

Federica Bocchi

History and Philosophy of Science Unit, Science Education Dept.
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
federica.bocchi@ind.ku.dk — federicabocchi.com — Pronouns: She/her

Professional Profile

I am a philosopher of science specializing in philosophy of biodiversity and environmental ethics. I research and write on biodiversity measurement and conservation interventions, trying to understand how these practices can promote or hamper environmental justice and data sovereignty.

Research Areas

Areas of Specialization: Environmental Philosophy, Philosophy of Biodiversity Conservation, Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Measurement, History of Philosophy of Science.

Areas of Competence: Feminist Philosophy, Medical Ethics, Logic and Critical Thinking.

Current Position

— **Assistant Professor in Transdisciplinary Environmental Ethics**

(tenure track)

from July 2026

Department of Philosophy - University of Calgary, Alberta CA

Professional Experience

— **Postdoctoral Fellowship**

Sept 2023 – June 2026

History and Philosophy of Science Unit, Dept. of Science Education, Faculty of Science

University of Copenhagen

Education

— **PhD in Philosophy from Boston University**

Sept 2018 – Aug 2023

Dissertation: “Philosophy of Biodiversity: Conceptual and Practical Issues in Measurement, Data, and Conservation”.

Advisor: Prof. Alisa Bokulich.

— **MA in Philosophy from Università di Parma, Italy**

Sept 2013 – Nov 2016

Summa cum Laude

— **BA in Philosophical Studies from Università di Parma, Italy**

Sept 2010 – Mar 2014

110/110

Scientific Publications

— (*forthcoming*) “**Data Communities in the Life Sciences**,” Special Issue, *BioSocieties* (Co-edited with Paola Castaño & Emma Cavazzoni).

— (*forthcoming*) “**Studying Human and Biological Diversity in the Geosciences**,” *Comprehensive Philosophy of Science* ed. Watkins & Ohnesorge. (with Matilde Carrera)

— (*forthcoming*) “**Ecologies of the Past**,” *Routledge Handbook for Philosophy of Ecology* (with Adrian Currie)

- (2025) “**Are We in a Sixth Mass Extinction? The Challenges of Answering and the Value of Asking,**” *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*. (with Alisa Bokulich, Leticia Castillo Brache, Gloria Grandpierre, Aja Watkins)
- (2025) “**Turning Biodiversity Data into Evidence: The Role of Protocols in the Epistemology of Evidence-Based Conservation,**” in *BioSocieties*, <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41292-025-00378-x>.
- (2024) “**Biodiversity Skepticism and Measurement Practices,**” *Biology & Philosophy*, 39(6), 1-27.
- (2024) “**Metrics in Biodiversity Conservation and the Value-Free Ideal of Science,**” *Synthese*, 203:145.
- Bocchi, F. (2025) “**Looking for a New Environmental Axiology. Ecofeminism and Indigenous Ethics,**” (in Italian) *La Torre di Babele*, 19.
- (2024) “**Kuhn’s ‘5th Law of Thermodynamics’: Measurement, Data, and Anomalies,**” *Kuhn’s The Structure of Scientific Revolutions at 60*, Cambridge University Press. (with Alisa Bokulich)
- (2022) “**Biodiversity vs. Paleodiversity Measurements: The Incommensurability Problem**”, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 12:64.
- (2022) “**Following the Steps to The Scientific Method,**” *ISIS, A Journal of the History of Science Society*, 113(1). (with Alisa Bokulich)
- (2020) “**Pathogen versus Microbiome Causation in the Holobiont,**” *Biology & Philosophy*, 35(1), 1-6. (with Aja Watkins)

Under Review

- **Revised and Resubmitted in Nature Communications:** “Operationalizing the CARE Principles in Evidence Synthesis for Ecology, Biodiversity Science, and Conservation.”
- **Under Contract** with Cambridge University Press: *Philosophy of Biodiversity and Conservation*.

