

# Valeria Cesaroni

Researcher & Consultant · AI Governance and Ethics · Socio-Technical Systems · Education

val.cesaroni@gmail.com · [LinkedIn](#) · [Google Scholar](#)

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Researcher and consultant working at the intersection of AI governance, socio-technical systems and education. Experience in Horizon Europe and EU-funded projects examining the societal, ethical and governance implications of emerging technologies, combining critical research with applied impact assessment, policy-oriented analysis and interdisciplinary project coordination. Involved in the design and delivery of AI literacy and technology governance training for educators and professionals.

**Research interests:** AI, Technology, Politics and Society · Education and Applied Research.

## EDUCATION

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**Research Fellowship** · Italian Institute for Philosophical Studies (IISF), Naples (January 2026 - June 2026)

Awarded a fellowship to participate in the advanced seminar series *Questions of Politics, Economics and Technology*, bringing together leading scholars on the political and philosophical dimensions of algorithmic power, the philosophy and history of technology, and contemporary democratic theory (contributors include Laura Bazzicalupo, Carlo Galli, Nadia Urbinati). Fellowship includes a final research report.

**PhD in Human Sciences** · University of Perugia · 2022 - 2025

Doctoral research on the sociotechnical hybridisation of educational systems and school institutions in the context of AI and digital technologies. The thesis develops an original conceptual framework for analysing the sociotechnical configuration of educational ecologies, drawing on Critical Theory, philosophy of technology, and sociotechnical systems theory.

The empirical component comprises two interconnected strands: a participatory design process with teachers for the development of an NLP-based platform for inclusive education (students with learning and reading comprehension disorders), and a critical AI literacy programme for educators grounded in a sociotechnical approach to institutional change.

Dissertation Title: *The Sociotechnical Hybridisation of the Metabolic Relation between First and Second Nature. Education and Critical Theory for a New Educational Ecology*

**Visiting PhD Researcher**

Instituto DEMOSPAZ, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid · October 2023 - April 2024

Advanced methodological training in qualitative research methods and participatory approaches, at the UNESCO Chair in Education for Global Citizenship and Culture of Peace, Instituto DEMOSPAZ (dir. JM Torecilla), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

**Master of Arts, Philosophy** · Sapienza University of Rome · 2017/2020

Concentrations: Political Philosophy

110/110 summa cum laude

Thesis Advisor: Prof. Stefano Petrucciani; Prof. Luciano De Fiore

**Erasmus+ Scholarship** · Universidad Complutense de Madrid · 2018/2019

Advanced studies in the Master's Programme in Philosophy in Psychoanalysis and Theory of Culture

**Bachelors of Arts, Philosophy** · Sapienza University of Rome · 2013- 2017

110/110 summa cum laude

Thesis Advisor: Prof. Paolo Vinci

**Research Fellowship** · Italian Institute for Philosophical Studies (IISF), Naples- Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa (June 2021 - November 2021)

Competitive fellowship awarded for participation in the advanced seminar series *Democracy, Conflict, Institutions*. The programme brought together major figures in contemporary political philosophy, including Étienne Balibar, Nadia Urbinati, Adriana Cavarero, Mario Tronti, and Richard Bellamy, to interrogate the crisis of democracy, the theory of institutions, and the political dimensions of conflict.

## WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Researcher and Consultant · CyberEthics Lab./CyberSocLab · 2021 -2023 / 2024 - Ongoing**

Researcher and consultant within Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects addressing the governance, ethical and societal implications of AI and digital technologies.

- Design and leadership of qualitative research to evaluate the ethical, societal, and governance implications of AI-driven solutions.
- AI and digital technology impact analyses covering ethical, social, human-factors-related, operational, and regulatory dimensions.
- Facilitation of stakeholder engagement processes using participatory approaches: interviews, co-creation workshops, focus groups, and multi-actor consultations with public authorities, practitioners, technology providers, and end users.
- Authoring of impact assessment reports and policy-oriented deliverables for European institutions, contributing to data governance, accountability, and regulatory compliance frameworks aligned with EU policy standards.

### **Member - Ethics Advisory Board (EAB) · SHIELD Project (Horizon Europe Innovation Action) · 2026- Ongoing**

Independent expert guidance on ethical and legal dimensions of data governance, surveillance and AI in biomedical research within a Horizon Europe project on early detection of pancreatic cancer. Reviewing project deliverables and contributing to official EAB reports submitted to the European Commission.

### **Operational Member · Nati nel Metaverso Non-Profit Foundation · 2025 - Ongoing**

Contributing to the design and implementation of digital education and emerging technology initiatives for the third sector, with focus on ethical considerations, educational value and social impact.

