

Vincenzo Vergiani

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal details

Qualifications

1998-2001

Ph.D. in Classical and Medieval Indological Studies, Università "La Sapienza", Rome, with a thesis on 'The *Sādhanaśamuddheśa*. The Chapter on the Factors of Action in the Third Book of the *Vākyapadīya* of Bhartṛhari, with the *Prakīrṇaparakāśa* of Helārāja', Supervisor: Prof. Raffaele Torella

1993

Degree (Laurea = M.A.) in Letters.
Università "La Sapienza", Rome. Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

1982

Degree (Laurea = M.A.) in Psychology.
Università "La Sapienza", Rome. Final grade: 110/110 cum laude

Employment Record

and

Research Grants

EMPLOYMENT

Since 1 October 2007, Lecturer in Sanskrit,
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge.

2004-2007

Contracted lecturer in Indology (professore a contratto),
Facoltà di Studi Orientali, Università 'La Sapienza', Rome.

March-July 2007

Gonda Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden,
the Netherlands.

February-September 2006

Fellow of the Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient at the EFEO Centre of
Pondicherry, India.

February 2005-June 2006

Senior Researcher in the project "For an ICT archaeology of ancient Indian
texts", financed by the EuropeAid Office of the European Union.

February-September 2005

Fellow of the Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient at the EFEO Centre of
Pondicherry, India.

2004

A one-month research mission in Pune for the project "A critical edition of the

Kāśīkāvṛtti”, financed by the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE), France.

2003-2004

Assistant lecturer in Indology for a course on the Sociolinguistics of pre-colonial India, Facoltà di Studi Orientali, Università “La Sapienza”, Rome.

2001-2003

Assistant lecturer in Indology for a course on Dharmaśāstra,
Assistant Lecturer in Sanskrit,
Facoltà di Studi Orientali, Università ‘La Sapienza’, Rome.

2000-2001

Editor and translator of several texts for the section on ‘Science in Ancient India’ in vol. II of the *Storia della Scienza* by the Istituto dell’Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani and author of a contribution on: “The Languages of Cultural Production in Classical India” (in Italian).

RESEARCH GRANTS

2021

Leverhulme Trust Research Grant, project "An Intellectual History of Late Vedanta (1750-1900)". Start date: 6 September 2021; duration: 4 years.

Role: Principal Investigator (Director)

2019, Autumn

Cambridge Humanities Research Grant, project "An Intellectual History of Late Vedanta"

2015, Autumn

Cambridge Humanities Research Grant, project "The Malla Renaissance"

May-June 2015

Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

Since 1 October 2013, Senior Lecturer in Sanskrit,

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge.

November 2011 – November 2014

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Standard Route Research Grant, project “The intellectual and religious traditions of South Asia as seen through the Sanskrit manuscript collections of the University Library, Cambridge”. Role: Principal Investigator (Director)

December 2008

British Academy Conference Support Grant,
international workshop on “Bilingualism and cross-cultural fertilisation: Sanskrit and Tamil in Mediaeval India”, held in Cambridge, May 2009 (co-convened with Dr. Whitney Cox, SOAS)

Supervision of graduation (M.Phil, MA and PhD) theses

University of Cambridge

2019 PhD Thesis “The Rise and Rites of Tantric Kingship in the Sāmrājyalakṣmīpīṭhikā, a Hybrid Nibandha from Vijayanagara” by Saran Suebsangtiwongse

2018

PhD Thesis “Linguistic and Phenomenological Theories of Verbal Cognition in Mīmāṃsā. A Study of the Arguments in Śālikanātha’s Vākyārthamāṭṛkā-I and the Response in Sucarita’s Kāśikāṭīkā” by Shishir Saxena

PhD Thesis “Limits of the real. A hypertext critical edition and translation of Bharṭṛhari’s Dravyasamuddeśa, with the commentary of Helārāja” by Charles C.H. Li

2017

PhD Thesis “The Gaṇitatilaka and its commentary by Siṃhatilakasūri: An annotated translation and study” by Alessandra Petrocchi

2014

Mphil dissertations:

“A Study of the *Sphoṭavāda* of Kumārila Bhaṭṭa: A Theory of Word and Word-Meaning” by Shishir Saxena (final mark: 73)