Refereed Conference Presentations

- **Aug. 12-14, 2026** - “Working and Teaching with GenAI” at Philosophy of Biology at Madison (POBAM)
- **June. 22-23, 2026** - “Virtues and Trade-offs in Selecting Biodiversity Metrics within a Global Institutional Framework” at Second Biennial Conference of the Society for the Study of Measurement
- **May 4-6, 2026** - “Open Data and Biodiversity Conservation” at The Future of Open Research Conference
- **Aug. 27-30, 2025** - “Threatened Beasts and Where to Find Them” at Biennial Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association
- **Jul. 20-25, 2025** - “Relationship Building and the Limits of Participatory Science” (w. Emily Parke) at Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)
- **Mar. 15-16, 2025** - “When Adequacy is Inadequate: a Pragmatist Approach to Accurate Measurement Democratization” (w. Carlos Santana) at Pragmatism and Measurement: New Directions, University of Pittsburgh
- **Feb. 13-15, 2025** “Democratizing Measurements for Environmental Justice” at American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, Boston.
- **Nov. 14-17, 2024** - “No Lineation Without Representation: Making Earth System Boundaries Objective” (w. Carlos Santana) at PSA’s 29th Biennial Meeting, New Orleans.

- **Sep. 9-11, 2024** - “Authority and Responsibility: The Case of Novel Research” (w. Mason Majszak) at Science and Democracy Conference, University College Dublin.
- **May 23-25, 2024** - “A Quest for Democratizing Measurement Practices in Environmental Science” at University of Minnesota, From Crisis to Coordination: Conversations Between Philosophy of Environmental Justice & Philosophy of Conservation Science.
- **May 15-19, 2024** - “Demanding Evidence and Addressing Justice at the Intersection of Health and Environmental Sciences” symposium at University of South Carolina, Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Biennial Conference.
- **Mar. 22-23, 2024** - “How Biodiversity Conservation Justifies Scientific Colonialism via Measurement Practices” at Kruger National Park, Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy.
- **Oct. 20-21, 2023** - “What is Evidence in Evidence-Based Biodiversity Conservation? Potential, Actual, and Good Evidence in IUCN’s Red List” at Brussels Museum of Natural History. Integrating the History and Philosophy of Biodiversity.
- **Sep. 20-23, 2023** - “Turning Data Into Evidence: Challenges for Evidence-Based Biodiversity Conservation” at European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA) Biennial Conference, Belgrade.
- **July 9-15, 2023** - “Turning Biodiversity Data into Evidence: Data Communities and the Red List of Threatened Species” at University of Toronto. Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)
- **Nov. 10-13, 2022** - “Measuring the Success of Conservation Strategies: A Postcolonial Agenda” at Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Pittsburgh.
- **Aug. 9-10, 2022** - “Looking Backward to Move Forward: Processualism in Conservation Paleoecology, and the Kruger National Park” at The Future of the Past: Philosophical Issues in the Historical Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- **Jul. 1-4, 2022** - “Biodiversity vs. Paleodiversity Measurements: The Incommensurability Problem” at World Biodiversity Forum, Davos.
- **Nov. 11-14, 2021** - “Biodiversity vs. Paleodiversity Measurements: The Incommensurability Problem” at Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Baltimore.
- **Sep. 15-18, 2021** - “Biodiversity vs. Paleodiversity Measurements: The Incommensurability Problem” at European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA) Conference, Turin.
- **Sept. 1-4, 2021** - “Making Global Biodiversity: From Establishing a Measurand to Assessing Accuracy” at Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference.
- **Aug. 27-29, 2021** - “Making Global Data vs Making Data Global: Comparing Climate and Biodiversity” at Integrated History and Philosophy of Climate Science Workshop, Bern.
- **July 7-9, 2021** - “The Influence of Processual Ontology and Deep Time Literacy on Conservation: The Case of the Kruger National Park” at British Society for Philosophy of Science (BSPS) Conference.
- **May 31, 2021** - “Justifying Inferences: The Case of Paleodiversity Measurements and the Contemporary Biodiversity Crisis” at Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science Conference.
- **Jan. 7-11, 2020** - “Toward a Clarification of ‘Aristotelian Biological Essentialism’” at American Association of Philosophy (APA) Eastern Meeting, Philadelphia.
- **Nov. 7-10, 2019** - “Biological Essentialism: One Last Round?” at Society for the Metaphysics of Science Conference, Toronto.

