



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA | COLLEGIO SUPERIORE

PhD SEASONAL SCHOOL

**Motives and Methods:
Comparative Approaches and
Ethics in Scientific Progress**

Bologna
17-19 November 2025



Program

November 17

Comparative methods

November 18

Reflections on Ethics in Scientific Research

November 19

Integration & Future Directions

Audience

Doctoral candidates in STEM, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Format

Lectures, roundtables, and project presentations

Goals

Reinforce comparative and global approaches;

Promote critical thinking about the ethical dimensions of science;

Encourage responsible research and publishing practices;

Explore interdisciplinary approaches to fairness and depolarization in AI.

November 17, 2025

Aula 2, Via Azzo Gardino 33 – Bologna

Comparative methods

10:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee

11:00 Comparative methods

Methods in comparative law, politics and linguistics

Sabrina Ragone - *Università di Bologna* *moderator*

Fernanda Nicola - *American University, Washington*

Günter Frankenberg - *Goethe University Frankfurt*

Andrea L.P. Pirro - *Università di Bologna*

Jacqueline Visconti - *Università di Genova*

18:00-19:30 AI & Ethics

Fair AI in scientific progress and research

Michela Milano – *Università di Bologna*

Lectio magistralis and cocktail hour

November 18, 2025

Palazzo Malvezzi (Sala Feste)
Via Zamboni, 22 – Bologna *

Science & Ethics

9:15-12:45

Reflections on Ethics in Scientific Research

Maria Laura Bolognesi - *Università di Bologna* *moderator*

The Scientist in today's world

Alberto Credi, *Università di Bologna*

10:45-11:15 *Coffee break*

Ethics in Scientific Communication

Angela Russell - *University of Oxford*

Approaches to Inclusiveness in Science

Angela Russell - *University of Oxford*

12:45-15:00 *Break*

15:00-17:00

* **Sala Rossa**

Palazzo Marchesini - Via Marsala, 26

Roundtable: Science and Public Trust

Maria Laura Bolognesi - *Università di Bologna* *moderator*

Sabrina Ragone - *Università di Bologna* *moderator*

Fernanda Nicola - *American University, Washington*

Angela Russell - *University of Oxford*

Günter Frankenberg - *Goethe University Frankfurt*

November 19, 2025

Palazzo Malvezzi (Sala Feste)

Via Zamboni, 22 – Bologna

Integration & Future Directions

9:00 - 12:00

Motives and Methods for Responsible Science for the 21st Century

PhD Student Presentations (part 1):

Project Pitches integrated with **Comparative Methods, Ethics and Fair AI**

10:45-11:15 *Coffee break*

PhD Student Presentations (part 2):

Project Pitches integrated with **Comparative Methods, Ethics and Fair AI**

12:00-12:45

Feedback & Discussion with Faculty Panel

Maria Laura Bolognesi - *Università di Bologna* *moderator*

Sabrina Ragone - *Università di Bologna* *moderator*

Fernanda Nicola - *American University, Washington*

Günter Frankenberg - *Goethe University Frankfurt*

12:45-13:00 **Closing Ceremony**

Speakers

Maria Laura Bolognesi

Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Coordinator of the Biotechnological, Biocomputational, Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences PhD Program at the University of Bologna. Her research is concerned with the design, synthesis, and biological investigation of small molecules in the neurodegenerative and neglected tropical disease therapeutic areas. She has a track record of > 200 publications in high-ranked scientific journals, including patents and patent applications, and >100 invited talks worldwide. She was awarded a Distinguished Visiting Professor Fellowship at the Complutense University of Madrid in 2009, a PVE Fellowship at the University of Brasilia in 2014 and Professeur Invité at Université Caen Normandie in 2018. She is also the President of the Medicinal Chemistry Division of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI), an Associate Editor of the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (ACS) and serves in the Advisory Board of the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC)

Sabrina Ragone

Professor of comparative law at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, and the head of the Stakeholder and Placement Committee; head of international relations 2021-2024. She is a member of the Council of the Centro de Altos Estudios of the Representación en la República Argentina of the University, of the Scientific Committee of the Collegio Superiore and of the quality committee for Law.

In 2023 she was awarded the Jean Monnet Chair "ROLLBACK" and, previously, the Jean Monnet Modules "EU_SOCIAL" 2022-2025 and "CRISES" 2018-2022; she is also the PI of the 2022 PRIN "SPACE" (2023-2025).

She is a Senior Research Affiliate at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (Heidelberg), where she pursued her research from 2015 to 2017. She was Investigadora García Pelayo at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales – Madrid (2012-2015), as well as visiting professor and scholar in the USA (e.g. Boston College, Michigan, Texas A&M) and in prestigious Spanish, German, French and Latin American universities. In 2025 she was appointed Fernand Braudel Fellow of the European University Institute.