### **Expert in Educational and Career Guidance · University of Perugia · 2025-2026**

Selected through public call to deliver teaching activities on educational and vocational guidance within institutional programmes of the University of Perugia.

### **Scientific Lead - ARTIS Project · Sony Computer Science Laboratories · University of Perugia · CINI · 2024 - 2025**

Scientific leadership and coordination of an interdisciplinary project designing an AI-based digital platform to support children with reading comprehension disorders.

- Design and leadership of qualitative research on the social acceptance and integration of AI technologies in educational and rehabilitative settings, analysing practices, user needs and contextual constraints in real operational contexts.
- Translation of domain-specific needs into functional, pedagogical and technological requirements, enabling collaboration between clinical professionals, AI developers and institutional stakeholders.
- Co-development of an ethical and evaluation framework for responsible AI design and assessment of impact on inclusion, accessibility and participation.

### **Trainer & Curriculum Designer - Critical AI Literacies Critical AI Literacies Programme · Narni Scalo Comprehensive Institute · 2025**

Designed, coordinated and delivered a Critical AI Literacies program for educators across early childhood, primary and lower-secondary education.

- Supported teachers in developing critical understanding of AI systems, including ethical, social and environmental implications.
- Applied participatory and reflective training methodologies to foster informed engagement with digital technologies.
- Co-designed interdisciplinary and vertically integrated curricular units embedding AI literacy into everyday school practices.

### **Delegate for International Teacher Education (ITE) eTwinning · University of Perugia · 2025**

Representing the University of Perugia within the European eTwinning ITE initiative, integrating digital technologies into pre-service teacher training. Coordination with National Support Organisations and teacher-educator ambassadors.

### **Subject Expert - History of Educational Institutions & Philosophy of Education · University of Perugia · 2025**

Supported teaching activities in History of Educational Institutions and Philosophy of Education, in collaboration with faculty members. Responsibilities included contributing to course preparation, participating in student assessment and examinations.

## **Full-Time Trainee – Code For Future Academy · Accenture · 2021**

Intensive training in software development fundamentals (Java, Java EE, SQL, web technologies and enterprise development practices).

## **Editorial Board Member · Pólemos. Materiali di filosofia e critica sociale · 2019 – Ongoing**

Planning, coordination, and execution of publication activities for a top-tier, peer-reviewed journal in philosophy and social critique (ANVUR Class A).

## **EU & RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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### **HEDGE-IoT · Horizon Europe · Ethics and governance of trustworthy IoT systems**

**Role: Researcher, Ethics Manager (CyberSocial Lab.)**

- Development of a policy and regulatory blueprint to evaluate challenges and opportunities of IoT deployment in the European energy sector, supporting evidence-based policymaking across six pilots.
- Design of AI governance frameworks and regulatory compliance instruments aligned with EU regulatory standards and emerging policy agendas. of AI governance frameworks and regulatory compliance tools aligned with EU standards.

**Key themes:** IoT ethics · AI governance · regulatory compliance · multi-stakeholder deliberation

### **GreenComp School Project· Erasmus + · Sustainability Competence Framework in Education**

**Role: Researcher and Consultant (University of Perugia)**

- Analysis and integration of the European GreenComp sustainability competence framework into educational systems.
- Contribution to the development of methodological tools, evaluation criteria, and competence-based models for real institutional contexts.
- Support in the design of educational strategies aligned with sustainability and competence-based learning approaches.

**Key themes:** sustainability education · competence frameworks · educational policy · curriculum development

### **MeSCoBraD · Horizon 2020 · AI-supported diagnosis and personalised care in brain disorders**

**Role: Researcher (CyberEthics Lab.)**

- Ethical and legal standards assessment for AI-driven personalised care solutions.
- Gender-sensitive analysis of AI diagnostic systems and data-intensive health services.
- Impact assessment integrating regulatory, ethical and gender equity dimensions.

**Key themes:** healthcare AI · gender equity · ethics · legal compliance · data governance

**Published output:** Morpurgo, F., Cesaroni, V. et al. (2022). Assessment of the CoBraD PUCs Against Ethical and Legal Standards. Deliverable D2.5, MES-CoBraD Project, Horizon 2020.

### **ASSISTANCE · Horizon 2020 · Public safety, emergency management and social acceptance of security technologies**

**Role: Lead Researcher, Ethics Manager (CyberEthics Lab.)**

- Human factors research and social acceptance analysis for AI-based security and emergency management technologies.
- Assessment of human rights and ethical implications of AI-driven public safety solutions.
- Stakeholder consultations and impact assessment methodologies across multi-actor public safety contexts.