Invited Presentations

- **May 18, 2026** - “Co-evolution of Life & Environment From Paleobiology to Geobiology: Paleocology” Marine Biological Lab Seminar, Woods Hole
- **May 7, 2026** - “When no one’s an expert: scientific expertise and wicked problems” Philosophy and History of Science Colloquium, TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology Technical University of Munich
- **Oct. 24, 2025** - “No lineation without representation. Aligning the Earth System Boundaries with Open Science Principles” Environmental ethics reading group, Northeastern University
- **March 27-8, 2025** - “Quantifying the Biodiversity Crisis” Workshop on Scale and Measurement, Centre for Philosophy and the Sciences at University of Oslo
- **Jan. 20-4, 2025** - “From ecological knowledge to restoration action: Developing the conceptual and technological basis for a toolbox” - Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) at Bielefeld University
- **Oct. 7-8, 2024** - “A Philosophical Framework for Evidence-Based Conservation” Workshop on Evidence Synthesis, Bielefeld University.
- **Feb. 29, 2024** - “Two Senses of ‘Evidence’ in Evidence-Based Conservation” at Workshop on Environmental Philosophy, University of Bern.
- **Feb. 27-28, 2024** - Discussant in Interdisciplinary Workshop “Taming Complexity in Ecology” at Hi Knowledge Initiative, Bad Blankenburg.
- **Jan. 30, 2024** - “Ethical Considerations and Performance Metrics in Biodiversity Conservation” at Interdisciplinary Workshop Series “Facing the Anthropocene”, Stanford University.
- **Dec. 19, 2024** - “Biodiversity Skepticism and Measurement Practices” at PhilLiSci Colloquium Series, Bielefeld University.
- **May 5-6, 2023** - “Looking Backward to Move Forward: Philosophical Issues in Conservation Paleocology” at The Boston Colloquium for Philosophy of Science, Boston University.
- **Feb. 21, 2023** - “Philosophical Reflections on Decolonizing Conservation” at Center for the Study of Europe at Boston University Seminar Series.
- **Feb. 1, 2023** - “Turning Biodiversity Data Into Evidence: The Red List of Threatened Species” at History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium Series, University of Copenhagen.
- **Jan. 25, 2023** - “Alla Ricerca di una Nuova Sensibilità Ambientale: Prospettive Ecofemministe e Native a Confronto” at Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Parma Seminar Series, Università di Parma.
- **Jun. 1-2, 2022** - “Kuhn on the Value of Discordance in Metrology” at Aarhus University, Denmark. Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies.

Refereed Poster Presentations

- **Nov. 10-13, 2022** - “Figs, Grass, and Elephants: A Deep-Time Solution to the Diversity-Stability Debate in Conservation” at Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), Pittsburgh.
- **Sept. 5-9, 2022** - “Are We in a Biodiversity Crisis? Paleocurves, Measurements, and Problematic Inferences” at University of Bordeaux, France. Dealing with Complexity in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences, PhilInBioMed Institute.

