

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEAUTY AND CHANGE

# Aesthetic Experience and the Drive for Knowledge

GIORGIO AMENDOLA FOUNDATION, TURIN, ITALY  
16-18 OCTOBER 2025



## Programme

# Fourth International Conference on Beauty and Change

Turin, Italy, 16-18 October 2025

## Programme

### Scientific Committee:

Carola Barbero (University of Turin)  
Alessandro Bertinetto (University of Turin)  
Elvira Brattico (Aarhus University & University of Bari Aldo Moro)  
Fabrizio Calzavarini (University of Turin)  
Maura Crepaldi (University of Bergamo)  
Alice Cancer (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan)  
Filippo Contesi (University of Cagliari)  
Jacopo Frascaroli (University of Turin)  
Irene Ronga (University of Turin)  
Maria Luisa Rusconi (University of Bergamo)  
Pietro Sarasso (University of Turin)  
Sander Van de Cruys (University of Antwerp)

### Conference website:



### The conference is organised by:



BIP Research Group  
University of Turin



Fondazione  
Giorgio Amendola

### The conference is supported by:



# Day 1 (Thursday 16 October)

All times in CEST (UTC+2)

9:00 – 9:30	WELCOME & REGISTRATION	
9:30 – 10:00	GREETINGS	
10:00 – 11:00	KEYNOTE TALK Edward A. Vessel (City College, The City University of New York) <i>Pleasure from Understanding</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	BREAK	
	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
	11:30 – 12:00 Christopher Earley (University of Edinburg) <i>Autonomous Wonder: The Case for Process Aesthetic Cognitivism</i>	11:30 – 12:00 Carola Barbero & Fabrizio Calzavarini (University of Turin) <i>Reading with Eyes, Ears, and Fingers</i>
	12:00 – 12:30 Iris Vidmar Jovanović (University of Rijeka) <i>Aesthetic Experience and Literary Cognitivism: A Compatibilist Approach</i>	12:00 – 12:30 Veronika Knedlikova Wankova (University of Padua) <i>The Epistemic Power of the Miraculous: Visual Strategies in Early Modern Religious Art</i>
	12:30 – 13:00 Irene Romero Suarez (Birkbeck, University of London) <i>Is Factual Knowledge Artistically Relevant in Fiction?</i>	12:30 – 13:00 Anita Merlini (University of Udine) <i>Optical Encounters. A Philosophical Account of the Epistemic Role of the Seeing Eye</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Rebecca Zuccotti (University of Turin) <i>Aesthetic Understanding: Art as a Laboratory of Essential Examples</i>	Sam Bennett (Eindhoven University of Technology) <i>Exploring Care Aesthetics Through Visible Mending and Aging</i>
13:30 – 15:00	LUNCH BREAK	

	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
	<p>Alberto Voltolini &amp; Pietro Kobau (University of Turin) <i>On the Intrinsic Value of Artworks</i></p>	<p>Patrick Hayes (University of Glasgow) <i>Blow to the Art: Epistemic Access to the Self through Aesthetic Engagement</i></p>
	<p>Ancuta Mortu (University of Bucharest) <i>Learning from Remote Art: A Schema-Based Account</i></p>	<p>Beatrice Sofia Vitale (Complutense University of Madrid) <i>Reading and Interpretation of the Self: Theoretical-Practical Implications of the Interconnection of the Poetic World and the World of Action in Paul Ricoeur</i></p>
	<p>Elsa Saliba (University of Genoa) <i>Prototypes, Heresy and the Ontology of Pioneering Artworks</i></p>	<p>Ori Grossman (Bar-Ilan University) <i>Shaping the Classical Concert Experience: How Musical Style and Sequence Correlate with Audience Satisfaction</i></p>
	<p>Jerzy Luty (University of Wrocław) <i>Epistemic Framing of Aesthetic Experience: How Knowledge About the Artist and the Context of Creation Shape the Perception of Artworks</i></p>	<p>Victor Popa (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris) <i>Can Aesthetic Talk Be of Any Use in Science?</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	BREAK	
15:30 – 16:00	KEYNOTE TALK	
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Diana Omigie (Goldsmiths, University of London) <i>From Epistemic Emotions to Self-Transcendence in the Experience of Music</i></p>	
16:30 – 17:00	WELCOME EVENT	

## Day 2 (Friday 17 October)

All times in CEST (UTC+2)

9:30 – 10:30	<p>KEYNOTE TALK</p> <p>Martin Skov (Copenhagen University Hospital Hvidovre)</p> <p><i>Towards a Sensory Valuation Account of Visual Liking</i></p>	
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
	<p>Joerg Fingerhut (Humboldt University of Berlin)</p> <p><i>Aesthetic Emotions Are Epistemic Emotions</i></p>	<p>Gemma Schino (Leibniz-Institut für Wissensmedien Tübingen)</p> <p><i>Emotions and Sense-Making in Conversations of Art experiences</i></p>
	<p>Claudia Cano (Institut Jean Nicod – EHESS, Paris)</p> <p><i>Reconciling Curiosity and Aesthetic Disinterestedness</i></p>	<p>Isabel Heckmann (Goethe University Frankfurt)</p> <p><i>Changing Judgement, Changing Preferences: The Influence of Higher- Order Evidence on Aesthetic Judgement in Cases of Peer Disagreement</i></p>
	<p>Francesca Piovesan (University of Turin)</p> <p><i>Curiosity in Language Processing: Insights from LLMs</i></p>	<p>Jodi Miller (University of Glasgow)</p> <p><i>Audience-Led Performances</i></p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Magda Stanová (Academy of Fine Arts in Prague)</p> <p><i>Thrills Around the Border of Not Knowing and Knowing</i></p>	<p>Antonello Caravelli (University of Turin)</p> <p><i>Shaping Fiction with Participative Imagination</i></p>
12:30 – 13:00	LUNCH BREAK	
13:00 – 14:30		

