



Personal Data

Born: January 16, 1964 in Monrovia (Liberia), Citizenship: Italy and U.S.A.

Work Address: Department of Philosophy, City University of New York-Lehman College,
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Fields of study: Philosophy of biology, with particular interest in the structure and foundation of evolutionary theory. Relationship between science and philosophy. Relationship between science and religion.

Education and Professional Experience

2009-. Professor, Department of Philosophy, CUNY-Lehman and CUNY-Graduate Center.

2006-09. Professor, Department of Ecology & Evolution, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

2004-05. Associate Professor, Department of Ecology & Evolution, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

2003-2004. Professor, Depts. of Botany and of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee.

2003. Visiting Professor, Dept. of Evolutionary and Experimental Biology, University of Bologna, Italy (host: Sandro Cavicchi).

2000-2003. **Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science**, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Tennessee.
Dissertation: "Dangerous Habits: Examining the Philosophical Baggage of Biological Research."
Advisor: Jonathan Kaplan.

1998-2003. Associate Professor, Depts. of Botany and of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee.

1998. Visiting Professor at the Laboratory of Evolution and Systematics, University of Paris-Sud, France (hosts: Pierre-Henri Guyon and Jacqui Shykoff).

1995-1998. Assistant Professor, Depts. of Botany and of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee.

1994-95. **Postdoctoral associate** at Brown University. Focus on the ecology and genetics of plant reactions to light. Use of mutants defective in phytochrome(s) or hormone(s) to determine pleiotropic and epistatic actions of regulatory genes on the patterns of response to the environment. Mentor: Johanna Schmitt.

1990-94. **Ph.D. in Botany**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut. Dissertation: "Genetics and evolution of phenotypic plasticity in *Lobelia* spp. and *Arabidopsis thaliana*". Advisor: Carl D. Schlichting.

1986-89. **Doctorate in Genetics** at the University of Ferrara, Italy. Dissertation: "Karyology, genetics and phenotypic plasticity of *Ornithogalum montanum*". Advisors: Italo Barrai and Gregorio Olivieri.

1982-86. B.S. and Masters in Biological Sciences with honors (110/110 cum laude) at the University of Rome, Italy. Thesis: "Population genetics of Q-banding chromosome polymorphism in *Ornithogalum montanum* Cyr. (Liliaceae)". Advisor: Giovanni F. D'Amato.

Awards, Honors, Press Coverage

2009. Interviewed by Discover and Time magazines on the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*.

2009. Invited by NSF to write an essay and be featured in a video for their "Evolution of Evolution" special report.

2008. Both Nature and Science mention my work in organizing the Altenberg workshop on the possibility of an Extended Evolutionary Synthesis.

2008. The paper "Epigenetics for ecologists," co-authored with Oliver Bossdorf and Christina Richards and published in *Ecology Letters* is recommended by the Faculty of 1000 web site as one of the most noteworthy papers of 2008.

2004. Elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science "for fundamental studies of genotype by environmental interactions and for public defense of evolutionary biology from pseudoscientific attack."

2000. Science mentions my lab's work on the evolutionary ecology of the model system *Arabidopsis*.

1999. University of Tennessee Chancellor's Award for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement.

1997. Society for the Study of Evolution Dobzhansky Award.

1997-2001. Oak Ridge National Laboratories Science Alliance Faculty Research Award (until award program was discontinued).