Organized Events

- **Dec 17-8, 2026** - “Inaugural Workshop of the Peoples in the Italian Philosophy of the Life Sciences Network” co-organized workshop at Politecnico di Milano
- **Nov 19, 2026** - “The Making and Shaping of Scientific Protocols” co-organized interdisciplinary symposium at Philosophy of Science Biennial Conference

- **Apr.30-May 2, 2026** - “Second History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biodiversity Meeting” co-organized workshop at Carlsberg Academy, Copenhagen
- **Apr. 17, 2026** - “The epistemology of experimentation in biology” University of Copenhagen
- **Oct. 17-19, 2025** - “Numbers and Environmental Justice: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” co-organized interdisciplinary symposium at Western Canadian Philosophical Association - 61ST Annual Meeting
- **Oct. 1, 2025** - “Kingship & Friendship” books presentation (Rob Wilson & Claus Emmeche) and discussion
- **Aug. 27-30, 2025** - “Shaping Biodiversity Conservation: from data to decision making” co-organized interdisciplinary symposium at Biennial Meeting of the European Philosophy of Science Association
- **Jul. 20-25, 2025** - “Participation in Conservation in Postcolonial and Settler Colonial Contexts” co-organized interdisciplinary symposium at Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)
- **Nov. 14-17, 2024** - “From Data and Evidence to Policy” co-organized interdisciplinary symposium at PSA’s 29th Biennial Meeting, New Orleans.
- **Oct. 9-11, 2024** - “Aims, Norms, and Values in Scientific Classification for Biodiversity Conservation” (with Joeri Witteveen) interdisciplinary workshop at Konrad Lorentz Institute, Vienna.
- **May 16-18, 2024** - “Demanding Evidence and Addressing Justice at the Intersection of Health and Environmental Sciences” symposium (with Stefano Canali) at Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Biennial Meeting, Columbus.
- **Apr. 22, 2024** - “Philosophy, Environment, Biodiversity: Synergies Between Philosophy and the Social & Natural Sciences” interdisciplinary meeting at Università di Parma.
- **July 9-15, 2023** - “Making Data Communities” symposium (with Paola Castaño and Emma Cavazzoni) at International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology Biennial Meeting, Toronto.
- **Apr. 21-22, 2022** - “Sustainability and Environmental Ethics” at 6th Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference.
- **Apr. 22-23, 2022** - “Philosophy of Science and Data” at 5th Boston University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference.
- **Nov. 5, 2021** - Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Boston University: Workshop Series - Çağla Çimendereli, “Epistemic and Linguistic Injustice Toward Non-native English Speakers.”
- **Sept. 2021 - May 2022** - Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Boston University: Undergrad-Grad Students Discussion Group.
- **Apr.-Dec. 2021** - Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Università di Parma: Flash Talk! and Flash Panel! Series (online).
- **Sep. 18, 2020** - MAPping the Gap: Percorsi di Genere e la Questione Femminile in Accademia, Università di Parma.
- **2017-2021** - “Idee in Bozza” Young Scholars Research Seminars (with Teresa Roversi), Università di Parma & Online.

Outreach

- AI-Powered Biology and the End of Theory - Pegagogical Material, open access
- Featured in: *Epsilon Magazine*, 6e extinction : dans la polémique
- Blog post: “Sizing up the Biodiversity Crisis: Paleocurves, Measurements, & Problematic Inferences” in *Extinct: The Philosophy of Paleontology Blog*.
- Art-Science project “Climate Action Lab and Performing Arts” at Udviklingsplatformen for Scenekunst, Copenhagen (May 5th, 2024).
- Featured in: *IFL Science Magazine*, “Are We In A Sixth Mass Extinction Right Now?” (Apr 2023).
- Coordinator for Science Outreach Association “Il Taccuino di Darwin”

