

Marco Ferrante

Born in Rome (Italy), 03.12.1980

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Austrian Academy of Sciences

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1. Fields of Research

- Bhartṛhari
- History of South Asian philosophy
- Indian Theories of Knowledge
- Philosophy of Language
- Indian monistic traditions: Advaita Vedānta and Pratyabhijñā.
- Hindu Tantrism.

2. Academic Employments

- *Research Associate*, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. *Austrian Academy of Sciences*, Vienna (Austria). Project funded by the Austrian Research Funds.
<http://www.ikga.oeaw.ac.at/Pratyabhijñā>. 2015-2018.
- *Research Associate*, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. *Austrian Academy of Sciences*, Vienna (Austria). Project funded by the Austrian Research Funds.
http://www.ikga.oeaw.ac.at/Early_Brahmanical_Philosophy 2013-2015.

3. Education

- *Dottorato di ricerca in 'Civiltà, culture e lingue dell'Asia e dell'Africa'*. Sapienza University of Rome. (Ph.D. in Civilisations, cultures and languages of Asia and Africa). *Title of the Thesis*: "Vṛṣabhadeva's *Sphuṭākṣarā*: an alternative perspective on Bhartṛhari's metaphysics". *Supervisor*: Prof. Raffaele Torella. June 2013.

- *Laurea Specialistica in Lingue e civiltà orientali* (MA in Oriental Languages and Cultures). Sapienza University of Rome. Mark: *summa cum laude*. *Title of the Thesis*: “La Paddhati di Vṛṣabhadeva: una differente prospettiva sul Bhartṛhari metafisico”. (*Vṛṣabhadeva’s Paddhati: a different perspective on Bhartṛhari’s metaphysics*). Supervisor: Dr. Vincenzo Vergiani. July 2008.
- *Laurea Triennale in Lingue e civiltà orientali* (BA in Oriental Languages and Cultures). Sapienza University of Rome. Mark: *summa cum laude*. *Title of the Dissertation*: “Arabo e lingue indoarie: elaborazione di elementi linguistici arabi nella lingua hindī”. (*Arabic and indo-aryan languages: traces of Arabic elements in the hindī language*). Supervisor: Prof. Claudia A. Ciancaglini. July 2005.
- *High School Diploma in Classics*. Mark: 100/100. July 1999.

4. Publications

Monographs

1. On the Purpose of Grammar. Vṛṣabhadeva’s commentary on VP 1.1–1.22. In preparation.
2. The Master in Disguise. Bhartṛhari’s influence on the Pratyabhijñā system. In preparation.

Articles and Book Chapters

3. “Applications of Language in the Pratyabhijñā” in A. Graheli (ed.) *Philosophy and Language: Bloomsbury Series in Indian Philosophy*. Forthcoming.
4. “Studies on Bhartṛhari and the Pratyabhijñā: the case of *svasamvedana*”. *Proceedings of the Conference of the Society for the Tantric Studies*, Special number of *Religions*. Forthcoming.
5. “Bhartṛhari and verbal testimony. A hyper-antireductionist approach?” in D. Cuneo–E. Freschi–C. Formigatti (eds.). *There is no East. Constructing Sexuality, Conceptualising the Philosophy of Testimony, Thinking Manuscripts across Media*, Special Issue of *Kervan*. Forthcoming.
6. “On *ṛsis* and *yogins*: Immediate and Mediate Extraordinary Cognitions in Early Brahmanical Thought”. *Rivista degli Studi Orientali*. Forthcoming.
7. “Vṛṣabhadeva on the status of ordinary phenomena: between Bhartṛhari and Advaita Vedānta”. *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 43.1: 61-83. DOI:<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10781-014-9255-2>, 2015.
8. “General introduction” in A. Keidan (ed.) *The Study of South Asia between Antiquity and Modernity. Parallels and Comparisons*. *Rivista degli Studi Orientali. Supplemento 2*: 9- 11. DOI: [10.1400/234721](https://doi.org/10.1400/234721), 2014.
9. “Language as a way of Salvation. An Introduction” in A. Keidan (ed.) *The Study of South Asia*

between Antiquity and Modernity. Parallels and Comparisons. Rivista degli Studi Orientali. Supplemento 2: 113-116. DOI: [10.1400/234726](https://doi.org/10.1400/234726), 2014.

10. “How to obtain salvation through Language? Bhartṛhari on Śabdapūrvayoga” in A. Keidan (ed.) *The Study of South Asia between Antiquity and Modernity. Parallels and Comparisons. Rivista degli Studi Orientali. Supplemento 2:* 161-176. DOI: [10.1400/234729](https://doi.org/10.1400/234729), 2014.
11. “Vṛṣabhadeva’s *Sphuṭākṣarā* on Bhartṛhari's metaphysics: commentarial strategy and new interpretations”. *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 41.2: 133-149. DOI: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10781-013-9176-5>, 2013.

Review articles

12. Review of E. Freschi–P. Maas, *Adaptive Reuse. Aspects of Creativity in South Asian Cultural History*. Harassowitz. In *Rivista degli Studi Orientali*. Forthcoming.
13. Review of A. Graheli, *History and Transmission of the Nyāyamañjarī. Critical edition of the Section on the Sphoṭa*. Verlag der Österreichischer Akademie der Wissenschaften. In *Rivista degli Studi Orientali*. Forthcoming.

Encyclopedia Entries

14. “Yogic Perception” in *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*. Forthcoming.