“A study of the nominal declension in the Kātantra system” by Yiming Shen (final mark: 75)

2013:

PhD thesis “The Cultural Genesis of Systematic Inquiries into Language in Ancient India” by Paolo Visigalli

MPhil dissertation “Sphoṭa. Statistical Uncertainty and Epistemological Doubt in the Vākyapadīya” by Charles Li (final mark: 80)

2012:

PhD thesis “The Representation of Sanskrit Speech-Sounds: Philological and Linguistic Historiographies” by Giovanni Ciotti

Mphil dissertation “The Gaṇita Sāra Saṃgraha: a linguistic analysis of a Sanskrit mathematical treatise” by Alessandra Petrocchi (final mark: 73)

2011

MPhil dissertation “Innovations and Interpretations on the Notion of Adhikaraṇa from Pāṇini to the end of the first millennium CE” by Varun Khanna (final mark: 63).

2010

MPhil dissertations:

“The role of a personal god in the teachings of Śaṅkara: an analysis of the commentary on the Bhagavadgītā” by Paula H. Ornelas (final mark: 70);

“The relation of ultimate reality to nature and humans in the Upaniṣads” by Felicity Yeo (final mark: 62).

2009: MPhil dissertation on “Movements of ecological resistance in contemporary India. Reinterpreting traditional monism, from acosmism to

socially committed biocentrism” by Adele Tulli (final mark: 67).

University of Rome

2008: M.A. thesis on “The *Paddhati* of Vṛṣabhadeva on the *Brahmakāṇḍa* of Bharṭṛhari’s *Vākyapadīya*” by Marco Ferrante.

2007: M.A. thesis on “The *Alphabetum Brahmanicum seu Indostanum* of Cassiano Beligatti, an Italian missionary in 18th-century India” by Sara Rella.

2003: M.A. thesis on “Buddhism and the Brahmanic Philosophical-Grammatical Tradition. The Relationship between Śāntarakṣita and Bharṭṛhari in the light of the quotations from the *Vākyapadīya* in the *Tattvasaṃgraha* and in its commentary” by Paolo Giunta;

M.A. thesis on “An Analysis of Vedic Sacrifice from the viewpoint of religious anthropology” by Daniele Di Loreto.

2002: M.A. thesis on “Jayanta Bhaṭṭa on the Status of Vyākaraṇa. The Section on Grammar in Chapter Six of the *Nyāyamañjarī*” by Paola Nardella.

Guest Lectures and Conferences

5 December 2018

“Pāṇini’s Aṣṭādhyāyī: an epistemic rupture in Indian intellectual history”, 9th Coffee Break Conference on “Science and Technology in Premodern Asia”, Wolfson College, University of Oxford

19-23 March 2018

Visiting Professor, workshop “Vyākaraṇa Week”, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli

31 January 2018

“Excerpts from Bharṭṛhari’s *Vākyapadīya*”, Sanskrit Reading Room, SOAS, London

October 2017

“The interaction between Sanskrit and the regional languages: the birth of vernacular grammars in medieval South Asia”, Convegno Associazione Italiana di Studi Sanscriti (AISS), Università Sapienza, Roma

December 2016

“Reflecting on the limits of the sentence. Some linguistic insights of Bharṭṛhari’s in the second book of the *Vākyapadīya*”, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

“Bharṭṛhari on the self-awareness of cognitions”

Workshop held at Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 5-6 December

November 2016

“From word meanings to sentence meaning: Different Perspectives in Indian Philosophy of Language”, International colloquium co-convened with S. Saxena at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge, 7 November

October 2016

“The impossibility of the cognition of a cognition: Helārāja’s commentary on the final verses of the *Jāṭisamuddeśa*”, international conference on “Around Abhinavagupta - Aspects of the Intellectual History of Kashmir”, University of Cornell, Ithaca (NY)

September 2016

“Bharṭṛhari on perception”

Department of Pāli and Buddhist Studies, University of Pune

June 2016

Participation in the workshop on “What is the sentence meaning? Kumāṛila’s *Śloka-vārttika*”

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

May 2015

“MS Add. 2832 (University Library, Cambridge): A Note in Newar on the back of a Sanskrit manuscript on horse medicine”