Research Awards

- **Bloom Dissertation Fellowship** 2023
This competitive Research Fellowship is designed to provide summer funding to GRS doctoral students in the social sciences and the humanities, who will be in their final summer prior to graduating, enabling them to focus on completing their dissertation. (USD 12,751)
- **Boston University Women’s Guild Award** 2023
This competitive merit-based award is given by the Boston University Graduate School of Arts Sciences to outstanding graduate students who identify as female. (USD 2,500)
- **Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize** 2023
This competitive merit-based award is given by the Boston University Center for the Humanities to graduate students who do excellent work in the humanities. (USD 4,500)
- **GRS Boston University Dissertation Funding** 2023
This selective research award provides economic support to graduate students to enhance their dissertations. I used this award to attend the Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) in Toronto. (USD 800)
- **Abner Shimony Prize in Philosophy of Science for the project “Philosophy of Biodiversity and Conservation”** 2022
This research prize is awarded annually to one student for an exemplary project on an important issue in philosophy of science and/or environmental philosophy and demonstrates the interdisciplinary thinking necessary to solve complex socio-economic impacts on the environment. (USD 600)
- **Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Research Grant** 2022
This competitive research award helps graduate students at Boston University advance their dissertation writing. I used this award to visit Sabina Leonelli’s Research Group at the University of Exeter. (USD 500)
- **GRS Boston University Dissertation Funding** 2021
This selective research award provides economic support to graduate students to enhance their dissertations. I used this award to visit Sabina Leonelli’s Research Group at the University of Exeter. (USD 2,000)
- **Boston University Summer Graduate Research Fellowship** 2020
This research fellowship supports graduate students who do not receive 12 months of funding to pursue their research during the summer. (USD 5,000)
- **Peter Diamandopoulos Fellowships Fund in Hellenic Studies** 2019
This generous research award is meant for students interested in pursuing research in Ancient Philosophy. I used this award to attend a Summer semester at Harvard University in the Department of Classics. (USD 11,000)

Travel & Presentation Grants

- Society for Applied Philosophy Research Trip Support 2025
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Travel Support to attend 2023 ISHPSSB in Toronto 2023
- Society for Applied Philosophy (SAP) Postgraduate Award 2022
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Travel Grant 2022
- Institute for Philosophy in Biology and Medicine (PhilInBioMed) Grant (University of Bordeaux) 2022
- International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) Grant 2022
- World Biodiversity Forum Presentation Grant 2022
- Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Travel Grant 2021
- Hellenic Fund Presentation Grant (Boston University) 2020
- American Philosophical Association (APA) Travel Grant 2019

Event-Organization Awards

- The International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) Off Year Workshop Award 2026
- Society for Applied Philosophy (SAP) Event Funding for “**Filosofia, Ambiente, Biodiversità**” (Università di Parma) 2024
- Society for Applied Philosophy (SAP) Event Funding for “**Sustainability and Environmental Ethics**” 2022
- Boston University Center for the Humanities (BUCH) Project Award for “**Sustainability and Environmental Ethics**” 2022
- Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Event Grant for Brian Burkhart’s “**Indigenous Land-Based Anticolonial Philosophy and Climate Change**” keynote address at Boston University 2022
- Center for Equal Opportunities at Università di Parma for **MAP Flash Talk! and MAP Flash Panel! Series** (online) 2021
- Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Event Grant to Vita Activa for the projects **MAP Flash Talks! and MAP Flash Panels!** 2021

Teaching Awards

- Boston University **HUB Course Enhancement Award for the course *Intro to Environmental Philosophy & Environmental Ethics*** 2022
This teaching award provides funding so faculty can experiment with an innovative approach to teaching or take advantage of special opportunities for exciting general education learning experiences. (USD 500)

Academic Teaching Experience

- **Instructor: Intro to Environmental Philosophy and Environmental Ethics**
Boston University)(PH150) 2022
Syllabus available ([HERE](#)) / Class magazine available ([HERE](#))
- **Instructor: Reasoning and Argumentation:** 2021
Boston University (PH160)
Syllabus available ([HERE](#)) / Class magazine available ([HERE](#))
- **Co-Instructor: Philosophy of Biology** Spring 2024 & 2025
University of Copenhagen
- **Teaching Fellow: Medical Ethics** Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2019
Boston University
- **Teaching Fellow: Reasoning and Argumentation** Fall 2021, Fall 2020
Boston University,
- **Teaching Fellow: Intro to Philosophy** Spring 2020
Boston University