1996. Mortar Board Faculty Appreciation for outstanding teaching at the University of Tennessee.

Post-Doctoral Associates & Students

1996-present. Supervisor of the following post-doctoral associates (in chronological order): (1) Hilary Callahan, two-year project on natural selection and ecological genetics of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, NSF-funded; (2) Mark Camara, two-year project on genetic constraints and selection in *Arabidopsis*, NSF-funded; (3) Courtney Murren, one-year project on evolutionary genetics of phenotypic integration in *Arabidopsis*, funded by UTK; (4) Jeff Dole, three year project on the evolution of phenotypic plasticity in *Arabidopsis*, NSF-funded; (5) Ed Lickey, one-year project on the genetics of touch-response plasticity in *Arabidopsis*, NSF-funded; (6) Christina Richards, two-year project on natural selection in *Polygonum*, funded by SUNY-Stony Brook; (7) Oliver Bossdorf, two-year project on the genetics of touch-response plasticity in *Arabidopsis*, NSF-funded; (8) Eli Rueness, one-year visiting scientist from University of Oslo (Norway) to work on the concept of genetic architecture; (9) Marta Linde, two-year Marie Curie visiting fellow from Spain.

1996-present. Ph.D. students (in chronological order): 1) Carolyn Wells, graduated in 2001; 2) Anna Kolodynska, graduated in 2002; 3) Norris Muth, graduated in 2007; 4) Josh Banta, graduated in 2008; 5) Mark Jonas, currently in his sixth year; 6) Kelly O'Donnell, currently in her fifth year; 7) Rebecca Grella, currently in her second year; 8) Niamh O'Hara, currently in her first year. MS students (in chronological order): 1) Heidi Pollard, graduated in 1999. 2) Joe Moss, graduated in 2001; 3) Paula Lindsey Crouse, graduated in 2005; 4) Kristen Slovak, currently in her first year.

Funding Record

2011, Summer. Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research funding for a workshop on "The meaning of theory in biology."

2008-09. National Science Foundation DEB-0838101 funding an international conference on "Evolution at 150: Looking to the Future. A celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Origin of Species" (with Douglas Futuyma, Jeffrey Levinton and Walter Eanes). \$74,020.

2008. NESCent (National Evolutionary Synthesis Center) funding for a workshop on "What role, if any, does heritable epigenetic variation play in phenotypic evolution?" (with Christina Richards and Oliver Bosse). \$10,000.

2008, Summer. Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research funding for a workshop on "Toward an Extended Evolutionary Synthesis?"

6/1/06-5/30/08. National Science Foundation DEB-0608232, Dissertation Improvement Proposal on "The influence of flowering time and nutrient levels on tolerance to herbivory in Arabidopsis, Arabis and other species," co-PI with Josh Banta. \$12,000.

2/1/06-1/1/07. New York SEA grant. "Genetic make-up of Fallopia plant species invading novel coastal habitats," co-PI with Christina Richards. \$83,860.

8/1/03-7/31/06. National Science foundation grant. "Phenotypic and genetic analyses of thigmomorphogenetic developmental responses in Arabidopsis" (collaborative research with Janet Braam, Rice University). \$675,719.

3/1/01-2/28/04. National Science Foundation grant DEB-008943. "Co-evolution of shade avoidance and response to photoperiod in Arabidopsis thaliana." \$330,000.

9/1/97-8/31/00. National Science Foundation grant IBN-9707552. "Response to light quality and photoperiod in Arabidopsis: plasticity and pleiotropy." \$127,000.

7/1/97-6/30/99. National Science Foundation grant DBI-9602942. "Multi-user controlled environments for plant growth in the Division of Biology." \$221,520 (co-PI).

8/15/95-7/31/98. National Science Foundation grant DEB-9527551: "Ecological genetics of response to light in Arabidopsis thaliana." \$ 180,000.

Teaching and Outreach

2007- Facilitator of a "Philosophy Now" meetup group in Manhattan.

2004-09 at SUNY-Stony Brook. Newly designed undergraduate course (Bio104, non-majors) on understanding science; newly designed graduate course on methods and concepts in evolutionary biology. Graduate seminars (BEE 692), Evolution of Complex Phenotypes; Graduate course in philosophy (Phil 619), Art & Cognition; Undergraduate course in Philosophy, The Big Questions of Philosophy (Phil 103).

