

Eleonora Volta

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1. Areas of Research

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Social Epistemology, Feminist Philosophy.

Areas of Competence

Discourse Analysis in Legal Contexts, Sexual Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy.

2. Current & Past Positions

Nov 2025 – Sep 2026

Instituto de Filosofia da Nova, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: *Communicative paths to righting epistemic wrongs* (CORES).

PI: Giulia Terzian.

Nov 2024 – Oct 2025

Faculty of Philosophy, San Raffaele University

Postdoctoral Fellow

Project: *Themes and Methods of Social Philosophy of Language*.

PI: Claudia Bianchi.

3. Visiting Positions

Sep 2022 – May 2023

Dept of Philosophy, University of Glasgow

Visiting Scholar

Supervisor: Katharine Jenkins.

4. Academic Titles

18 Feb 2025. **Ph.D. in Philosophy** with Honors, San Raffaele University

Thesis title: "I miti dello stupro in dibattito. Analisi pragmatica ed epistemologica del linguaggio nel processo per violenza sessuale" (*Rape Myths in the Courtroom: A Pragmatic and Epistemological Analysis of Language in Sexual Violence Trials*)

Supervisor: Claudia Bianchi

Committee members and reviewers: Laura Caponetto, Bianca Cepollaro, Carlotta Cossutta, Paolo Labinaz, Susanna Pozzolo.

5. Education

2021. **MA in Philosophical Sciences** *cum laude*, University of Milan

2017. **BA in Drama, Visual Arts and Music Studies** *cum laude*, IULM University, Milan

6. Awards and Scholarships

2024. SWIP Italia-Lex Academic Essay Prize 2024 for the best article in feminist philosophy written by an Italian philosopher for the paper “From Silencing to Extracted Testimony in Trials for Gender-Based Violence: A Performative Approach to Ideological Oppression”. Value: €500.

2021. 3-year PhD scholarship awarded by San Raffaele University (Milan). Value: €48.000.

7. Publications

7.1 Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Stop Calling it ‘Revenge Porn’. Hermeneutical Injustice in Image-Based Sexual Abuse, *Social Epistemology* (2025). Co-author: Marco Viola.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02691728.2025.2525238>

From Silencing to Extracted Testimony in Trials for Gender-Based Violence: A Performative Approach to Ideological Oppression, *Rivista di Estetica* (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.4000/13tur>

Controlling the Narrative: The Epistemology of Himpathy in Sexual Assault Trials, *Phenomenology and Mind* (2024). Co-author: Margherita Grassi.
DOI: 10.17454/pam-2709

La misoginia in atto nel discorso giuridico: *victim blaming* e riduzione al silenzio (*Misogyny in Legal Discourse: Victim Blaming and Illocutionary Silencing*), *Versus. Quaderni di studi semiotici* (2023).
DOI: 10.14649/107733

7.2 Books

(*Forthcoming*) La parola e l'ascolto nel processo per violenza sessuale. Per una pragmatica dei miti dello stupro in dibattito, *Tab Edizioni*, Roma.

7.3 Book chapters

Per una pragmatica critica. Il caso dei discorsi sessisti nel contesto processuale (*Toward a Critical Pragmatics: The Case of Sexist Discourse in the Courtroom*), in Roberto Mordacci & Alessandro Volpe (eds.), *Etica tradizionale ed etica critica*, Castelvecchi (2025).

7.4 Reviews

Who's Afraid of Feminism? Misrecognition and the Politics of Active Ignorance, review of Anna Cavaliere's "Una giustizia a due dimensioni. Redistribuzione e riconoscimento nell'opera di Nancy Fraser", *Soft Power. Revista euro-americana de teoría e historia de la política y del derecho* (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.14718/SoftPower.2024.11.2.17>

7.5 Public Philosophy

(*Blog post*) Controlling the Narrative: The Epistemology of Himpathy in Sexual Assault Trials, *Open Philosophy* (2025). Co-author: Margherita Grassi

[<https://openphilosophy.blog/controlling-the-narrative-the-epistemology-of-himpathy-in-sexual-assault-trials/>]

Miti dello stupro e ingiustizie ermeneutiche nell'assunzione della prova dibattimentale, *Feminist Watch* (2024).