Workshop on “Manuscripts between Languages”, St. John’s College, Cambridge

October 2014

“Doing things differently: *pratinidhi* according to Bhartṛhari”

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

February 2014

“Pāṇini’s grammar and the destiny of Sanskrit around the beginning of the Common Era”, 2014 Majewski Lecture, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford

July 2013

“Sanskrit and Hinduism: a non-exclusive affair”,

Workshop on Hinduism, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

June 2013

“Canonising the *Vākyapadīya*. The sense and purpose of Helārāja’s commentarial project”, international conference on

“Around Abhinavagupta - Aspects of the Intellectual History of Kashmir from the 9th to the 11th century”, Universität Leipzig, Institut für Indologie und Zentralasienwissenschaften

December 2012

“Quotations of grammatical and non-grammatical texts in Helārāja’s commentary on the *Padakāṇḍa* of *Vākyapadīya*”, international conference on “Quotations and re-use of texts in Sanskrit texts”, University of Rome La Sapienza

February 2011

“Pāṇini’s Grammar: its role in the hegemony of Sanskrit and some open questions”, Ancient India and Iran Trust, Cambridge

December 2010

“Intellectual exchanges across language boundaries in the grammatical traditions of South India”, Institut für Südasiens-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde der Universität Wien

February 2010

““The construction of a shared worldview in the centuries around the beginning of the Common Era: a Brahmanic political project?”, Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge

November 2009

“La classification sémantique de l’objet grammatical dans les traditions sanskrites, tamoules et pāli”, presentation of the research programme “Extended Sanskrit Grammar”, organised by the Research Unit 7597 “History of Linguistic Theories”, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and Université Paris 7, Paris (France)

September 2009

“The notion of *prayokṭṛdharma* in *Vākyapadīya* 3.9.105 and some later grammatical works”, 14th World Sanskrit Conference, Kyoto (Japan)

May 2009

“The adoption of Bhartṛhari’s classification of *karman* in Cēṇāvaraiyar’s commentary on the *Tolkāppiyam*”, workshop on “Bilingualism and cross-cultural fertilisation: Sanskrit and Tamil in Mediaeval India”, Cambridge

August-September 2008

‘Formal semantics versus philosophical semantics in the work of Bhartṛhari’, 11th ICHoLS conference (International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences), workshop on “The Indian Traditions of Language Studies”, Potsdam (Germany)

April 2007

‘South-Indian manuscripts of the *Kāśikāvṛtti*: an overview’, paper read at the workshop “Production, distribution and collection of Sanskrit manuscripts in ancient South India”, IAS, Leiden

January 2007

‘An anthropology of passions : the point of view of the *Mānavadharmasāstra*’, 13th Meeting of the Associazione italiana di studi sanscriti, held at the Facoltà di Studi Orientali, Università “La Sapienza”, Rome

November 2006

‘Persistence of the notion of impurity in contemporary India’, paper read at the conference “Pensiero scientifico e umanesimo della tradizione”, CESMEO, Turin

December 2005

‘Une citation de la *Mahābhāṣyaṭīkā* dans la *Kāśikāvṛtti*’, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris

May 2004

‘*kāraka* et *sādhana*: de la description formelle de la langue à la philosophie du langage’, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris

May 2004

‘Grammar as a Worldview’,
Facoltà di Filosofia, Università di Roma-Torvergata, Rome

February 2004

‘The notion of *svadharmā* in the juridical-religious tradition of classical India’,
Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Università “La Sapienza”, Rome

January 2004

‘Perception and language: a comparison between Bhartṛhari and the Buddhist epistemological school’,
Dipartimento di Studi Asiatici, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples

December 2003

'Bhartṛhari on śeṣa relationships',
International Seminar on "Bhartṛhari: Language, Thought and Reality"
India International Centre, New Delhi

November 2002

'Physical space, conceptual categories and ultimate reality in Bhartṛhari's
thought', 11th Meeting of the Associazione italiana di Studi Sanscriti, Università
degli Studi, Milan

February 2001

'Linguistic speculation in classical India: from grammar to the philosophy of
language',
Dipartimento di Studi Asiatici, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli