I am writing this statement of interest to apply for the position of Student/Postdoc Committee Chair.

In this letter, I discuss the reasons why I believe the match between your position and my abilities is very good.

I hold two PhDs, one from the University of Salento, Lecce, Italy, and a second one from Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden. My research at the University of Salento focused on “Ethics and Anthropology.” I concentrated on trans- and post-humanism, showing the conceptual shortcomings implicit in existing models and their potential for a renewed ethics of technology. In my thesis, which developed a multidisciplinary approach among philosophy, information theory, evolutionary biology, and neuroscience, I proposed a posthumanism based on a dynamic and hybrid notion of human identity, ultimately understood as intrinsically technical, which might set the ground for a non-technophobic ethics of technology.

My research at Uppsala University focused on the development of a philosophical model of consciousness grounded on relevant neuroscientific research. This model, which I labeled “The Intrinsic Consciousness Theory” (ICT), raised significant interest among scientific communities and public audience. ICT is the starting point of a number of multidisciplinary publications, including an article where I argue for the ethical relevance of unaware brain operations which gained a lot of attention for its original and cutting-edge nature, and a second article where I collaborated with a neuroscientist and another philosopher in describing criteria/indicators for ascribing consciousness. As a follow-up of this paper, I recently submitted another article written with both philosophers and neuroscientists, and I am now coordinating a group of 18 scientists working on a multi-disciplinary article.

My present research focuses on the explanatory relevance of neuroscience, the conceptual and ethical implications of consciousness studies, particularly in the case of patients with disorders of consciousness (DoCs), and on conceptual and ethical issues related to new technologies, namely Artificial Intelligence (AI) and (Bio-inspired) Robotics. I have explored these issues in several peer reviewed articles and book chapters, as well as in two books published in Italian (one titled Philosophy of Neuroscience, recently translated in Spanish), and in various lectures and presentations of scientific posters at international meetings in Europe, USA, and Asia. Among other things, I am currently coordinating an international survey on clinicians’ implementation of European and American guidelines on DoCs as part of my activity within the International Brain Injury Association, and I am coordinating an article on current conceptual and technical limitations of AI involving both experts in philosophy, ethics, and AI. Furthermore, I am editing a book about Neuroethics and Cultural Diversity, with the collaboration of 15 scholars from different cultural traditions.

In addition to my research on trans- and post-humanism and on consciousness, I have been exploring a number of other issues such as the impact of neuroscience on the law, the concept of responsibility and the role of codes and guidelines in bioethics, ethics of
genetics, the nature of fields such as neuroethics and the ethics of artificial intelligence, anthropomorphism in AI research, and the use of new technologies for improving diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of patients with DoCs, among others.

A significant portion of my research has been carried out within the European Human Brain Project (HBP), where I started as a doctoral student and member of the HBP Neuroethics and Philosophy team in 2013. The HBP has given me the unique opportunity to be part of a multidisciplinary, international project, and to develop my reflection in collaboration with empirical and clinical scientists. Regular participation in HBP meetings and summits, co-authoring articles with scholars from different fields, presentation of my work in academic meetings, and my experience as a member of the HBP Gender Advisory Committee have significantly enriched my research, both methodologically and scientifically, as well as my social and relational skills.

My experience has been further enriched by my role as a coordinator of a research unit dedicated to Philosophy and Ethics of Science within a Biology and Molecular Genetics Research Centre in Italy, where I take care of both research and administrative tasks. I have organized several dissemination events with speakers from different fields (both humanities and hard sciences), and edited several proceedings of the main event we organize every September since 2012.

The advertised position is particularly appealing to me. I am a member of INS since many years, and I would like to contribute more actively to its mission. I can bring my experience in multidisciplinary research, as well as my attitude to combine theoretical and practical analysis, and my desire to develop new collaborations.

The included curriculum vitae provides evidence of my dedication to research, with more details for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention and with my best regards,

Ariano Irpino, 02/09/2021
## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Michele Farisco**  
Via Cardito 52/2, 83031 Ariano Irpino (AV), ITALY  
0039 0825 881844  0039 3392649651  
*michelefarisco@inwind.it; michele.farisco@crb.uu.se; michele.farisco@biogem.it*  