[<https://feministwatch-roma3.it/2024/10/09/miti-dello-stupro-e-ingiustizie-ermeneutiche-nellassunzione-della-prova-dibattimentale/>]

Un ascolto parziale: il lavoro ideologico dei miti di stupro in aula di giustizia, *Questione Giustizia* (2022).

8. Works in Preparation

- Paper on the Pragmatics of Extracted Speech in Institutional Contexts
- Paper on Counterspeech and Epistemic Care
- A Pragmatic Inquiry into the "He said–She said" Dispute in Domestic Violence Trials
- Critical Review of Manon Garcia, *Di cosa parliamo quando parliamo di consenso*, APhEX.

9. Edited Special Issues of Journals

Phenomenology and Mind, SI: *Exploring Personal Identity. Philosophical Perspectives and Insights from Arts* (forthcoming). [Guest Editor with Francesca Cesarano and Marco Di Feo]

10. Adjunct Professor

2025-2026. MA course Module “Filosofia e Teoria dei Linguaggi” (Professor: Antonella Delle Fave), at University of Milan, Italy (M-FIL/05)

11. Guest Lecturer

2025. University Milano-Bicocca: Linguaggio giuridico, processo penale e rischi di vittimizzazione secondaria (*Judicial Language, Crime Trial, and Risks of Re-Victimization*). Interdisciplinary course “Formare le operatrici/gli operatori sociali per il contrasto della violenza di genere” (Convenor: Prof. Marina Calloni). 2-hour lecture

2025. University of Brescia: Testimonianza in aula (*Testimony in the Courtroom*). MA course in Law, Innovation and Sustainability (Convenor: Prof. Susanna Pozzolo). 2-hour lecture

2025. San Raffaele University: Linguaggio giuridico e miti dello stupro (*Judicial Language and Rape Myths*). MA course in Gender Studies (Convenor: Prof. Claudia Bianchi). 4-hour lecture

2024. San Raffaele University: Oppressione di genere e prassi giudiziaria (*Gender Oppression and Legal Practice*). MA course in Gender Studies (Convenor: Prof. Claudia Bianchi). 4-hour lecture

2022. UALZ University: Linguaggio d’odio e ingiustizie epistemiche nel discorso giuridico (*Hate Speech and Epistemic Injustice in Trial Discourse*), course in Practical Philosophy (Convenor: Prof. Roberto Mordacci). 2-hour lecture

2021. San Raffaele University: Metafore e Cultura dello Stupro (*Metaphors and Rape Culture*), MA course in Communication and Cognition (Convenor: Prof. Claudia Bianchi). 2-hour lecture

12. Teaching Assistant

2024 – 2027. MA course “Gender Studies: Filosofia e Metodologia” (Professor: Claudia Bianchi) at San Raffaele University, Italy (11/PHIL-04)

13. Talks

13.1 Invited Talks

- September 2025. Institutional extracted speech and the shifting boundaries of the permissible, *Epistemic wrongs and communicative disruptions: a cross-project conversation*, Arglab, Instituto de Filosofia da NOVA.
- April 2025. Controlling the Narrative: The Epistemology of Himpathy in Sexual Assault Trials [with Margherita Grassi], *MAP – Minorities and Philosophy*, U of Glasgow.
- October 2024. As Long as it is “Real” Rape, *New Trends in Speech Act Theory Workshop*, U of Trieste.
- April 2024. From Silencing to Extracted Testimony in Trials for Gender-Based Violence: A Performative Approach to Ideological Oppression, *Pragmatics and Law. New Perspectives on Implicit, Expressives, and Conversational Sequences Workshop*, U of Genoa.
- March 2023. Subordinating Speech in Sexual Assault Trials, *The Epistemology of #Believe Women Workshop*, Arché, St Andrews University.
- January 2023. La misoginia in atto nel discorso giuridico: analisi dei miti dello stupro, ‘Come gli è facile avventarsi...’: *recenti prospettive di ricerca sul linguaggio d’odio*, Workshop Progetto CELO: Conoscenza e Educazione per il contrasto al Linguaggio dell’Odio, U of Tuscia – ILIESI-CNR.
- March 2024. Comments on Anna Cavaliere’s “Una giustizia a due dimensioni. Redistribuzione e riconoscimento nell’opera di Nancy Fraser”, *Rotelli Lectures 2024*, San Raffaele University.
- December 2024. Discussant at the seminar “Sessualità, consenso e ruoli di genere”, SPDD, U of Genoa. Guest Lecturer: Silvina Álvarez Medina (Facultad de Derecho, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid).
- October 2022. Comments on Anne Webster’s “Lived Experience of Discrimination”, *Social Theorizing: Ontology, Agency, and Change*, U of Glasgow.

