

Curriculum Vitae of Antonella Carassa

Born in Milano (Italy), 22.02.1950

Nationality: Italian and Swiss

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Education

MSc in Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Politecnico di Milano

School of Specialization in Psychology, degree *summa cum laude*

PhD in Cognitive Psychology, Universities of Milan and Pavia

Language skills: Italian, English, French

Academic position

Full Professor at the Faculty of Communication Sciences, University of Lugano

Management activities

- Past Director of the Institute of Psychology and Sociology of Communication, Faculty of Communication Sciences, University of Lugano, Switzerland
- Member of the PhD Board (Program in Communication Sciences)

Scientific associations and networks

- Member of AI*IA (Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence)
- Associate of Behavioral and Brain Sciences
- Member of the Cognitive Science Society
- Associate of SITCC (Italian Society of Cognitive Therapy)
- Co-founder and member of the scientific board of ASCO (Cognitive Science Academy, Milan)
- Co-founder and member of the Swiss Society of Cognitive-Relational Counseling
- Member of the scientific board of the School of Cognitive-Relational Counseling, Centro al Dragonato, Bellinzona
- Member of the scientific board of “Centro Studi e Ricerca Carlo Perris”, “Cooperativa Il Volo,” for the rehabilitation of young people with psycho-social diseases
- Member of the scientific board of SLOP (Scuola Lombarda di Psicoterapia Cognitiva Neuropsicologica)
- Member of the scientific board of the Schools of Cognitive Psychotherapy of Torino and Como
- Member of the scientific board of NOÛS (School of cognitive-constructivist psychotherapy, Milano)
- Co-founder and member of ANSCo (Swiss National Association for Counselling)
- Member of ISCAR (International Society for Cultural and Activity Research)
- Co-founder and member of AIM (Italian Association for Mindfulness)
- Member of the Scientific board of “Associazione Progetto PANDA”
- Member of the scientific board of ENPOSS (European Network for the Philosophy of Social Sciences)
- Member of ENSO (European Network on Social Ontology)

Teaching

Main themes (first introduced at the Bachelor level in the courses of Psychology of Communication and of Social Psychology, then further developed in Master level courses):

- Communication as situated in human activity: concepts, socio-cognitive bases of human communication, empirical evidence, phylogenetic and ontogenetic development.
- Communication and interpersonal relationship.
- Impact of the normative structure of groups and interpersonal relationships on communicative interactions.
- Psychological bases of cooperation with analyses of concrete examples of cooperative talk work.
- Elements of ethnography and discourse analysis.

Teaching activities

- Psychology of communication. Cognition and interpersonal relationship in human communication (Bachelor).
- Social psychology (Bachelor).
- Intersubjectivity in interpersonal communication (Doctoral program).

Funded Projects

- 2009-2011 Intersubjective experience and mental representations of interpersonal relationship: a longitudinal study on mother-child interaction." Individual Project funded by Swiss National Science Foundation (Div. I-III), " (Antonella Carassa, Scientific direction) (287'000 CHF). ("Progetto del mese" 2010 - Servizio Ricerca USI).
- 2012- Extension for the fourth year of the project "Intersubjective experience and mental representations of interpersonal relationship: a longitudinal study on mother-child interaction."
- 2012- National Research Programme NRP 67, "End of life", Project 139270 "Decision making practice at the end of life. The case of general practice. Main applicant: Brigitte Liebig, Co-applicants: Voll Peter, Bally Klaus, Carassa Antonella, Gudat Keller Heike.

Outside services

Carassa is Member of the PhD Board of the Doctoral School in Human Sciences, Program in Education and Communication Sciences, Università Milano Bicocca.

Within professionally-oriented contexts, Antonella Carassa has exploited her psychological competences by contributing to the foundation of the Swiss National Association of Counseling (ANSCO), linked to the European Association of Counseling (EAC), and of the Society of Cognitive-Relational Counseling. These associations intend to promote the counseling training, consulting and supervision, and to guarantee a code of ethics and means of recognizing professional competence.

Carassa is also offering a service to Canton Ticino by contributing to understand how mothers can be supported in the delicate period close to the child birth and in the following two years of life. The longitudinal research on early mother-child interaction, besides the expected theoretical and empirical results addressed to the scientific community, has offered the opportunity to establish a fruitful and close relationship with health care operators and parental couples. This project is the first extensive study on the Swiss territory aimed at identifying signs of mothers' diseases (post-partum depression or others), mother-child relationship disturbance, and any risk factors for the future development of the child. For this reason the potential users of the project will be the Developmental Health Care services, with the possibility to design a network of services to support parental care, family well-being, and child development. A continuing collaboration on these aspects is active with "Associazione Progetto PANDA", an association in Regione Lombardia (Italy) with a long and important experience in this field. At present, the request to participate to the project has been accepted with a great interest and commitment by both the local population and the Hospital Maternity Service operators in Ticino.

Research

Type of research. Basic research in cognitive science, both theoretical and empirical.

Topic 1 (theoretical and empirical). Models of Interpersonal communication based on the normative dimension and intersubjectivity

Line 1 (theoretical). Development of a general model of communicative interactions.

International contacts:

- J. Searle, University of California at Berkeley, and M. Gilbert, University of California at Irvine (world leading philosophers of social reality)
- European Network of scientists working on Social Ontology (ENSO)
- International network of scientists working on Joint Action (JAM)

Main publications:

- Carassa, A., & Colombetti, M. (2012, in press). Creating interpersonal reality through conversational interactions. In Kobow, B., Schmid, B., & Schmitz, M., (eds.), *The background of social reality*, Springer, Berlin.
The paper introduces the concept of interpersonal reality as the social reality created by individuals in interaction, and shows how this can be built in conversations through several layers of joint commitments.
- Carassa, A., & Colombetti, M. (2009). Joint meaning. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 41 (9), 1837–1854.
The paper proposes a novel theory of communicative acts, which accounts for both the individual communicative intentions of the speaker and the collective construction of meaning in conversations.
- Carassa, A., & Colombetti, M. (2009). Situated communicative acts: A deontic approach. In Taatgen, N., & van Rijn, H. (eds.), *Proc. of the 31st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2009)*, Amsterdam, 1382–1387.
An extension of the theory proposed in “Joint meaning,” to account for the role of indirect speech in situated conversations.
- Carassa, A., Morganti, F., & Riva, G., eds. (2009). *Proceedings of the International Workshop “Enacting Intersubjectivity: Paving the way for a dialogue between Cognitive Science, Social Cognition and Neuroscience”*. USI, Lugano, 13-14 February 2009.
Proceedings of a workshop that brought together international scholars working on intersubjectivity from different scientific perspectives.
- Carassa, A., Morganti, F., & Riva, G., eds. (2009). Intersubjectivity and Communication. Thematic Section in *Studies in Communication Sciences*, 9 (1), 7–148.
An in-depth examination of the role of intersubjectivity in communication (an area of research that has just started to be explored).
- Carassa, A., Colombetti, M., & Morganti, F. (2008). The role of joint commitment in intersubjectivity. In Morganti, F., Carassa, A., & Riva, G. (eds.), *Enacting intersubjectivity: A cognitive and social perspective to the study of interactions*. IOS Press, Amsterdam, 187–201.
The first paper in the area of intersubjectivity to introduce joint commitments as an essential component of the psychology of human interaction.
- Morganti, F., Carassa, A., & Riva, G., eds. (2008). *Enacting Intersubjectivity: A cognitive and social perspective to the study of interactions*. IOS Press (Series “Emerging Communication: Studies on New Technologies and Practices in Communication”), Amsterdam.
A general overview of current research on intersubjectivity, that brings together seventeen contributions by eminent scholars in the field.
Italian translation: Morganti, F., Carassa, A., & Riva, G., eds. (2010). *Intersoggettività e interazione: un dialogo fra scienze cognitive, scienze sociali e neuroscienze*, Bollati Boringhieri, (Series on Cognitive Science), Torino.

Line 2 (theoretical and empirical). A model of communicative interaction in activity systems (theoretical); situated talk work: ethnographic analysis of original observations in Ticino psycho-social services (empirical).

International contacts:

- S. Sarangi, Director, Health Communication Research Center, Cardiff School of English Communication and Philosophy, UK.
- P. Linell, Department of Communication Studies, Linköping University, Sweden.
- C. Zuccheromaglio, Università La Sapienza, Roma.
- F. Dovigo, Università di Bergamo.

Main publications:

- Piccini, C., & Carassa, A. (in press). Formulating problems in psycho-social rehabilitation: Narrative activity within the boundaries of an institutional framework. In Sarangi, S., & Linell, P. (eds.), *Team talk: Decision-making across the boundaries in health and social care professions*. Series "Communication in Organisations and Professions" (Candlin, C., & Sarangi, S., series eds.), Equinox, London.

An original ethnographically oriented discourse method for analysing the discursive practices of collective decision-making in an organisation.

- Meschitti, V., & Carassa, A. (2012). Communicating within a research team: how multiple objects are negotiated in an academic environment. *28th EGOS Colloquium*, 2-7 July 2012, Helsinki (full paper to be submitted to *Mind, Culture, and Activity*).
- Meschitti, V., & Carassa, A. (2012). Learning to do research in an intercultural team: an ethnographic study on a university research group. *7th Organization Studies Workshop*, 24-26 May 2012, Rhodes, Greece. (full paper to be submitted to *Organization Studies*).
- Meschitti, V., & Carassa, A. (2012). Participation as a form of socialization. How a research team can support PhD students in their academic path. *25th CHER Conference*, 10-12 September 2012, Belgrade (full paper to be submitted to *Studies in Higher Education*).

An ethnographically oriented discourse analysis of collaborative work in a research team.

Line 3 (empirical). Impact of parents-child communication on the cognitive, emotional, and social development of the child. Longitudinal studies based on observational methods and validated instruments based on Attachment Theory.

Funding:

- Individual Project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Div. I-III), "Intersubjective experience and mental representations of interpersonal relationship: a longitudinal study on mother-child interaction" (A. Carassa, scientific direction).

Grant: 287'000 CHF for 3 years, extended for a fourth year

Selected as "Project of the month," April 2010, by USI Research Service.

International contacts:

- D. Jacobvitz, Dept. of Human Ecology and Family Science on Mother-Child Interaction, University of Texas, Austin.
- J. Salomon and C. George, Mills College, Oakland, California.
- M. Target, Research Department of Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology, University College London.
- G. Rezzonico, Multimedia Health Communication Lab, Medical Faculty, University of Milano-Bicocca and PANDA Project Association, Milan.