

# STEFANO FRANCHI

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Austin, Texas, 78749

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[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stefano\\_Franchi](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stefano_Franchi)

<https://cleinias.xyz>

## Education

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| 1997 | STANFORD UNIVERSITY, <i>Ph.D. in Philosophy</i>                    |
| 1984 | UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA, <i>Laurea in Filosofia, summa cum laude</i> |

## Academic Positions

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| 2022-present | Independent Scholar                                       |
| 2014-2021    | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS A&M, Visiting Scholar             |
| 2011-2014    | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS A&M, Research Associate Professor |
| 2009-2011    | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS A&M, Visiting Scholar             |
| 2006-2009    | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS A&M, Visiting Associate Professor |
| 2004-2006    | THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, Senior Lecturer               |
| 2000-2003    | THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, Lecturer                      |
| 1997-1999    | STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Lecturer                             |

## Research specialties

*Area of Specialization:* History and Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Mind, 20<sup>th</sup> Century European Philosophy.

*Area of Concentration:* History of Modern Philosophy, History of Ancient Philosophy.

## Research publications

### *Books*

#### *Forthcoming*

S. Franchi. *The Passion of Life*. Vol. 2: *Life, described*. London: Critical, Cultural and Communications Press, 2026

S. Franchi. *The Passion of Life*. Vol. 3: *Life, lived*. London: Critical, Cultural and Communications Press, 2026

#### *In Print*

S. Franchi. *The Passion of Life*. Vol. 1: *Philosophy's ends*. London: Critical, Cultural and Communications Press, 2026

S. Franchi and M. Marchesini, eds. *Filosofia dei mondi globali. Conversazioni con Giacomo Marramao*. Torino: Bollati Boringhieri, 2017.

S. Franchi and F. Bianchini, eds. *The Search for a Theory of Cognition: Early Mechanisms and New Ideas*. With a foreword by Douglas Hofstadter. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011.

S. Franchi, F. Bianchini, and M. Matteuzzi, eds. *Verso un'archeologia dell'intelligenza artificiale*. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2007.

S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere, eds. *Mechanical Bodies, Computational Minds*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005.

S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere, eds. *Constructions of the Mind. Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities*. Vol. 4, Special Issue. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Humanities Review, 1995.

S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere, eds. *Bridging the Gap. Where Cognitive Science Meets Literary Criticism*. Vol. 4, 1 Supplement. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Humanities Review, 1994.

### *Articles and book chapters*

#### *Forthcoming*

#### *In Print*

S. Franchi. "Interview with Gerardo Muñoz." In: *Tras la política. Coloquio con el pensamiento italiano*. Ed. by G. Muñoz. Mexico City: Editorial diecisiete, 2024.

S. Franchi. "On Two Forms of Political Nihilism: Apocalyptic Reduction vs. Hypocalyptic Suspension." In: *Politica comùn* 16 (2024)

S. Franchi. "Introduzione." In: *Filosofia dei mondi globali. Conversazioni con Giacomo Marramao*. Ed. by S. Franchi and M. Marchesini. Torino: Bollati Boringhieri, 2017, pp. 7–25.

- S. Franchi. “Dai massimizzatori di utilità neo-classici alle coalizioni sociali fondate sui valori: un’interpretazione di *Passaggio ad occidente*.” In: *Filosofia dei mondi globali. Conversazioni con Giacomo Marramao*. Ed. by S. Franchi and M. Marchesini. Torino: Bollati Boringhieri, 2017, pp. 83–96.
- S. Franchi. “General Homeostasis, Passive Life, and the Challenge to Autonomy.” In: *Fundamental Issues of Artificial Intelligence*. Ed. by V. Müller. Berlin: Springer, 2016, pp. 283–298.
- S. Franchi. “Cognition as Second Order Regulation.” In: *Computing and Philosophy. Selected papers from IACAP 2014*. Vol. 375. Ed. by V. Müller. Berlin: Springer, 2016, pp. 167–178.
- S. Franchi. “Ashbian Homeostasis as non-Autonomous Adaptation.” In: *Self-Adaptive and Self-Organizing Systems (SASO), 2015 IEEE Nineth International Conference on Adaptive Systems (2015)*.
- E. Akleman et al. “A Theoretical Framework to Represent Narrative Structures for Visual Storytelling.” In: *Proceedings of Bridges 2015: Mathematics, Music, Art, Architecture, Culture*. Ed. by K. Delp et al. 2015, pp. 129–136
- Franchi, op. cit.
- S. Franchi. “On the Backward Passage from neo-Classic Utility Maximizers to Value-based Social Coalitions.” In: *Política Común (special issue on Giacomo Marramao’s The Passage West)* 8 (2015).
- S. Franchi. “Homeostats for the 21st century? Lessons Learned from Simulating Ashby Simulating the Brain.” In: *Constructivist Foundations* 8.3 (2013). With open peer commentaries and author’s response, pp. 501–532.
- S. Franchi. “On Models, Simulations, and the Relevancy of Biochemistry to Cognitive Functions.” In: *Constructivist Foundations* 8.3 (2013), pp. 141–142.
- S. Franchi. “Are Computers Digital? Should Constructivists Care?” In: *Constructivist Foundations* 8.3 (2013), pp. 17–19.
- S. Franchi. “Teoria dei giochi e complessità.” In: *Decisioni e scelte in contesti complessi*. Ed. by S. Barile, V. Eletti, and M. Matteuzzi. Milano: Wolters Kluwers, 2013, pp. 343–387.
- S. Franchi. “Living Thought and Living Things. On Roberto Esposito’s *Il pensiero vivente*.” In: *Res Publica* 29 (2012).
- S. Franchi. “How Computing Technology Met the Humanities.” In: *Theory and Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence*. Ed. by V. Müller. Berlin: Springer, 2012, pp. 349–365.
- S. Franchi. “Jammed Machines and Contingently Fit Animals: Psychoanalysis’s Biological Paradox.” In: *French Literature Series* 38 (2011), pp. 213–256.
- S. Franchi and F. Bianchini. “On the Historical Dynamics of Cognitive Science: a View from the Periphery.” In: *The Search for a Theory of Cognition. Early Mechanisms and New Ideas*. Ed. by S. Franchi and F. Bianchini. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011, pp. xi–xxvi.
- S. Franchi. “Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Homeostat.” In: *The Search for a Theory of Cognition: Early Mechanisms and New Ideas*. Ed. by S. Franchi and F. Bianchini. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011, pp. 3–52.
- S. Franchi. “Radical Constructivism’s *Tathandlung*, structure, and Geist.” In: *Constructivist Foundations* 6.4 (2011), pp. 17–20

- S. Franchi. "Les jeux anacastiques de Lévi-Strauss." In: *Les années soixante*. Ed. by P. Maniglier. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2011, pp. 125–141.
- S. Franchi. "Can Machines Have an Unconscious? Would They Have To?" In: *Proceedings of the VIII European Conference on Philosophy and Computing (ECAP)*. ed. by R. Z. Bengez. München: Verlag Dr. Hut, 2010, pp. 506–513.
- S. Franchi. "Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Homeostat." In: *Proceedings of the VII European Conference on Philosophy and Computing (ECAP)*. ed. by J. Vallverdù. 2009, pp. 106–107
- S. Franchi. "Intelligenza artificiale come scienza, metafisica, o epistemologia. Note in margine ad uno scambio con Herbert Simon." In: *Verso un'archeologia dell'intelligenza artificiale*. Ed. by S. Franchi, F. Bianchini, and M. Matteuzzi. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2007, pp. 19–39.
- S. Franchi and F. Bianchini. "Per un'archeologia dell'intelligenza artificiale." In: *Verso un'archeologia dell'intelligenza artificiale*. Ed. by S. Franchi, F. Bianchini, and M. Matteuzzi. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2007, pp. 3–20.
- S. Franchi. "Herbert Simon, anti-Philosopher." In: *Computing and Philosophy*. Ed. by L. Magnani. Pavia: Associated International Academic Publishers, 2006, pp. 27–40.
- S. Franchi. "Hunters, Cooks, and Nooks." In: *Diacritics* 33.2 (2005), pp. 98–109.
- S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. "Machinations of the Mind." In: *Mechanical Bodies, Computational Minds*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2005, pp. 1–135.
- S. Franchi. "Of Chess, Games, and Flies." In: *Essays in Philosophy* 6.1 (2005).
- S. Franchi, G. Güzeldere, and E. Minch. "From Vienna to California: a Journey across Disciplines. An Interview with Heinz von Foerster." In: *Kybernetes* 34.1-2 (2005), pp. 15–32.
- S. Franchi. "Passive Politics." In: *Contretemps* 5 (Nov. 2004).
- S. Franchi. "L'intelligenza artificiale e la teoria dei giochi. Un'indagine storico-critica." In: *Percezione, linguaggio, coscienza. Percorsi tra cognizione e intelligenza artificiale*. Ed. by M. Matteuzzi and F. Bianchini. Macerata: Quodlibet, 2004, pp. 63–88.
- S. Franchi. "Telos and Terminus: Hegel and the End of Philosophy." In: *Idealistic Studies* 28.1–2 (1998), pp. 35–46.
- S. Franchi. "Palomar, The Triviality of Modernity, and the Doctrine of the Void." In: *New Literary History* 28.4 (1997), pp. 757–778.
- S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. "Mindless Mechanisms, Mindful Constructions." In: *Constructions of the Mind—Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities*. Ed. by S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. Vol. 4, Special Issue. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Humanities Review, 1995, pp. ix–xxx.
- S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. "Dialogues with Colorful Personalities of Early AI." in: *Constructions of the Mind. Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities*. Ed. by S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. Vol. 4, Special Issue. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Humanities Review, 1995, pp. 161–170.
- Expanded version of the preceding reprinted as* S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. "Dialogues with Colorful Personalities of Early AI." in: *Mechanical Bodies, Computational Minds*. Ed. by S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. MIT Press, 2005, pp. 295–303.