**Sex** Male  |  **Date of birth** 07/01/1980  |  **Nationality** Italian

## WORK EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Business or sector</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 2020-present</strong></td>
<td>Post-Doc Researcher (within the European Human Brain Project)</td>
<td>Scientific Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centre for Research Ethics and Bioethics – University of Uppsala</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 2013 - present</strong></td>
<td>Editor of the Proceedings of the Annual International Meeting &quot;The2Cultures&quot;; Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino (AV), Italy</td>
<td>Cultural dissemination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 2013-present</strong></td>
<td>Director of Philosophy and Ethics of Science Lab</td>
<td>Cultural dissemination</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino (AV), Italy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 2011- present</strong></td>
<td>Co-Organizer of the Annual International Meeting &quot;The2Cultures&quot;; Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino (AV), Italy</td>
<td>Cultural dissemination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 2014-March 2020</strong></td>
<td>PhD Candidate (within the European Human Brain Project)</td>
<td>Scientific Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centre for Research Ethics and Bioethics – University of Uppsala</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 2016 – June 2017</strong></td>
<td>Invited professor of Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MA in Biotechnology and Genetic Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 2012- December 2015</strong></td>
<td>Lecturer of Bioethics</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples.</td>
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</table>
### Curriculum Vitae

#### Michele Farisco

**May 2013-May 2015**
- Invited professor of Bioethics
- Faculty of Theology of Northern Italy, Turin
- Master of Bioethics

**Business or sector:** Education

**August 2013-December 2013**
- Research Assistant
- Centre for Research Ethics and Bioethics – University of Uppsala

**Business or sector:** Scientific Research

**May 2012-September 2013**
- Collaborator to the project: “Interreligious dialogue: theoretical foundations”.
- Project granted by Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples

**Business or sector:** Scientific research

**January 2010-April 2013:**
- Consultant for the project “Nosographic revision of vegetative states”, granted by Italian Minister of Health
- Italian National Institute of Health

**Business or sector:** Scientific research

**September 2010-March 2012**
- Assistant Professor of Moral Philosophy and Philosophical Anthropology
- Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples

**Business or sector:** Education

**June 2009 – October 2012:**
- Collaborator for the project “Gen-Etica”, about ethical and legal aspects of genetic counseling.
- Project granted by Italian Ministry of University and Research, involving Università Cattolica of Milan, LUMSA University of Rome, IRCCS Fatebenefratelli of Brescia, Mendel Genetic Research Institute of Rome, Biogem Genetic Research of Ariano Irpino (AV), Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino (AV), Italy

**Business or sector:** Scientific research

**October 2008 – September 2011:**
- Coordinator of the project “Neuroscience: philosophical and theological aspects”.
- Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples

**Business or sector:** Scientific research

**September 2010-December 2010:**
- Research-fellowship for the project “The ethical pain. Assessment and management of pain and suffering in disorder of consciousness”, granted by European Neuroscience and Society Network.
- Cyclotron Research Centre, University of Liège, Belgium

**Business or sector:** Scientific research

**December 2009- June 2010:**
- Invited professor at the International Master of Biolaw,
- University of Sannio, Italy

**Business or sector:** Education

**June 2007 – June 2008:**
- Collaborator for the project “History of Neo-Thomism: life and thought of Gennaro Portanova”.
- Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Neaples.

**Business or sector:** Scientific Research
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2014-2019
Ph.D., Neuroscience and Philosophy
Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

2008-2009
International Master of Biolaw
Università LUMSA, Roma, Italy

2005-2008
Ph.D., Ethics and Anthropology
Università degli Studi del Salento, Lecce, Italy

1999-2003
M. A. in Philosophy
Summa Cum Laude 110/110 e lode.
Università degli Studi l’Orientale, Napoli, Italy

2015
ITALIAN NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC HABILITATION AS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Other language(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>UNDERSTANDING</th>
<th>SPEAKING</th>
<th>WRITING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>C1</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills
Good communication skills gained through my experience as teacher and as member of several research groups. I also play as main actor in an amateur theatre company.

Organisational / managerial skills
• Good organisational skills acquired through my experience as organizer of the international meeting “Le2Culture”, “The2Cultures”, and as president of a local cultural association

Computer skills
• Good command of Microsoft Office™ tools
• Basic command of SPSS software acquired through my research experience in Belgium and my collaboration with Biogem and with Italian National Institute of Health
• Basic command of Photoshop software

Additional skills
Reviewer for a number of peer-reviewed journals
Publications

Books
7. M. Farisco, Filosofía de las Neurociencias. Cerebro, mente, persona, Eucasa, Salta 2018

Doctoral Dissertations
1. Umano-postumano-persona. Per un’identità relazionale, Università degli Studi del Salento, Lecce, Italy. PhD in Ethics and Anthropology. History and Foundation. Defense date: 10/12/2008
### Chapters in collective books


2. M. Farisco, Transizionalità d eteroriferimento. La cultura come problema dell’alterità nel postumanesimo, in M. Signore-G. Scarafile (cur.), Libertà e dialogo tra le culture, Edizioni Messaggero, Padova 2007


6. M. Farisco, Neuroscienze e diritto di cura di pazienti con disturbi della coscienza, in L. Palazzani (cur.), Neuroscienze e diritto, Giappichelli, Torino, pp. 165-181


Articles
1. M. Farisco, Scheda monografica sul pensiero antropologico di A. Gehlen, presso il Sito Web Italiano per la Filosofia (SWIF) dell'Università di Bari
2. M. Farisco, «Identità violata. Manipolazione del corpo e alterazione dell’io», in Idee, Anno XXII n. 64, pp.119-130
5. M. Farisco, Scienza e morale: due incontri internazionali, in Asprenas (56), 2009, pp. 151-158
18. A. Gini-D. Larrivee-M. Farisco-V. Sironi, Keeping the human: neuroethics and the conciliation of dissonant values in the 21st century, in Neuroscience and neuroeconomics 4, 2015, pp. 1-10
20. M. Farisco, “Cerebral Communication” With Patients With Disorders of Consciousness.: Clinical Feasibility and Implications, in AJOB Neuroscience 6(2), 2015, pp. 44-46
25. Farisco M, Evers K. The ethical relevance of the unconscious. Philos Ethics Humanit Med. 2017
35. A. Salles, K. Evers, M. Farisco, Anthropomorphism in AI. AJOB Neuroscience, 2020, 11(2): 88-95
39. M. Farisco, K. Evers, A. Salles, Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: some insights from the field of neuroethics, Neuroethics (Under review)
40. M. Farisco, C. Pennartz, J. Annen, B. Cecconi, K. Evers, Indicators and Criteria of Consciousness: ethical implications for the care of behaviourally unresponsive patients, BMC Medical Ethics (Under review)
41. M. Farisco, The culture-bound consciousness and the need for an ethical analysis, The Review of Philosophy and Psychology (Under review)
42. M. Farisco, Criteria for a theory of consciousness (In preparation)
43. M. Farisco, A philosophical defence of biopsychism, (In preparation)
Other Publications

1. SP12 Opinion and Action Plan on Data Protection and Privacy, The Danish Board of Technology Foundation, Copenhagen, 2018 (Contributor)
2. SP12 Opinion on ‘Responsible Dual Use’. Political, Security, Intelligence and Military Research of Concern in Neuroscience and Neurotechnology, The Danish Board of Technology Foundation, Copenhagen, 2018 (Co-Author)

Presentations

1. Manipulation of body and alteration of self.
   Presentation at the Congress “Freedom: body and reason” organized by “Fondazione Centro Studi Filosofici di Gallarate”, University of Salento, Lecce, 26-27-28/05/2005, Italy;

2. Culture in posthumanist perspective.
   Presentation at the Congress “Freedom and dialogue between cultures” organized by “Fondazione Centro Studi Filosofici di Gallarate”, University of Salento, Lecce, 23-24-25/02/2006, Italy;

3. The posthuman.
   Presentation at the Research Day of Laboratory of Bioethics, Faculty of Theology, Naples, 15/12/2006, Italy;

   Presentation at the Congress “Human nature between determinism and freedom” organized by “Fondazione Centro Studi Filosofici di Gallarate”, University of Salento, Lecce, 23-24-25/02/2007, Italy;

5. Consciousness: some philosophical questions.
   Presentation at the research day of the Neuro-Bio-ethics research group, Regina Apostolorum University, Rome, 30/06/2009, Italy (invited);

6. Information and genetic counselling. The impact of counselling on patient.
   Presentation at the Congress “Genetic Counselling within Genetic Tests”, LUMSA University, Rome, 25-26 September 2009, Italy (invited);

7. Genetic information: uncertainty and risk management.
   Presentation at the Congress “From know yourself to know your genes”, Catholic University of Milan, Milan, 15 April 2010 (invited).

   Presentation at the Congress “New challenges to ethics”, Naples, 30 March 2011 (organizer and speaker)
Conferences/Symposia

1. Pain and suffering in vegetative state and minimally conscious state. Between ethics and neuroscience.


3. Neuroscience, Transhumanism and Posthumanism. Interpretations from Italy.
   Invited conference, Programma Ponte Italia-USA, Collegio Universitario Lamaro Pozzani, Rome, 7 July 2011.

4. Neuroscience and right to care of patients with DOCs.
   Invited conference, Center of Biowal, LUMSA University, Rome, 25 January 2012

5. Externalization of consciousness: clinical and ethical issues.
   Scientific Seminar, Center for research ethics and bioethics, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, 30 September 2013

6. Neurotechnology-mediated communication: a new tool for personal rights of patients with disorders of consciousness?
   Invited speaker at the ninth International Summer School on Mind, Brain and Education. Body, Brain and Personal Identity: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, Erice, 31 July - 3 August 2014

7. Memory and oblivion. International conference. Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino (AV), Italy, 3-7 September 2014

   Scientific Seminar, Centre for research ethics and bioethics, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, 22 September 2014

9. HBP Summit Heidelberg, 29 September-1 October 2014

10. Visualizzazione della coscienza e nuove forme di comunicazione con pazienti con disturbi della coscienza (Visualization of consciousness and new forms of communication with patients with disorders of consciousness)
    Invited speaker at the International Congress Clinical and Ethical Aspects of Severe Disorders of Consciousness, National Institute of Health, Rome 31 October 2014

11. Exploring A Speechless World, Cerebral Communication in Patients with DOCS

12. Perception of pain in patients with disorders of consciousness: From neuroscience to ethics and back
    Invited speaker at the International Workshop (Re)defining neuroethics: Exploring the implications and limitations of neuroscience on ethics, Brocher Foundation, Geneve 16-17 December 2014


    Expert seminar. The European Institute for Theoretical Neuroscience (EITN), Paris 21-22 May 2015

15. Building a Neuroscience Community: community modelling and data repositories
    Workshop, Brocher Foundation, Geneve 11-13 June 2015


18. Neuroteologia e nuovo umanesimo (Neurotheology and new humanism)
    Invited speaker, pontifical Faculty of Theology of Southern Italy S. Thomas Aquinas, Naples, 5 November 2015

19. Mirroring the brain. A conceptual investigation of brain models and simulations
    Scientific Seminar, Centre for research ethics and bioethics, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, 21 March 2016

20. HBP Consciousness Conference. European Institute of Theoretical Neuroscience, Paris, 9-10 March 2017


24. Cervello, mente e mondo. Incontri di Filosofia, Rosignano Marittimo, Italy, 22 November 2019

25. The ethical relevance of the unconscious. Scientific seminar, Coma Science Group, Liège, Belgium, 17 December 2020
Curriculum Vitae

Michele Farisco

Posters

1. Enhancing Human: really anything more than human?
   Poster at the International Conference “The Perfect Body: between Normativity and Consumerism” organized by “European Science Foundation”, Linköping, 9-13/10/2009, Sweden (selected poster)

2. Neuro-bio-law: the risk to deny the responsibility. Toward a juridical nihilism?

3. A National Institute of Health Project. Revision of vegetative states’ nosography: a behavioural approach to coma and vegetative states patients.
   Poster at the Conference “Neuroetica: le grandi questioni. Incontri su neuroscienze e società”, Padova, 5-7 May 2010, Italy (selected poster).

4. Racing for (neurocognitive) enhancement: when the true human person is at the starting blocks (with A. Gini e P. Benanti).
   Poster at the “Society for Neuroscience Meeting”, Washington DC, 12-16 November 2011 (selected poster)

5. Neuroethics of pain and suffering in Disorders of consciousness (with A. Gini).
   Poster at the “Society for Neuroscience Meeting”, Washington DC, 8-9 November 2013 (selected poster within the best 25)

6. Exploring A Speechless World, Cerebral Communication in Patients with DOCS

7. The intrinsically conscious brain
   Selected poster at the 2015 HBP Summit, ICROMEM, Madrid 27-30 September 2015

8. Neuroenhancement and the world of independent value: metaneuroethics of impersonalism and designing for the cognitive collective (with D. Larrivee).
   Poster at the “Society for Neuroscience Meeting”, Chicago, 15-16 October 2015 (selected poster)

9. Brain failure and somatic integration: the body image and the shifting neural paradigm 
   (With Larrivee D, Stickelbroeck M and Holub G.) Selected poster at Critical juncture Conference 2016, Emory University, Atlanta, USA, 8-9 April 2016

10. Ethics and Society sub-project. Selected poster at Human Brain Project Summit, Florence, USA, 12-15 October 2016


12. Philosophical research on Consciousness. Selected poster at Human Brain Project Conference, Malaga, 20-22 February 2017


15. In Situ Memory Diagnostics: Identity and Perceptual Risks in Assessing Prognosis (With D. Larrivee), Selected poster at International Neuroethics Society Meeting, Washington DC, USA, 9-10 November 2017


17. Neuroethics and Philosophy in Responsible Research and Innovation. Human Brain Project Summit, Maastricht, 15-18 October 2018
Lectures

1. **The Ethics of enhancement**  
   Invited lecture at the International Master of Biolaw, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy, 10 April 2011

2. **The posthuman**  
   Invited lecture at the International Master of Biolaw, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy, 10 April 2011

3. **Anthropology of Enhancement**  
   Invited lecture at the Summer School of Neurobioethics, Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, Rome, 10 July 2012.

