

Andrea Maria Nencini, Ph.D.

Education

Ph.D. in History of Religions - 12/07/2021

Sapienza University of Rome

Thesis: *La nube della conoscenza. Indagare il dualismo attraverso le risorse della ripetizione e dell'ascesi*
[The cloud of knowing. Investigate dualism through the resources of repetition and asceticism]

Supervisor: Prof. Sergio Botta

Grade: Excellent

Specialization Course in Critical Theory - 31/04/21

University of Florence

Master's degree in Cognitive Science - 15/12/2016

University of Trento/Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC)

Curriculum: Cognitive Neuroscience

Thesis: *Pattern Learning in Domestic Chicks: The Role of Repetitions*

Supervisor: Prof. Giorgio Vallortigara

Grade: 110/110

Bachelor's degree in History - 29/04/2013

University of Florence

Curriculum: Contemporary History

Thesis: *A sua immagine e somiglianza. Una prospettiva storico-religiosa sulle ontologie del sé*
[In his image and likeness. A historical-religious perspective on ontologies of the self]

Supervisor: Prof. Federico Squarcini

Grade: 110/110 cum laude

Work Experience

Postdoctoral researcher in Korean Studies

Research: "The transformations of Buddhist Sōn meditation in contemporary Korean society through its relationship with the West"

University of Turin

PRIN project 2022 - 2022S23SZZ "Making Korea a Religiously Plural Society? Historical, Legal, and Social Approaches"

01/03/2024 - 31/08/2025

Culture della materia [Subject Expert] in History of Religions

University of Florence

01/2025 - To date

Culture della materia [Subject Expert] in History of Religions

Sapienza University of Rome

26/01/2022 - To date

Lecturer

University of L'Aquila

25/09/2023 - 28/11/2024

Comunità religiose nell'Italia contemporanea (3 CFU) [*Religious communities in contemporary Italy* (3 credits)]
18 hour course
Degree course: Storia delle religioni — University of L'Aquila

Lecturer

Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici/ Marist College — Florence

06/02/2023 - To date

World Religions (3 credits) — 45 hour course

Spring 2023 - Fall 2023

Lecturer

Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici/ Marist College — Florence

06/02/2023 - 15/12/2023

Yoga: Breathing, Meditation, Spirituality (3 credits) — 45 hour course

Spring 2023 - Fall 2023

Publications

Nencini, A. M. (2023). "The Buddhist 'Active Will' in Caroline A. Foley Rhys Davids 'Eranos Lectures.'" *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*, 89(1), pp. 459-478.

Nencini, A. M. (2023). "Metamodernism: A Multispecies Approach to Hermeneutics." *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* (published online ahead of print 2023).

Nencini A. M. & F. Squarcini (2020). "Hinduism in Italy. A Condensed History of a Meteorological Phenomenon." In Jacobsen K. A. & F. Sardella (eds.) *Handbook of Hinduism in Europe* (2 vols), Leiden: Brill, pp. 1098–1140.

Nencini, A. M. (2020) "G. Trautteur, Il prigioniero libero Adelphi 2020." *Lo Sguardo - rivista di Filosofia*, 31(2), pp. 443-446.

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

Conference presentations

K-Buddhism e cultura di massa. Le dinamiche di internazionalizzazione del buddhismo coreano nell'era globale
13/05/2025

SAFSOR-Scuola di Alta Formazione in Sociologia della Religione: "Il Futuro delle Religioni" [SAFSOR – School of Advanced Training in Sociology of Religion: "The Future of Religions"]
12-16/05/2025, Luigi Sturzo Institute, Rome, Italy

Moving Seon: Contemporary Transformations of Seon Meditation in the Korean Templestay Programs
13/04/2025

"The Sacred in Korea: Tradition, Global Influences and Social Impact"

Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies, The University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

The Effect of Buddhist Meditative Tourism on Contemporary Korean Buddhist Meditation
07/02/2025

"The PRIN Second Internal Workshop"

Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Continuities and Transformations in the Use of Buddhist Sōn Meditation in Contemporary Korean Society
12/04/2024

“Mapping Korean Religions: Current Research Trends and Future Directions”

Dept. of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Modern Cultures, University of Turin, Italy

Dire, fare, sentire. Storia delle religioni ed emozioni [Saying, doing, feeling. History of religions and emotions]

A M. Nencini, M. Ferrara

09/09/2022

“Convegno della Consulta Universitaria per la Storia delle Religioni - CUSR”

08-10/09/2022, Gargnano sul Garda, Italy

Exercise Reason: William James and Motor Influence on Decisions

01/06/2022

“The Limit of Reason”

Faculty of Philosophy, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

The influence of William James's 'Varieties' in Caroline Rhys Davids's 'Buddhist Psychology'

26/05/2022

“William James: In search of the essence of religious experience”

26-27/05/2022, Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland

Back to the source: Buddhism and its' possible contribution to modern cognitive sciences through the work of Mrs. Rhys Davids

28/06/2021

“Dynamic Encounters between Buddhism and the West”

28-29/06/2021, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Askesis, ripetizione e mindfulness. Quale storia delle religioni di fronte alla sfida della metamorfosi del concetto di 'asceti'?

[*Askesis, repetition and mindfulness. What history of religions faced with the challenge of the metamorphosis of the concept of 'asceticism'?*]

25/09/2019

“Seminario Dottorandi 2019, Dottorato di Storia Antropologia e Religioni”

24-27/09/2019, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

William James: Le varie forme dell'esperienza religiosa (1902) [William James: *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902)] 28/03/2019

“Reading Class. Letture storiche-religiose ai principi dell'ultimo secolo”

03–05/2019, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

The economy of contours in the making of textual communities

07/03/2019

“Question time with 'Pantheon' - di Jörg Rüpke”

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Robert C. Fuller: Spirituality in the Flesh. Bodily Sources of Religious Experiences (2008)

08/05/2018

“Reading Class. Letture storico-religiose tra continuità, discontinuità e decostruzione”

02-05/2018, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

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, Italy
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, Italy
04/09/2015

Teaching Activity

Stillness in Transformation: Modern Approaches to Buddhist Sōn Meditation in Contemporary South Korea
Korean Studies Guest Lecture Series and International Conferences — 2 hour class
Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy
26/09/2024

Religioni e Scienze Cognitive: Metodologie, Temi e Prospettive [Religions and Cognitive Sciences: Methodologies, Themes and Perspectives]— 2 hour class
PhD course in History of Religions
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
09/05/2024

Il rituale: spunti di analisi dalle scienze cognitive [Ritual: insights from cognitive science]— 2 hour class
Degree course: Storia delle religioni III
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
20/12/2023

Oltre i confini della storia: Intrecci tra storia delle religioni ed evoluzione cognitiva (4 CFU) [Beyond the boundaries of history: Intertwining between the history of religions and cognitive evolution (4 credits)] — 8 hour class
Workshop on interdisciplinary research for Master's degree students (LM-1, LM-64, LM-85)
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
04/03 - 13/05/2023

Strumenti interpretativi e prospettive: cognitivismo e religioni [Interpretative tools and perspectives: cognitivism and religions]— 2 hour class
Corso di alta formazione in Storia delle Religioni
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
08/05/2018

Conferences and workshops organization

International conference: *Religious Mosaic: New Perspectives on Faith and Tradition in Contemporary Korea*
“Making Korea a Religiously Plural Society? Historical, Legal, and Social Approaches” (PRIN Project) Dept.
of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Modern Cultures, University of Turin, Italy
9-10/05/2025

Workshop: *Mapping Korean Religions: Current Research Trends and Future Directions*
Dept. of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Modern Cultures, University of Turin, Italy
12/04/2024

Workshop: *Linking Methods: Connecting Humanities & Science* (4 CFU)
Workshop on interdisciplinary research for Master's degree students (LM-1, LM-64, LM-85)
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
04/03 - 13/05/2023

Workshop: *Sul metodo [On the method]*
Seminar of PhD candidates in History, Anthropology, Religions 2018
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
04-05/06/2018

Awards

Artificial Intelligence and Religion – AIR2020/21 Travel Grant
The Center for Religious Studies — Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, Italy

Research Experience

Project: *Cognitive abilities in the domestic fowl*; PI: Giorgio Vallortigara
Animal Cognition Lab — Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC), Rovereto, Italy