5. Lectures and Conference Papers

- “Gaining omniscience through language: Bhartṛhari on epistemology, soteriology and grammar”, invited lecture at The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute/University of Jerusalem. Jerusalem. 10.5.2017.
- “Between Language and Being: Bhartṛhari on reality and appearance”, paper presented at the *Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions*. University of Oxford. Oxford. 08.4.2017
- “Bhartṛhari and the Pratyabhijñā: the case of self-awareness”, paper presented at the *Conference of the Society for the Tantric Studies*. Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff. 24.9.2016.
- “Bhartṛhari’s legacy within the Pratyabhijñā”, paper presented at the scientific colloquium of the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. Vienna. 06.9.2016
- “A Śaiva interpretation of the Buddhist Theory of Exclusion, paper presented at the Scientific Advisory Board Meeting of the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia.

Vienna. 02.6.2016

- “Knowing the unknown: extraordinary cognitions in Brahmanical philosophies: an introduction”, paper presented at the *6th Coffee Break Conference*, Sapienza University. Rome. 18.9.2015
- “Bhartṛhari on the *śiṣṭas* as omniscient persons”, paper presented at the *16th World Sanskrit Conference*. Bangkok. 29.6.2015
- “Cognizioni straordinarie e onniscienza nella speculazione brahmanica antica”, paper presented at *Sedicesimo Convegno Associazione Italiana di Studi Sanscriti*. Università di Bologna. Bologna. 27.3.2015
- “A city ruled by a villain or by a lawful king? A short note on the description of Lañkā in Rāmāyaṇa’s *Sundarakāṇḍa*”, paper presented at the *8th South Asian Studies Association Conference*, Westminster College. Salt Lake City. 12.4.2014
- “Language and Action in Early Brahmanical Philosophy”, paper presented at the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. Vienna. 04.2.2014
- “Vākyapadīya 1.13: Bhartṛhari on the ‘true activation’ of meaning”, paper presented at the *Fifth International Indological Graduate Research Symposium*. Ruhr Universität. Bochum. 17.10.2013
- “Between the Scylla of reason and the Charybdis of testimony. Bhartṛhari on epistemological problems”, paper presented *4th Coffee Break Conference*. University of Turin. Turin 04.9.2013 .
- “Vṛṣabhadeva on Bhartṛhari’s metaphysics: an evaluation”, invited lecture at Universität Leipzig . Leipzig. 08.5.2013
- “How can we get salvation through language? Bhartṛhari on the concept of *śabdapūrvayoga*”, paper presented at the *3rd International Indological Graduate Research Symposium*. Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3. Paris. 29.9.2011
- “Language, Salvation and their Relation: the Soteriological Goal according to the Ancient Indian Grammarians”, paper presented at the *2nd Coffee Break Conference*, Sapienza University. Rome. 08.9.2011
- “Language as a Way of Salvation. An Introduction”, paper presented at the *2nd Coffee Break Conference*, Sapienza University. Rome. 08.9.2011 .

6. Organization of academic events

- Convenor of the lecture by Vincenzo Vergiani (University of Cambridge). “Reflecting on the limit of the sentence: Some linguistic insights of Bhartṛhari’s in the second book of the *Vākyapadīya*”. Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. Vienna, 7.12.2016.
- Convenor of the workshop: “Bhartṛhari and self-awareness of cognitions”. Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. Vienna, 5-6.12.2016.
- Convenor of the lecture by Anna Bajželj (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute). *Title*: Hemacandra on Omniscience: Analysis of Pramāṇamīmāṃsā with Svopajñavṛtti. Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. Vienna, 15.7.2016.
- Co-organiser of the *5th Coffee Break Conference*. International conference on Asian Studies. Sapienza University, Rome. Convenor of the panel “Knowing the unknown: extraordinary cognitions in Brahmanical philosophies”. Rome, 17-19.9. 2015.
- Co-organiser of the *2nd Coffee Break Conference*. International conference on Asian Studies. Convenor of the panel “Language as a way of salvation”. Sapienza University. Rome, 8-10.9. 2011.

7. Courses taught

- Sanskrit for BA students (1st to 4th semester), Sapienza University of Rome (January 2011– April 2012).
- “Bhartṛhari’s *Vākyapadīya* and Vṛṣabhadeva’s *Sphuṭākṣarā*”. Seminar for MA and Ph.D students. Sapienza University of Rome (January– June 2013).
- “Bhartṛhari’s *Vākyapadīya* and Vṛṣabhadeva’s *Sphuṭākṣarā*”. Seminar for MA and Ph.D students. Sapienza University of Rome (March– June 2011).
- “Vṛṣabhadeva’s *Sphuṭākṣarā*, the opening stanzas”. Seminar for advanced students. University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (October–December 2010).

8. Research Experience Abroad

- Cambridge, UK, University of Cambridge. Visiting student at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (April–June 2012).

- Cambridge, UK, University of Cambridge. Visiting student at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (September–December 2010).
- Pune, Maharashtra, India. Reading and research on Bhartṛhari's *Vākyapadīya* with Prof. Saroja Bhate, formerly head of the Sanskrit Department of the University of Pune (January–April 2009).

9. Grants and Awards

- Ph.D programme, full scholarship awarded by Sapienza University of Rome after public competition. (November 2009 – October 2012).
- Scholarship at the library of the Department of Oriental Studies awarded by Sapienza University of Rome (October 2005 – September 2007).

10. Teaching Areas

History of Indian philosophy, Indian epistemology, metaphysics and philology of language. Buddhist philosophy. Religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Indian Buddhism, Jainism.

11. Further activities

- Spoken Sanskrit Summer School. Heidelberg Universität (August 2009).
- Reviewer for *The Journal of Religions*, *The Journal of Spirituality on Mental Health*.

12. Languages

Italian: native. English: fluent. German: intermediate. French: basic. Hindi: basic. Sanskrit: very good. Latin: good. Ancient Greek: good.