4. **Transhumanism and Posthumanism**  
   Invited lecture at the Summer School of Neurobioethics, Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, Rome, 10 July 2012.

5. **Catholic and secular bioethics**  
   Invited lecture at the International Master of Biolaw, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy, 6 April 2013

6. **Direct brain communication with patients with disorders of consciousness**  
   Invited lecture at Research Ethics for Natural Science and Technology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, 23 May 2014

7. **Philosophy of science**  
   Invited lecture at the Master level course in Genetic sciences and technologies, jointly organized by University of Bari, university of Foggia, University of Naples Federico II, University of Sannio, Benevento, and Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino, AV, Italy 5 June 2015

8. **Big Data Science**  
   Invited lecture at the Master level course in Genetic sciences and technologies, jointly organized by University of Bari, university of Foggia, University of Naples Federico II, University of Sannio, Benevento, and Biogem Genetic Research Centre, Ariano Irpino, AV, Italy 12 June 2015

9. **American and European Guidelines on Disorders of Consciousness. A neuroethical commentary**  
   Invited lecture at weekly webinars organized by the Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons, 10 March 2021

10. **AI and consciousness**  
    Invited lecture at the course Ethical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence, Emory University, Atlanta, USA, 14 April 2021

In the media

- Can AI be conscious? Let's think about the question. The Ethics Blog, 2021-05-04
- The Hard Problem of Consciousness: please handle with care! The Ethics Blog, 2021-01-26
- Are you conscious? Looking for reliable indicators. The Ethics Blog, 2020-12-01
- The Struggle for Consciousness and the Dawn of a New Alliance Between Ethics and Science. The Neuroethics Blog, 2019-03-12
- Drug addiction as a mental and social disorder. The Ethics Blog, 2018-12-04
- On consciousness and the unconscious. BMC On Medicine, 2018-07-27
- Coma patients might feel pleasure and pain like the rest of us. ScienceNordic, 2018-05-24
- Føler komapatienter smerte og nydelse ligesom os andre? ForskerZonen, 2018-05-22
- We need a more comprehensive ethics of disorders of consciousness. BioEdge, 2017-11-18
- Beyond awareness: the need for a more comprehensive ethics of disorders of consciousness. The Ethics Blog, 2017-10-23
- Om högteknologiska implantat i hjärnan. Vetenskapsradions veckomagasin, 2017-04-21
- Searching for consciousness needs conceptual clarification. The Ethics Blog, 2016-03-15
Projects

"Human Brain Project" (October 2013-present) as a member of Sub-Project 12, Ethics and Society, and member of the Gender Advisory Committee (January 2019-present)

"Interreligious dialogue: theoretical foundations". Project granted by Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples. Proponent and co-investigator (May 2012-present)

"Nosographic revision of vegetative states". Project granted by Italian Minister of Health and hosted at Italian National Health Institute. Consultant (January 2010-April 2013).


"Neuroscience: philosophical and theological aspects". Project granted by Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples. Coordinator and co-investigator (October 2008 – September 2011).

"The ethical pain. Detection and management of pain and suffering in disorder of consciousness". Project granted by European Neuroscience and Society Network and hosted at the Cyclotron Research Centre, University of Liège, Belgium. Exchange research grant (September 2010-December 2010).

"History of Neo-Thomism: life and thought of Gennaro Portanova". Project granted by Faculty of Theology S. Tommaso in Naples. Collaborator (June 2007-June 2008).

Memberships

CIRB (Inter-university center of bioethical research), Naples, Italy;
Istituto Italiano di Bioetica (Italian Institute of Bioethics), Naples, Italy;
Laboratory of Bioethics, Faculty of Theology, Naples Italy;
Scientific committee of the journal “Aisthema”
International Neuroethics Society
Mind and Matter Society
International Brain Injury Association (IBIA)

Ariano Irpino, 02 September 2021