**Key themes:** human factors · social acceptance · public safety AI · human rights · ethics of security technologies

**Published output:** Cuesta, A., Ortiz, G., González, J., Cesaroni, V. et al. (2022). Human Factor Impact Assessment. Deliverable D8.7, ASSISTANCE Project, Horizon 2020.

### **IRIS · Horizon 2020 · Smart cities, digital public services and citizen-centred data governance**

**Role: Lead Researcher, Ethics Manager (CyberEthics Lab.)**

- Human factors analysis and co-design methodology for citizen-centred digital public services.
- Development of participatory frameworks for responsible data governance and civic innovation.
- Methodological design integrating human-centred and ethical perspectives into smart city digital infrastructure.

**Key themes:** human factors · co-design · citizen participation · data governance · smart cities

**Published output:** Cesaroni, V., Pierucci, F. (2023). D2.4 – Human Factors for Co-Design Methodology. Deliverable, IRIS Project, H2020 (Grant Agreement n. 101016905).

## **PERSIST · Horizon 2020 · Personalised care and life sciences**

### **Role: Researcher (CyberEthics Lab.)**

- Ethical and societal impact assessment for AI-supported personalised care solutions in life sciences.
- Regulatory compliance analysis and governance framework contributions.

**Key themes:** healthcare AI · personalised medicine · ethics · data governance

## **6G-DALI · Horizon Europe · Next-generation critical communication infrastructures (6G)**

### **Role: Researcher (CyberEthics Lab.)**

- Ethical and societal dimension analysis of AI-driven 6G communication infrastructure.
- Impact assessment and governance contributions for critical digital infrastructure.

**Key themes:** 6G · critical infrastructure · AI governance · digital ethics

## **OptimAise · Horizon Europe (RIA) · Software Engineering for GenAI · AI, Data & Robotics Partnership · Starting May 2026**

### **Role: Lead Researcher (CyberEthics Lab.)**

- Lead of WP4 (Fairness, Bias and Explainability): design and development of an epistemically grounded explainability framework and fairness engine for GenAI systems, with lifecycle-wide bias detection and mitigation across training, instruction-tuning and fine-tuning stages.
- Development and application of the ETHAI (Ethical AI) model: translating EU AI Act and GDPR obligations into actionable technical requirements and compliance checkpoints embedded into GenAI development workflows.
- Ethics and Regulatory Governance (ERGO) framework coordination: legal and ethical monitoring, pre-FRIA, risk assessment aligned with the EU AI Act, GDPR, and EU HLEG guidelines for Trustworthy AI, in consortium with 13 partners (Fraunhofer, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, TU Dresden, and others).

**Key themes:** GenAI software engineering · trustworthiness-by-design · explainability · fairness & bias mitigation · EU AI Act compliance · Ethics-by-Design · LLM lifecycle governance

## **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

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### **Lecturer · Teacher Training Seminar: AI: Pedagogical and Socio-Emotional Implications**

*University of Perugia, FISSUF Department · May 2025*

### **Guest Lecturer · Panetta AI Governance Lab**

*(Master Programme), AI ethics, legal frameworks, sustainability · February 2025*

### **Guest Lecturer · Dexai Master for AI Ethics Officers**

*Critical AI studies, socio-technical impacts, ethical frameworks · October 2024*

### **Guest Lecturer · Tor Vergata University of Rome, Computer Engineering**

*Human Action and Artificial Intelligence (Philosophy of Technology) · December 2022*

### **Guest Lecturer – University of Salerno, Cultural Heritage Studies**

*Recognition, Desire, Reification: Axel Honneth's Intersubjective Proposal · May 2022*

## **ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATION**

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- **Digital Learning Week - UNESCO 2025, Paris, France:** Presentation of the book chapter Cesaroni, V. (2025, forthcoming). "Teaching in the Age of its Technical Reproducibility: A Critical Perspective on Socio-Technical Transformations of Education". In W. Holmes (Ed.), Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence and Education. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- **BEA 2025 - 20th Workshop on Innovative Use of NLP for Building Educational Applications, co-located with ACL 2025, Vienna, Austria:** "From End-Users to Co-Designers: Lessons from Teachers" (Galletti, Cesaroni), July 2025.
- **AIED 2025 - 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education, Palermo, Italy:** "A Participatory Strategy for AI Ethics in Education and Rehabilitation grounded in the Capability Approach" (Cesaroni, Pasqua, Bisconti, Galletti), July 2025.
- **Scuola Democratica, 3rd International Conference, University of Cagliari, Italy,** June 2024: «Reframing AI in Education: A Social Justice Approach to Technological Mediations». (Cesaroni)
- **Ital-IA 2024 - 4th CINI National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Naples, Italy:** "Towards Trustworthy AI in Inclusive Education: A Co-Creation Approach Rooted in Ecological Frameworks" (Cesaroni, Galletti, Pasqua).