S. Franchi, G. Güzeldere, and E. Minch. "Interview with Heinz von Foerster." In: *Constructions of the Mind—Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities*. Ed. by S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. Vol. 4, Special Issue. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Humanities Review, 1995, pp. 288–307.

*Reprinted in the Italian journal Costruttivismi, along with an Italian translation by Alessandro Ferrari:* S. Franchi, G. Güzeldere, and E. Minch. "Da Vienna alla California. Un viaggio attraverso le discipline. Intervista con Heinz von Foerster." In: *Costruttivismi* 2 (2015), pp. 150–168.

S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. "Of Gaps, Bridges, and Close Encounters of one of a Kind." In: *Bridging the Gap—Where Cognitive Science meets Literary Criticism*. Ed. by S. Franchi and G. Güzeldere. Vol. 4, 1 Supplement. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Humanities Review, 1994, pp. vii–xii.

S. Franchi. "Putnam and Heidegger on Truth." In: *Annali di Discipline Filosofiche dell'Università di Bologna* 10 (1990) .

S. Franchi. "Modelli descrittivi ed analisi formale: un'ipotesi intorno all'AI". In: *Annali di Discipline Filosofiche dell'Università di Bologna* 7 (1987).

#### *Book reviews*

S. Franchi. "Blunting the Edge of Second-Order Cybernetics: the Heritage of Heinz von Foerster (book review)." In: *Constructivist Foundations* 3.1 (2007), pp. 131–132.

S. Franchi. "Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (book review)." In: *Essays in Philosophy* 5.2 (2004).

S. Franchi. "Michel Rapaport, *Later Derrida* (book review)." In: *Essays in Philosophy* 6 (2005).

#### *Talks and Presentations*

S. Franchi. *Gramsci's Praxis from the Borg to Gilead*. Praxis in Marx and Marxism, International Conference, Prague, December 2022. December 15, 2022.

S. Franchi. *Of an hypocalyptic path to infrapolitical praxis*. Tracking Infrapolitics 1, International Conference, March 3-6 2022, College Station, TX. 4 March, 2022.

S. Franchi. *Maurizio Matteuzzi e l'Intelligenza Artificiale, ora e allora*. Giornata di studi in memoria di Maurizio Matteuzzi. Università di Bologna. 20 giugno 2018.

S. Franchi. *Phenomenology of the fool or, on the character type of the gelassen Mann in Reiner Schürmann*. No Peace Beyond the Line. On Infrapolitical Anarchy: The Work of Reiner Schürmann. Texas A&M University. January 11-12, 2016.

S. Franchi. *Ashbian homeostasis as non-autonomous adaptation*. Ninth IEEE International Conference on Self-Adaptive and Self-Organizing Systems (SASO), Boston, Mass. September 21–25, 2015.

S. Franchi. *Cognition as second order regulation*. International Association for Computing and Philosophy (IACAP) Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece. July 2-4, 2014.

S. Franchi. *General Homeostasis, Passive Life, and the Challenge to Autonomy*. Philosophy and Theory of Artificial Intelligence Conference 2013 (PT-AI), Oxford, UK. September 21-22, 2013.

S. Franchi. *From Artificial Intelligence to Artistic Practices: A New Theoretical Model for the Digital Humanities*. Modern Language Association Annual Meeting 2013, Boston, Mass. 2013.