	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
14:30 – 15:00	Marta Benenti (University of Murcia) <i>Aesthetic Experiences Teach Us Emotions Through Affective Affordances</i>	Luca Marchetti (University of Genoa) <i>Other Minds and the Aesthetic Value of Animals</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Efi K. Kyprianidou (Cyprus University of Technology) <i>On the Epistemic Role of Moral Disgust in Fiction: What Can We Learn from Affective or Empathetic Engagement with Vicious Perspectives</i>	Laura Malinin (Colorado State University) <i>Architectural Aesthetics and User Creativity: Bridging Embodied and Neuro-Architecture Approaches</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Tanushree Agrawal (Soka University of America) & Anna Bruns (New York University) <i>The Effect of Perceived Emotion on Art Preference is Mediated by Feelings of Being Moved</i>	Samrawit Ayele (IMT Lucca) <i>Curb Your Curiosity: The Role of Processing Fluency on Curiosity Judgments and Eye Movements for Internet Memes and Mooney Images</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Ryan Joseph Slaby (University of Padua; University of Milano-Bicocca) <i>The Posterior Cerebellum's Role in Feeling Moved by Visual Art: A Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation Approach</i>	Mara Stockner (Sapienza University of Rome) <i>Motor Fluency and Likeability: Some Data from the QWERTY Paradigm</i>
16:30 – 17:00	BREAK	
17:00 – 18:00	KEYNOTE TALK  Francesco Poli (University of Cambridge) <i>Curiosity and the Dynamics of Human Exploration</i>	
20:00	CONFERENCE DINNER  (Restaurant “Magazzini Oz”, Via Giovanni Giolitti, 19/A)	

## Day 3 (Saturday 18 October)

All times in CEST (UTC+2)

09:00 – 10:00	<p>KEYNOTE TALK</p> <p>Elisabeth Schellekens (Uppsala University)</p> <p><i>Aesthetic Discovery and Seeking to Understand</i></p>	
10:00 – 11:00	BREAK & POSTER SESSION	
11:00 – 11:30	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
	<p>Martina Stratilková (Palacký University Olomouc)</p> <p><i>Musical Profundity: Where Phenomenology and Analytic Philosophy Meet</i></p>	<p>Alexandra Victoria Alvarez (University of Vienna &amp; University of Continuing Education Krems)</p> <p><i>What is in an Aura? Emotion Sharing Between Contemporary Artists and Viewers of the Post Digital Age in Original and Digital Contexts</i></p>
	<p>Dana Swarbrick (University of Jyväskylä)</p> <p><i>Being in Concert: The Effects of Audience Participation on Motion, Emotion, and Connectedness</i></p>	<p>Maximilian Kenzo Molitor (Leibniz-Institut für Wissensmedien, Tübingen)</p> <p><i>Experiencing Art and Learning about It Using VR-Replicas</i></p>
	<p>Matthew Heeney (Nazarbayev University)</p> <p><i>The Form of Aesthetic Understanding</i></p>	<p>Marta Mondellini (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan; National Research Council of Italy – STIIMA, Lecco)</p> <p><i>Designing for Motivation: Development of a VR Application Based on Hedonic Visual Stimuli</i></p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>Milica Czerny Urban (University of Rijeka)</p> <p><i>Responsibility in Art</i></p>	<p>Anca Simion (Babeş-Bolyai University)</p> <p><i>The Vanishing Script: Handwriting as an Aesthetic and Epistemic Practice in the Digital Age</i></p>
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK	

	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
	<p>14:30 – 15:00</p> <p>Natalia Pérez Juncal (Complutense University of Madrid) <i>The Inaccessible Core: A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Aesthetic Experience and the Drive for Knowledge</i></p>	<p>Gunter Kreutz (University of Oldenburg) <i>On the Origins and Consequences of Natural Play and Performing Arts Practices</i></p>
	<p>15:00 – 15:30</p> <p>Rona Cohen (Tel Aviv University) <i>From Epistemic Doubt to Aesthetic Truth: Revisiting the Case of Anxiety</i></p>	<p>Avani Sanghvi (University of South Florida) <i>From Play to Knowledge: The Aesthetic Childhood</i></p>
	<p>15:30 – 16:00</p> <p>Hilary Serra (University of Turin) <i>Biodiverse Nature Videos with Instrumental Music Promote Recovery from Induced Stress</i></p>	<p>Olivier Penacchio (Autonomous University of Barcelona) <i>From Nutrients to Art: Hedonic Foraging, a Common Basis for Motivated Behaviour</i></p>
	<p>16:00 – 16:30</p> <p>Marta Pizzolante (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan) <i>Neurophenomenology, PNEI, and Epigenetics: A Framework for Understanding the Health and Cognitive Benefits of Art and Aesthetic Experiences</i></p>	<p>Luis E. Morales (City College of New York) <i>Individual Differences in How Category Learning Shapes Aesthetic Appeal</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	BREAK	
17:00 – 18:00	<p>KEYNOTE TALK</p> <p>Eva Specker (Leibniz-Institut für Wissensmedien, Tübingen) <i>Aesthetic Experience: Cherry on Top or Key Player? An Empirical Approach</i></p>	
18:00 – 20:00	FAREWELL EVENT	