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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1. Cesaroni V. (2026), The Silicon Oracle. How Algorithmic Assemblages Enclose Temporality and Expropriate Teaching Labor (with peer-review reports), in "Scuola democratica, Learning for Democracy" 1/2026, pp. 79-103, doi: 10.12828/120584
2. Cesaroni, V. (2026). "1: Teaching in the age of its technical reproducibility: a critical perspective on sociotechnical transformations of education". In *Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence and Education*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. Retrieved Jun 2, 2026, from <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035335879.00013>
3. Cesaroni, V., Pasqua, E., Bisconti, P., Galletti, M. (2025). A Participatory Strategy for AI Ethics in Education and Rehabilitation Grounded in the Capability Approach. AIED 2025. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 15881. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-98462-4\\_10](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-98462-4_10)
4. Galletti, M., & Cesaroni, V. (2025). From End-Users to Co-Designers: Lessons from Teachers. In 20th Workshop on Innovative Use of NLP for Building Educational Applications, July 2025, Wien. 10.18653/v1/2025.bea-1.37
5. Cesaroni, V. (2024). Inclusive education in the age of AI: A critical perspective on policy guidelines through the lens of ecological-systemic theory of technological mediation. *Education Sciences & Society-Open Access*, 15(2).
6. Cesaroni, V. (2024). «Reframing AI in Education: A Social Justice Approach to Technological Mediations». In: SCUOLA DEMOCRATICA (Eds.). Book of Abstracts of the International Conference. Reinventing Education, Rome.
7. Cesaroni V., Galletti M, Pasqua E., Nardi D. (2024). Towards Trustworthy AI in Inclusive Education: A Co-Creation Approach Rooted in Ecological Frameworks. Ital-Ia, CEUR Workshop Proceedings, Napoli, 29/05/2024.
8. Bisconti P., Cesaroni V. (2024). The promise of Ideo-logic, the Psycho-Epistemic Organization of Socio-Symbolic Systems. *International Journal of Žižek Studies* (18)1.
9. Terragni C., Cesaroni V. (2023). Multispecies Justice and Human Inequalities: Risks in Theorizing Anti-Anthropocentric Politics. *JoLMA*, Edizioni Ca' Foscari.
10. Cesaroni V. (2023). Quale sviluppo per quale sostenibilità? Una ricostruzione del rapporto tra sostenibilità, sviluppo ed educazione. Morlacchi Editore U.P.
11. Pierucci, F., Cesaroni, V. (2023). Data Subjectivation - Self-sovereign Identity and Digital Self-Determination. *DISO* 2, 21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44206-023-00048-0>
12. Cesaroni, V., Pierucci, F. (2023). D2.4 – Human Factors for Co-Design Methodology. Deliverable del progetto europeo IRIS – H2020 (Grant Agreement n. 101016905). IRIS Project Repository.
13. Cuesta, A., Ortiz, G., González, J., Cesaroni, V., Briguglio, L., Iraci, F., & Riccio, G. M. (2022). Human Factor Impact Assessment (Deliverable D8.7). ASSISTANCE Project, Horizon 2020.
14. Morpurgo, F., Cesaroni, V., Briguglio, L., Occhipinti, C., Tangari, E., & Vazquez Maymir, S. (2022). Assessment of the CoBraD PUCs Against Ethical and Legal Standards (Deliverable D2.5). MES-CoBraD Project, Horizon 2020.
15. Iannone A., Briguglio L., Occhipinti C., Cesaroni V. (2022). Methods of Stakeholder Engagement for the Co-Design of Security Technologies. In: Security technologies and social implications: A European Perspective. Wiley-IEEE Press, ISBN: 978-1-119-83416-8.
16. Cesaroni V. (2020). Review of "M. Coeckelbergh, Moved by Machines. Performance Metaphors and Philosophy of Technology". *Pólemos* I.(2). 377-382. DOI: 10.48247/P2020-2-021.
17. Cesaroni, V. (2018). Review of "I. Testa & L. Ruggiu (a cura di), I that is We, We that is I, Perspectives on Contemporary Hegel". *Pólemos* XI.1 (2018): 229-233. DOI: 10.19280/P2018-1-012.

## LANGUAGES

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**Italian** Native · **Castilian** C1 (OLS certified) · **English** C1