- S. Franchi. *A Passage West? From Glocalism to Game Theory*. Philosophy After the Age of the Nation-State Workshop. Texas A&M's Glasscock Center, 15 Oct 2012. 2012.
- S. Franchi. *May Humanists Learn from Artists a New Way to Interact with Digital Technology?* Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations Annual Conference (DH2012), Hamburg, Germany. July 16-22, 2012.
- S. Franchi. *Digital Humanities in the Italian Culture Landscape*. Modern Language Association Annual Meeting 2012, Seattle, Wash. January 8-10, 2012.
- S. Franchi. *Teleonomy and Contingency in Kant's Third Critique*. American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division Meeting, Washington, D.C.). December 27-30, 2011.
- S. Franchi. *Encounters between Computation and the Humanities: Past, Present, and Future*. Texas A&M University, Hispanic Studies Department Colloquium. November 8, 2011.
- S. Franchi. *From Kantian Autonomy and Heteronomy to Biological Life*. 5th meeting of the 2nd European Network for the Advancement of Artificial Cognitive Systems, Interaction, and Robotics (EU-Cog II), Groningen, NL. October 10-11, 2011.
- S. Franchi. *Past, Present, and Future Encounters between Computation and the Humanities*. Philosophy and Theory of Artificial Intelligence Conference 2011 (PT-AI), Thessaloniki. October 3-4, 2011.
- S. Franchi. *Can Machines Have an Unconscious? Would We Want Them To?* European Meeting of the Computing and Philosophy Association (E-CAP), Munich. October 4-6, 2010.
- S. Franchi. *Freudian and Lacanian Biologies and the Problem of Structurally Failing Human Homeostasis*. 38th Annual University of South Carolina French Literature Conference, Gervais, SC. March 18-20, 2010.
- S. Franchi. *Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Homeostat*. European Meeting of the Computing and Philosophy Association (E-CAP), Barcelona. July 4-6, 2009.
- S. Franchi. *On the Botany of Plants: Kantian Reflections on Heidegger's Philosophy of Life*. Philosophy Department seminar, University of Auckland. May, 9th, 2007.
- S. Franchi. *Contingency, Teleology, and Autonomy. Reflections on some Kantian Themes in the Philosophy of Life*. Department of Philosophy seminar, University of Texas A&M. November 16th, 2007.
- S. Franchi. *Robots, Cyborgs, and Embedded Creatures*. Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Chicago. November 10-13, 2005.
- S. Franchi. *The Phenomenon of Passivity*. Annual meeting of the Australian Society for Continental Philosophy (ASCP), Macquarie University, Sydney. 8-10 December 2004.
- S. Franchi. *Passive Politics: Giorgio Agamben and the Thought of désœuvrement*. Philosophy Department seminar, University of Auckland. October 8th, 2004.
- S. Franchi. *Passive Politics*. International Conference *The Italian Effect*, Sydney. 8-10 September 2004.
- S. Franchi. *Play or Passivity?* Society for Literature and Science (SLS) European Conference, Paris. 28-30, 12, 2004.
- S. Franchi. *Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy: the Case of Simon's AI Project*. European Meeting of the Computing and Philosophy Association (E-CAP), Pavia. June 4-6, 2004.

- S. Franchi. *Aristotle and Passivity*. Annual Conference of the American Philosophical Association (APA), Central Division, Chicago. April 22-35, 2004.
- S. Franchi. *Commentary on "Artificial Life and Merleau-Ponty"*. Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA), Pacific Division, Pasadena. March 25-28, 2004.
- S. Franchi. *Animals, Snobs, Rascals, and Women: Kojève between Humanism and anti-Humanism*. Australian Society for Continental Philosophy (ASCP) Annual Conference, Brisbane. November 2003.
- S. Franchi. *Hunters, Cooks, and Nooks*. Department of Philosophy seminar, University of Auckland, Auckland. April 2001.
- S. Franchi. *Philosophy, Science, and Literature*. Invited talk, Critical Theory Group seminar, Duke University. February 2001.
- S. Franchi. *Philosophy, Science, and Literature*. Australian Society for Continental Philosophy (ASCP) Annual Conference, Sydney. December 2000.
- S. Franchi. *From Earwig to Man, from Science to Philosophy*. Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) Annual Conference, Brisbane. December 2000.
- S. Franchi. *On an Idyllic Tone Adopted Recently in Philosophy*. Department of Philosophy colloquium, University of Auckland, Auckland. March 23, 1999.
- S. Franchi. *Commentary on Eric Peng's "Perception, Conception, and Schemata"*. Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA), Pacific Division, Los Angeles. March 1998.
- S. Franchi. *The Irreparable Light of Dawn*. Stanford Humanities Center. May 1996.
- S. Franchi. *Of Moats, Bridges, and Precincts: The Long Journey of Intentionality*. Actualité cognitive de la phénoméologie: les défis de la naturalisation, Bordeaux, France. October 18-20, 1995.
- S. Franchi. *Telos and Terminus. Hegel and the End of Philosophy*. Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, New York. December 28-30, 1995.
- S. Franchi. *Cognitive Science's Missed Opportunity*. Stanford, CSLI TINLunch. March 1995.
- S. Franchi. *Adventures in Cognitive Science and Literary Theory*. ECA group Seminar, Xerox PARC. September 23rd, 1994.

