philosophy of biological functions* 89
- Alejandro Gordillo-García, Mirko Gatti, Iuris Mocchiutti, *Design Without Designer? Function and Dysfunction in Cultural Evolutionary Theory* 113
- Giulia Gandolfi, *Biological function, psychological function, normative function: On the concept of function in Georges Canguilhem's philosophy of life* 135
- James Turner, Fabian Hundertmark, *Swampman goes to the doctor* 163

Recensioni / Reviews

Elisabetta Lalumera, <i>Health, Well-Being, and Quality of Life. A Philosophical Analysis</i> (Noemi Paciscopi)	185
Maria Cristina Amoretti, <i>Una scienza libera? Il ruolo dei valori nella ricerca scientifica</i> (Federico Boem)	191
Franco Basaglia, <i>Fare l'impossibile. Ragionando di psichiatria e potere</i> , a cura di Marica Setaro (Francesco Stoppa)	196

Autori di questo numero / Contributors to this issue

Mirko Di Bernardo is an Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Science, currently teaching at the University of Rome “Niccolò Cusano” and at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. His academic work integrates teaching and research in neuro-semiotics, philosophy of science, digitalization, neuroethics, applied ethics, and philosophy of medicine. His research lies at the intersection of epistemology of biology, philosophy of mind, complexity theory, neurophenomenology, self-organization, functional genomics, and bioethics.

Antoine C. Dussault completed a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Montreal. In 2016 and 2017, he was postdoctoral research at the Institut d’histoire et de philosophie des sciences et des techniques (IHPST) at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, and the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST) at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on the philosophy of ecology, the philosophy of biology and medicine, and environmental ethics. In the philosophy of biology and medicine, he works on issues raised by various theories of function and naturalistic theories of health.

Fabian Hundertmark is a member of the Valencia Philosophy Lab at the University of Valencia. His research spans the philosophy of biology, metaphysics, the philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of psychiatry. He works on biological functions and their role in philosophy of mind and philosophy of medicine, modal properties, especially the nature of dispositions and abilities, and mental disorders. He has recently published in *Philosophy of Science* and *Biology & Philosophy*.

Giulia Gandolfi is a postdoctoral researcher in philosophy at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, “Life, Concept and Purpose: The Organism as a Connection in Kant’s Critical Philosophy and Georges Canguilhem’s Historical Epistemology”. She has combined her interest in historical epistemology with

the study of artificial intelligence in her project on interpretability in clinical and diagnostic contexts, within the framework of the AI FORENSICS project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Mirko Gatti is a PhD student in Philosophy at the University of Padua, in cotutelle with the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (IHPST). He is interested in the normative implications of teleological discourse in biology and medicine. Specifically, he is currently working on the concept of biological normativity as it emerges within the theories of autonomy in theoretical biology.

Alejandro Gordillo García specializes in the philosophy of biology. He has worked on cultural evolution, evolutionary explanation, and other related topics. Some of his publications include “Cultural evolution and the evolution of cultural information” (2022, *Biological Theory*) and “Overlooked aspects of cultural evolution: information, maladaptation, and evolutionary trends” (2023, *KU Leuven*). He currently works as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Padua.

Iuris Mocchiutti is a PhD student in Philosophy at the University of Padua. His background includes studies in prehistoric archaeology and archival science. His research interests lie in evolutionary theory – particularly Cultural Evolution Theory – and in the development of applied ontologies.

Maria Chiara Milighetti is an adjunct professor of algebra teaching at the University of Siena. She holds a MA and PhD in Philosophy (2006) from the University of Siena and a MA in Mathematics (1996) from the University of Florence. Her interests focus mainly on the history of mathematics and the history of modern science. She recently published a collection of letters by the mathematician Giovan Francesco Salvemini De Castillon (1709-1791) for the “Bollettino di Storia delle Scienze matematiche” (2024).

Tiago Rama earned his BA in Analytic Philosophy of Language in Uruguay and his MA in Cognitive Science and Language at the University of Barcelona. In 2022, he completed his PhD at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, focusing on the intersection of teleosemantics and the philosophy of biology. Currently, he is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of the Republic (Uruguay), where he works on topics in the life sciences, particularly in the philosophy of biology. His research interests include teleological explanations, population models in biology, and informational modeling in developmental biology. Beyond these areas, he is also interested in the philosophy of mind, psychiatry, and the history of biology.

León Trelles is a lecturer at the Department of Philosophy of Science at the University of the Republic (Uruguay). In 2022, he earned his BA in Philosophy of Science, focusing on topics related to historical epistemology. Currently, he is enrolled in a Master's program in Contemporary Philosophy at the University of the Republic (Uruguay), focusing his research on the philosophy of psychiatry, where his research centers on the concept of mental illness, classification criteria in psychiatry, and conceptual issues related to specific diagnostic labels.

James Turner is based at Umeå University, in the Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. His work lies at the intersection of the philosophy of cognitive science, psychology, and psychiatry. He focuses on functional approaches to moods and mood disorders, on the nature of biological function, on the nature of disease/disorder, and on functional approaches to AI systems. He has recently published in *Philosophy of Science* and *Erkenntnis*.

Francesco Verde is a PhD candidate in Philosophy at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", where he is currently developing a research project titled *The Endophasic Self: Inner Speech between Normal and Pathological* – under the supervision of M. De Palo and F. Diodato. His academic interests lie primarily in the philosophy of language, Vygotsky studies, theories of inner speech and self-representation, psychoanalysis. His research explores the role of inner speech in the self-narrative processes of synthesising autobiographical memories and constructing personal identity.

Edizioni ETS

Palazzo Roncioni - Lungarno Mediceo, 16, I-56127 Pisa

info@edizioniets.com - www.edizioniets.com

Finito di stampare nel mese di dicembre 2025