1996-2003 at the University of Tennessee. Biology 250, General Ecology; Botany 403, Plant Evolutionary Biology (newly designed course); Bot/EBB 499/599, Evolutionary Ecology; Bot 531/

EEB 504, Science as Method; Botany 606, Graduate Seminar in Botany; EEB 609, Graduate Seminar in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

1997-2009. Organizer of "Darwin Day," first at the University of Tennessee then at Stony Brook University, an event devoted to public education about evolution and the nature of science.

Service

2010-13. Board of Advisors, European Journal of Molecular Biology Reports.

2009- Editor in Chief, Philosophy & Theory in Biology.

2009. Chair and co-Organizer, Darwin Summit at Stony Brook.

2006-. Editor, Biology & Philosophy.

2006. co-Organizer, Evolution meetings at Stony Brook.

2005-2006. Member, Joint Evolution Societies subcommittee on teaching evolution.

2005-2008. Editor, Quarterly Review of Biology.

2002-2004. Executive Vice President of the Society for the Study of Evolution.

2000-2003. Associate Editor of the Journal of Evolutionary Biology.

1999-2001. Secretary of the Ecological Section of the Botanical Society of America.

1999. Panel member for Population Biology at the National Science Foundation.

Reviewer for the following **Philosophy journals**: Biology & Philosophy; Journal of Effective Teaching; Mind; Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews; Synthese. **Funding agencies**: Austrian Science Fund, Austria; International Fund for Science; National Science Foundation; Natural Environment Research Council (UK); Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (Netherlands); Smithsonian Institution; Swiss National Science Foundation; United States Department of Agriculture. **Science journals**: Acta Oecologica; American Journal of Botany; American Naturalist; Annals of Botany; Biological Journal of the Linnean Society; Biological Reviews; Canadian Journal of Botany; Castanea; Ecology; Evolution; Evolution & Development; Evolution Education and Outreach; Evolutionary Biology; Functional Ecology; Journal of Ecology; Journal of Evolutionary Biology; International Journal of Plant Science; Molecular & Developmental Evolution; Nature; Nature Genetics; New Phytologist; Oikos; Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society; Plant and Soil; PLoS-Biology; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Proceedings of the Royal Academy of Sciences; Quarterly Review of Biology; Trends in Ecology and Evolution; Trends in Plant Science; Science; Vegetatio.

Organization of Symposia or Meetings, Invited Speaker

2011. Co-organizer of a workshop on "The meaning of theory in biology" at the Konrad Lorenz Institute in Vienna.

2005-09. Organizer of the quasi-annual North East Phenotypic Evolution Extravaganza meetings for informal discussion of evolutionary issues.

2009. co-Organizer of Darwin 2009 at Stony Brook University, an NSF-funded professional meeting devoted to the current status and future prospects of evolutionary biology.

2009. Invited keynote speaker at the meeting of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology.

2009. co-organizer of a workshop on epigenetic inheritance hosted by the National Center for Evolutionary Synthesis in Durham, NC.