Research Groups & Visits

- **EcoWeaver Research Grup** 2024-present
An interdisciplinary research group composed of field and computational ecologists, computer scientists, linguists, and philosophers, focused on inclusive methods for automatized evidence-synthesis, led by Tina Heger
- **Affiliate to the Boston Center for Philosophy and History of Science** 2023-present.
Founded in 1960, and directed by Rachell Powell, the Center’s mission is to build bridges between the humanities and sciences.
- **Philosophy of the Geosciences Research group at Boston University.** 2020-present
Research group dedicated to exploring topics in the philosophy of the geosciences (historical and current Earth sciences), directed by Alisa Bokulich.
- **Minorities and Philosophy - Università di Parma** 2020-present
Research Group credited by the University of Parma dedicated to fostering inclusion and debate around structural injustices in academic philosophy.
- **Fellow at SOCRATES**, University of Hannover, Host: Emily Parke December 2024.
- **Research Visit**, University of Pennsylvania, Host: Carlos G. Santana Summer 2024.
- **Research Visit** School of Philosophy at North-West University (South Africa)
Host: Yolandi Coetzer March-April 2024
- **Research Visit** to The Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (EGENIS) University of Exeter,
Host: Sabina Leonelli Fall 2022
- .

Service & Professional Development

- **Editorial Board:**
Cambridge Prisms Extinction
- **Academic Committee Member:**
Member of Faculty Board, Department of Science Education - Copenhagen University;
PhD appointment committee HUMAN.BIAS project - Copenhagen University;
PhD assessment committee for TRANSCEND project - Copenhagen University
- **Reviewer:** *Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, History and philosophy of the life sciences, Biology & Philosophy, Ecology & Evolution, European journal for philosophy of science, Synthese.*
- **Research Talks Coordinator**, HPS Unit - University of Copenhagen 2024-26.
- **Mentor:** SWIP Italy Mentorship Program 2024
- **Mentor:** Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) at Boston University 2018-2023.
- **GradStudent Leadership roles:**
Boston University Philosophy International Student Representative 2022-2023
Minorities and Philosophy(MAP) Boston University Chapter Representative 2021-2022
Rep. for Philosophy Department at Boston University Graduate Student Organization (GSO) 2019-2021

Membership to Professional Associations

- Philosophy of Science Association (PSA).
- European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA).
- Underrepresented Philosophers of Science Scholars (UPSS)
- Society for Applied Philosophy (SAP)
- International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)
- Philosophers for Sustainability
- British Ecological Society (BES)
- Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) Italy.

Pedagogical Training

- **Advanced University Pedagogy** Nov. 2024-2025
- **Introduction to University Pedagogy** Dec. 2023
University of Copenhagen
- **Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom** Jan.-Apr. 2020
Boston University and Cornell University
- **Advanced Training Course *Teaching Italian as L2*** Sep.-Jan. 2017/8
Università di Parma - Department of Classics, Modern Languages, Education, Philosophy

Languages

Italian (native language); English (fluent); Spanish (Dele certificate - B2 level); German (conversational); Latin (proficient); Ancient Greek (basic)

References

- **Alisa Bokulich** University of Pennsylvania
Professor of Philosophy & Director, Center for P&H of Science
Boston University
abokulic@bu.edu +1 617-353-4577
- **Emily Parke**
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
University of Auckland
e.parke@auckland.ac.nz
- **Joeri Witteveen**
Associate Professor of History and Philosophy of Science
University of Copenhagen
jw@ind.ku.dk +4535330467
- **Sabina Leonelli**
Professor of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology
Technical University Munich
sabina.leonelli@tum.de
- **Carlos Santana**
Associate Professor of Philosophy