

Andrea Maria Nencini, Ph.D.

andreamaria.nencini@gmail.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Evolutionary and cognitive approaches to the study of religions
- History of Buddhism and Hinduism reception in the West
- Cognitive neuroscience and meditation
- Contemplative exercises in the history of early Christianity
- Historiography of *theravāda* Buddhism
- Philosophy of habit

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HONORARY FELLOW IN HISTORY OF RELIGIONS – SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME
2020-TO DATE

PH.D. IN HISTORY OF RELIGIONS – SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME
2017-12/07/2021

Thesis: *La nube della conoscenza. Indagare il dualismo attraverso le risorse della ripetizione e dell'ascesi*
Supervisor: Sergio Botta. Grade: Excellent

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CRITICAL THEORY – UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE
2019-2020

MASTER'S DEGREE IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE – UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO/CENTER FOR MIND/BRAIN SCIENCES (CIMEC)
2013-2016

Curriculum: Cognitive Neuroscience
Thesis: *Pattern Learning in Domestic Chicks: The Role of Repetitions*
Supervisor: Giorgio Vallortigara. Grade: 110/110

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN HISTORY – UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE
2009-2013

Curriculum: Contemporary History
Thesis: *A sua immagine e somiglianza. Una prospettiva storico-religiosa sulle ontologie del sé*
Supervisor: Federico Squarcini. Grade: 110/110 cum laude

PUBLICATIONS

A. M. Nencini, *The Buddhist 'Active Will' in Caroline A. Foley Rhys Davids' Participation at Eranos*, in «Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni» 89, 1 (2023) [**accepted, forthcoming 2023**].

A. M. Nencini, *Metamodernism: A Multispecies Approach to Hermeneutics*. Review article for «Methods & Theory in the Study of Religion» Book Review Symposium [**submitted, under revision**].

A. M. Nencini & F. Squarcini, *Hinduism in Italy. A Condensed History of a Meteorological Phenomenon*. Book chapter in K. A. Jacobsen & F. Sardella (eds.) «Handbook of Hinduism in Europe (2 vols)» Brill, Leiden 2020, pp. 1098-1140.
Link: https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004432284_045

A. M. Nencini, *G. Trautteur, Il prigioniero libero Adelphi 2020*. Review in «Lo Sguardo - rivista di Filosofia» 31, 2

(2020), pp. 443-446
DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5021261

E. Versace, J. Schill, A. M. Nencini, G. Vallortigara, *Naive chicks prefer hollow objects*, in «PLOS ONE» 11, 11, (2016), e0166425.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0166425>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dire, fare, sentire. Storia delle religioni ed emozioni; A M. Nencini, M. Ferrara
CONVEGNO CONSULTA CUSR – 08-10/09/2022 Gargnano sul Garda
09/09/2022

Exercise Reason: William James and Motor Influence on Decisions
THE LIMIT OF REASON – Faculty of Philosophy, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
01/06/2022

The influence of William James's 'Varieties' in Caroline Rhys Davids's 'Buddhist Psychology'
WILLIAM JAMES: IN SEARCH OF THE ESSENCE OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE – 26-27/05/2022 Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland
26/05/2022

Back to the source: Buddhism and its possible contribution to modern cognitive sciences through the work of Mrs. Rhys Davids
DYNAMIC ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN BUDDHISM AND THE WEST – 28-29/06/2021 University of Cambridge, Regno Unito
28/06/2021

Askesis, ripetizione e mindfulness. Quale storia delle religioni di fronte alla sfida della metamorfosi del concetto di 'asceti'?
SEMINARIO DOTTORANDI 2019, DOTTORATO DI STORIA ANTROPOLOGIA E RELIGIONI – 24-27/09/2019 Sapienza University of Rome
25/09/2019

William James: Le varie forme dell'esperienza religiosa (1902)
READING CLASS. LETTURE STORICHE-RELIGIOSE AI PRINCIPI DELL'ULTIMO SECOLO – 03/2019 - 05/2019 Sapienza University of Rome
28/03/2019

The economy of contours in the making of textual communities
QUESTION TIME WITH 'PANTHEON' - DI JÖRG RÜPKE – Sapienza University of Rome
07/03/2019

Robert C. Fuller: Spirituality in the Flesh. Bodily Sources of Religious Experiences (2008)
READING CLASS. LETTURE STORICO-RELIGIOSE TRA CONTINUITÀ, DISCONTINUITÀ E DECONSTRUZIONE – 02/2018 - 05/2018 Sapienza University of Rome 08/05/2018

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Doing minds with words: mindfulness meditation as a case study for the historical relevance of lexical conceptuality; A. M. Nencini
FUTURE DIRECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION OF RITUALS, BELIEFS AND RELIGIOUS MINDS – E. Majorana Foundation and Center for Scientific Culture, Erice. 09 - 14/05/2018

Can chicks discriminate between different rules?; A. M. Nencini, C. Dossi, I. Festi
INSECT MODELS OF BEHAVIOUR: ECOLOGY, GENETICS, EVOLUTION, PEST MANAGEMENT – Fondazione Museo Civico Rovereto, Rovereto. 04/09/2015

TEACHING ACTIVITY

Strumenti interpretativi e prospettive: cognitivismo e religioni – in person taught class

Module: DOMANDE E METODI

Advanced Training Course in History of Religions – Sapienza University of Rome

08/05/2018

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Sul metodo

Seminario dei dottorandi di Storia, Antropologia, Religioni 2018 – Sapienza University of Rome

04-05/06/2018

AWARDS

Artificial Intelligence and Religion - AIR2020/21 Travel Grant (cancelled due to COVID-19)

The Center for Religious Studies – Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project: COGNITIVE ABILITIES IN THE DOMESTIC FOWL; PI: Giorgio Vallortigara

Animal Cognition Lab – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC), Rovereto

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- English: C1
- Spanish: C1
- Basic knowledge of Pāli Grammar