2008. Organizer of a workshop on "Toward a New Evolutionary Synthesis?" at the Konrad Lorenz Institute in Vienna.

2007. Invited speaker to two symposia at the meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.

2007. Organizer of a symposium on "Why should scientists listen to philosophers?" Stony Brook University (selected papers to be published in the Quarterly Review of Biology).
2006. Invited speaker at a symposium on evolutionary novelties at the Philosophy of Science Association meetings.
2006. Invited speaker at a symposium on evolutionary novelties at Indiana University.
2006. Invited speaker at the Annals of Botany keynote lecture, meetings of the Botanical Society of America in Chico, CA.
2006. Invited speaker at a symposium on the ecological genetics of Arabidopsis at Harvard University.
2006. Short course on phenotypic evolution at the University of Milan.
2005. Invited speaker at a special workshop on phenotypic plasticity organized in Cambridge, UK by the editorial staff of Journal of Experimental Biology.
2005. Invited keynote speaker at the first Italian Congress of Evolutionary Biology, Ferrara.
2005. Invited keynote speaker and symposium organizer at the International Botanical Congress in Vienna, Austria.
2005. Invited speaker for the "Ford Lecture Series" at Stanford University.
2005. Invited keynote and symposium speaker at Association of Southern Biologists meeting, Florence, Alabama.
2004. Invited speaker at workshop of the Zurich-Basel Plant Center (Switzerland).
2004. Invited speaker at the National Association of Biology Teachers meeting, symposium on teaching evolution, Chicago.
2004. Invited speaker at the Darwin Day at the Milan Museum of Natural History (Italy).
2003. Invited keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Italian Ecological Society.
2003. Co-organizer of a symposium on the evolution of complex phenotypes at the European Meeting of Evolutionary Biology, Leeds, England.
2002. Invited speaker at the Philosophy of Science Association meetings, Milwaukee, WI.
2002. Keynote speaker at a symposium on population biology in Sheffield, England.
2001. Co-organizer of the joint national meetings of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the American Society of Naturalists, and the Society for Systematic Biology, Knoxville, TN.
2001. Keynote speaker at a symposium on population biology in Vienna, Austria.
2000. Invited speaker at the meetings of the Philosophy of Science Association, Vancouver, Canada.
2000. Keynote speaker at a symposium on population biology in Lund, Sweden.
1999. Organizer of a symposium on the macroevolution of plasticity at the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis, MI.
1998. Invited speaker to teach a mini-course on phenotypic plasticity at the University of Paris-Sud (France).
1998. Invited speaker at the workshop on Phenotypic plasticity in plants: implications of non-cognitive behavior, Ben-Gurion University, Israel.

1997. Organizer of the Southeast Ecology and Population Genetics Group meeting in Townsend, TN.

1997. Invited speaker at the Swiss Universities Conference on Co-evolution of planetary environment and living systems, University of Geneva (Switzerland).

1997. Organizer of a symposium on the genetic basis of phenotypic plasticity at the meeting of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology in Aarhem (The Netherlands).

1997. Organizer of a symposium on adaptive phenotypic plasticity at the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America in Montreal (Canada).

1996. Invited speaker at the symposium on The role of phenotypic plasticity in evolution, Fifth International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, Budapest (Hungary).

1996. Invited speaker at a workshop on phenotypic plasticity, University of Kentucky.

Invited Seminars (most recent first)

University of Pittsburgh; University of Pennsylvania; Regensburg University (Germany); University of Rochester; University of Virginia; University of Paris-Sorbonne (France); University of Brussels (Belgium); Brown University; Cornell University; University of Guelph (Canada); Tlaxcala University (Mexico); Dartmouth College; University of California-Los Angeles; University of Iowa; University of Washington, Seattle; University of California-Riverside; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Wichita State University, KS; Konrad Lorenz Institute, Vienna; University of Vermont; University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; Texas Christian University; Eastern Kentucky University; Bennington College, VT; Kansas State University; Stanford University; University of Illinois, Chicago; University of Nevada, Reno; University of Oklahoma; SUNY-Binghamton; University of Connecticut; UC Berkeley; University of Toronto; University of North Carolina-Greensboro; Emory & Henry College; Iowa State University; University of Calgary; University of Nebraska; Harvard University; University of Kentucky; University of Texas, Austin; State University of New York at Stony Brook; University of Central Arkansas; Naples Zoological Station (Italy); University of Rome La Sapienza (Italy); University of Ferrara (Italy); University of Bologna (Italy); Washington University, St. Louis; University of Chicago; University of Toronto; University of Cincinnati; Pennsylvania State University; Boston University; West Carolina University; DePauw University; Wake Forest University; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Indiana University; Stanford University; Wageningen University (Netherlands); Vanderbilt University; Appalachian State University; Cornell University; East Tennessee State University; University of Toronto, Canada; University of Canterbury, Christchurch (New Zealand); University of Rhode Island, Kingston; St. Andrews University (Scotland); New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; University of California, Riverside; University of Padova, Italy.