Alberto Credi

Full professor at the Università di Bologna and associate research director at the National Research Council of Italy (Cnr). He is the founder and scientific director of the Center for Light Activated Nanostructures (Clan), a University-Cnr joint laboratory for research in the areas of supramolecular chemistry and photochemistry, materials science and nano science. He's interested in the development of molecular systems and materials controlled by light; in particular, his contribution to the realization of logic devices, machines and motors of nanometer size is internationally recognized. He has authored books and over 330 scientific publications, he received several awards, including an Erc Advanced Grant, and he has delivered more than 200 invited talks at national and international conferences and seminars. He is fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and of the European Academy of Sciences.

Frankenberg Günter

Professor of Public Law, Comparative Law, and Jurisprudence (em.) at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. His main areas of research include authoritarian regimes, comparative constitutionalism, transfer of laws and constitutions, security regimes and infection protection law. Visiting Professor at Boston University School of Law, Harvard Law School, Tulane Law School and University of Pennsylvania. His scholarship has opened the floor to critical studies in comparative law.

Michela Milano

Full professor of Artificial Intelligence at DISI – University of Bologna since April 2016. She is past Deputy President of the European Association of Artificial Intelligence (EurAI) and past Executive Councilor of the Association for the Advancements of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), past member of the Executive Committee of the Association for Constraint Programming and of the Italian Association of Artificial Intelligence.

Her research activity concerns Artificial Intelligence with particular focus on decision support and optimization systems covering both theoretical and practical aspects in application fields as energy, mobility, computing, policy making and sustainability. In this field Michela Milano has achieved international visibility and has collaborations with many research groups and companies. She is Editor in Chief of the Constraints Journal, Member of the Editorial Board of ACM Computing Surveys for the area of Artificial Intelligence, past Area Editor of INFORMS Journal on Computing in the area Logic, Constraint and Optimization. She has edited two collections on hybrid optimization and she is author of more than 170 papers on peer reviewed international conferences and journals. On these topics Michela Milano has given many tutorials and keynote talks in the major international conferences on Artificial Intelligence.

Fernanda Nicola

Professor of Law, American University, Washington College of Law; Director of the Program on International Organizations, Law and Development. Her research and teaching interests are in Comparative Law, U.S. Constitutional Law and European Union Law. She received her PhD in Comparative Law from Trento University and her LL.M and SJD degrees from Harvard Law School where she was the recipient of the Mancini Prize in European Law. She co-edited several volumes on EU law including EU Law Stories: Contextual and Critical Histories of European Jurisprudence; Researching the European Court of Justice and The Italian Influence on European Law: Italian Judges and Advocates General 1952-2000. In spring 2024, Professor Nicola served as an EU law expert for the American Bar Association (ABA) on their visit to the Warsaw Bar Association and then to Budapest to present her co-authored report with Transparency International on Protecting National Sovereignty: What is the Real Threat?

Andrea Pirro

Researcher in Political Science at the University of Bologna. He is the Editor of the academic journal East European Politics and the Series Editor of Routledge Studies in Extremism & Democracy. Between 2014 and 2022, he served as Chair of the Steering Committee of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group on Extremism & Democracy.

He holds an MA in Politics from the University of Sheffield and a PhD in Comparative and European Politics from the University of Siena. He previously worked at the Scuola Normale Superiore (Florence). Over the years, he has been a visiting scholar at the Central European University (Budapest), European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder), University of Oslo, and the European University Institute (Fiesole).

Angela Russell

Angela Russell is a Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and holds a joint appointment between the Departments of Chemistry and Pharmacology. She gained her MChem degree from the University of Oxford in 2000 and her DPhil in Organic Chemistry in 2004. In 2007 she was awarded a prestigious Research Councils' UK Fellowship in Medicinal Chemistry and in 2018 she was conferred to Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. She has published over 100 original articles, book chapters and patent applications. Her research interests are centered around the discovery of new molecules and mechanisms to manipulate cell fate and to translate them into therapeutic agents, particularly for degenerative diseases. She has initiated a number of collaborative research programmes, including a medicinal chemistry approach to the modulation of gene expression to treat fatal rare genetic diseases such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). She co-founded the Oxford spin-out MuOx Ltd, (now part of Summit Therapeutics plc), and co-founded OxStem Ltd in 2016. In 2016, she was named as a 'Rising Star' in the BioBeat 50 Movers and Shakers in BioBusiness report. In October 2020 she was awarded a 2021 Harrington UK Rare Disease scholarship in recognition of, and in support of, her work on developing a therapy for DMD.

Jacqueline Visconti

Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Reading after a PhD in Italian linguistics at the University of Geneva, Lecturer in Italian Linguistics at Birmingham, returned within the Italian Government MIUR programme against 'brain-drain' rientro dei cervelli, Jacqueline Visconti is presently Associate Professor in Italian Linguistics at Genoa University, as well as Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Birmingham and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Reading.

In 2014 she received the Habilitation to Full Professor in Italian linguistics. Her interests in the fields of text- and contrastive linguistics are reflected in her PhD dissertation on complex conditional connectives in Italian and English (such as *qualora* or *supposing*), published in 2000 by Edizioni dell'Orso, with a Preface by the Fellow of the British Academy Prof. Giulio C. Lepschy.