## Teaching

### At Texas A&M University

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|-----------|--|
| 2011-2013 | Graduate-level workshops on Giorgio Agamben ( <i>Home Sacer</i> and <i>On the Open</i> ), Jacques Derrida ( <i>The Beast and the Sovereign I &amp; II</i> ), Martin Heidegger (1929 lecture course on <i>The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics</i> ), Alexandre Kojève and Georges Bataille ( <i>Introduction to Hegel</i> and <i>The Inner Experience</i> ), Catherine Malabou ( <i>The Future of Hegel</i> ), Slavoj Žižek ( <i>Less than Nothing</i> ). |
| 2009      | PHIL 419 Contemporary European Philosophy (From Hans Jonas and Jacques Lacan to biopolitics (G. Agamben and S. Žižek).   |

- 2009 PHIL 111 Contemporary Moral Issues.
- 2008 PHIL 251 Introduction to Philosophy.
- 2008 PHIL 111 Contemporary Moral Issues.
- 2007 PHIL 111 Contemporary Moral Issues.
- 2006 PHIL 658 Philosophy of Cognitive Science.
- 2006 PHIL 451 Phenomenology and Existentialism (From Husserl to Heidegger and Gadamer).
- 2006 PHIL 251 Introduction to Philosophy (Introductory survey course, from Plato to Nietzsche).

(At the University of Auckland)

- 2006 PHIL 221/314 Twentieth Century German Philosophy.
- 2006 PHIL 759 Automata and Cyborgs from Artificial Intelligence to Critical Theory.

(on leave in 2005)

- 2004 PHIL 759C Automata and Cyborgs from Artificial Intelligence to Critical Theory.
- 2004 PHIL 341 Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics: Hans-Georg Gadamer and beyond.
- 2004 PHIL 102 Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Lectures on Nietzsche).

(on teaching relief from Marsden Foundation Fast Start grant in 2003)

- 2002 PHIL 215/335 From Humanism to the Death of Man: Twentieth Century French Philosophy.
- 2002 PHIL 759C Contemporary Theories of Hermeneutics.
- 2002 PHIL 341 Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics: Hans-Georg Gadamer.
- 2002 PHIL 152 Philosophical Theories of Human Nature (Lectures on Plato's conception of human nature).
- 2001 PHIL 759C Science, Philosophy, and Wisdom (Graduate seminar on Hegel).
- 2001 PHIL 221/314 Twentieth Century German Philosophy.
- 2001 PHIL 303 Overcoming Metaphysics: Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time*.
- 2001 PHIL 152 Philosophical Theories of Human Nature.
- 2000 PHIL 759 Ethics without Metaphysics: Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida.
- 2000 PHIL 303 Overcoming Metaphysics: Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time*.
- 2000 PHIL 215/335 From Humanism to the Death of Man: Twentieth Century French Philosophy.

## Research grants

- Project:* *Affective Homeostasis*, Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts grant, \$7,500 (2013).
- Project:* *French Hegelianism Reconsidered*, University of Auckland Staff Research (UARC) Fund, \$13,000 (2004).
- Project* *Early Cybernetics*, University of Auckland Faculty Research Fund, \$2000 (2004).
- Project:* *A Historical Reconstruction and Critical Assessment of the Alternatives to Metaphysics Originally Proposed by Artificial Intelligence and Structuralism*, Marsden Fast Start Research Grant, \$100,000 over 2 years (2003-04).
- Project:* *UARC International Collaboration Research Fund*, \$5000 (2001).
- Project:* *Conducts*, UARC Staff Research Fund, \$4,500 (2001).
- Project:* *Mindful Constructions*, UARC Staff Research Fund, \$4,000 (2000).
- Project* *Vehicles*, UARC New Staff Research Fund, \$14,725 (2000).

## Professional Societies and Service

*Editorial Board Member*, *Constructivist Foundations*, a Journal of Constructivist Studies

*Member* European Network for the Advancement of Artificial Cognitive Systems, Interaction and Robotics (EUCOG), American Philosophical Association, International Association for Computing and Philosophy, Modern Language Association, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

## Languages

Italian (native), English (near-native), French (fluent), German, Spanish, Latin (reading)