13.2 Talks in Peer Reviewed Conferences

- December 2024. Controlling the Narrative: The Epistemology of Himpathy in Sexual Assault Trials [with Margherita Grassi], *Comunicazione e genere: dalle scelte grammaticali al discorso dei media – SWIP Italia Annual Conference*, U of Cagliari.
- September 2024. From Silencing to Extracted Testimony in Trials for Gender-Based Violence: A Performative Approach, *International Conference on Epistemic Injustice and Public Arguments*, IFILNOVA, NOVA U of Lisbon.

- August 2024. From Silencing to Extracted Testimony in Trials for Gender-Based Violence: A Performative Approach, *World Congress of Philosophy*, U La Sapienza.
- July 2024. Miti dello stupro e ingiustizia ermeneutica nell'assunzione della prova dibattimentale, *Che genere di Diritto?* Summer School in Sociology of Law and Deviance, U of Genoa.
- January 2024. Sexist Ideology and Practices of Silencing in Rape Trials: a Performative Approach to Epistemic Exchanges, *Authority and Metalinguistic Speech Acts Workshop*, IFILNOVA, NOVA U of Lisbon.
- October 2023. "So, let's say, he was convincing you by good or bad means.' Rape myths and epistemic injustice in trial discourse", *Implementing the Istanbul Convention. The Role of the Educational and Academic System*, Open Council of Europe Academic Networks (OCEAN) – Academic Network UNIRE, U Milano-Bicocca.
- September 2023. Perpetuating and resisting rape myths, *15th Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*, SIFA, U of Eastern Piedmont.
- August 2023. Perpetuating and resisting rape myths, *Interdisciplinarity – SWIP UK Annual Conference*, Newcastle University.
- July 2023. Misogyny and Epistemic Injustice in Trial Discourse, *The Joint Session*, Birkbeck & The Institute of Philosophy – U of London.
- October 2022. Rape Myths in Legal Discourse, *Social Theorizing: Ontology, Agency, and Change*, U of Glasgow – U of Edinburgh.
- October 2022. Il lavoro ideologico dei miti dello stupro nel discorso giuridico, *Forme dell'ingiustizia – SWIP Italia Annual Conference*, U of Salerno.

13.3 Internal Seminars & Workshops

- November 2023. Sexist Ideology and Practices of Silencing in Rape Trials: a Performative Approach to Epistemic Exchanges, *WIP CRESA* (Centre for Research in Experimental and Applied Epistemology), San Raffaele University.
- November 2023. Discorsi misogini e pratiche di resistenza nel processo penale per violenza di genere, "Volevo sparire". *Vergogna, misoginia e violenza di genere*, Interfaculty Center for Gender Studies, San Raffaele University.

13.4 Outreach

- October 2025. *Le parole dell'odio*, Società Dante Alighieri, Lucerna.

13.5 Philosophy for Legal Practice

- January 2026. I miti dello stupro nell'assunzione della prova dibattimentale, *Discorsi sul consenso nel terzo millennio*, Struttura Decentrata di Formazione SSM, Corte d'Appello di Trento.
- October 2025. Hate Speech: tra propaganda e aggressione verbale, *Hate speech: conoscere per comunicare – Convegno e tavola rotonda sulle parole d'odio*, Camera Penale di Padova "Francesco De Castello", Padova.

14. Peer Reviewer

Social Epistemology, Hypatia, AphEx, Phenomenology and Mind, Ragion pratica, Materiali per una storia della cultura giuridica.

15. Membership in Projects & Research Groups

2025-now. Member of the Project "Communicative Paths to Righting Epistemic Wrongs" (CORES), FCT Exploratory Project hosted at IFILNOVA, PI: Giulia Terzian. 2023.14900.PEX

2026-now. Integrated Member of Philosophy of Language and Argumentation Theory (PHILA) Group, ArgLab, Istituto de Filosofia da Nova.

16. Membership

Interfaculty Centre for Gender Studies (*gender*), San Raffaele University [Scientific secretary]

Associazione Studi Giuridici di Genere (ASGGE), University of Brescia [Founding Member]

Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA)

Society for Women in Philosophy – Italy (SWIP Italia)

Society for Women in Philosophy – UK (SWIP UK)

UN.I.RE. - UNiversità In REte contro la violenza di genere

Associazione Italiana di Sociologia (AIS)

17. Conferences and Workshops Organization

2025. Co-organizer and Chair of the Interfaculty Centre for Gender Studies Workshop “Linguaggio e dislivelli di potere nel processo penale per violenza di genere”, San Raffaele University.

2025. Co-organizer and Chair of the ASGGE online seminar “La prova nel processo per violenza di genere” (Evidence in Gender-Based Violence Criminal Trials). Invited speaker: Elisabetta Canevini (Trial Judge).

2025. Co-organizer and Chair of the ASGGE online seminar “La prospettiva di genere nelle sentenze di Cassazione” (The Gender Perspective in Supreme Court Rulings). Invited speaker: Fabrizio Filice (Trial Judge).

2025. Co-organizer and Chair of the PhD seminar “The Zetetics of Rape: Gathering Evidence of Sexual Consent”. Invited speaker: Talita Ferrantelli (LSE).

2025. Co-organizer and Chair of the PhD seminar “Contro la volontà. Il consenso sessuale nel diritto” (*Against the Will: Sexual Consent in Law*), Faculty of Philosophy, San Raffaele University. Guest lecturer: Paola Di Nicola Travaglini (Supreme Court Judge).

2024. Organizer and Discussant of the San Raffaele University Rotelli Lecture “Una giustizia a due dimensioni. Redistribuzione e riconoscimento nell’opera di Nancy Fraser” (*A Two-Dimensional Justice: Redistribution and Recognition in the Work of Nancy Fraser*). Guest lecturer: Anna Cavaliere (Salerno University).

2024. San Raffaele School of Philosophy 2024 “Exploring Personal Identity. Philosophical Perspectives and Insights from Arts” [Member of the Scientific Committee].

2023. Co-organizer and Chair of the Gender Lunch Seminar “Le parole nei processi penali per violenza di genere: tra potere e diritti” (*Words in Criminal Trials for Gender-Based Violence: Between Power and Rights*). Guest lecturer: Iacopo Benevieri (Criminal defence attorney).

2023. Co-organizer of the Interfaculty Centre for Gender Studies Workshop “Vergogna, misoginia e violenza di genere” (*Shame, Misogyny and Gender-Based Violence*), San Raffaele University.

2024 – present. Co-organizer of the annual series of seminars at ASGGE. [Co-founder]

2021 – present. Co-organizer of the annual series of *Gender Lunch Seminars* at the Interfaculty Centre for Gender Studies of San Raffaele University. [Member of the Scientific Secretary]

18. Other Research Activities

April 2022 – October 2025. Empirical research at the Court of Milan (Italy).

Conducted in close collaboration with Judge Elisabetta Canevini, President of the Fifth Criminal Division, a distinguished expert in cases of sexual violence, domestic abuse, and stalking.

19. Services to the Profession

2024 – 2025. Tutor for the Master in Communication of Science and Health, San Raffaele University.

2024 June. Co-organizer and Teacher Assistant of a three-day Summer School in Philosophy for high-school students at San Raffaele University. Theme: Power.

2022 June. Co-organizer and Teacher Assistant of a three-day Summer School in Philosophy for high-school students at San Raffaele University. Theme: Personal Identity.

20. Language

Italian (Native); English (Fluent).

21. References

Claudia Bianchi

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