Curriculum Vitae Professor Dr Maria Carla Galavotti

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Name: **Maria Carla Galavotti**

Born: **26 April 1947**

Research Priorities: Philosophy of science, probability theory, scientific evidence, subjectivism, subjective theory, causality, probabilistic causality

Maria Carla Galavotti is an Italian philosopher of science. She focuses, above all, on aspects relating to probability and statistics. In her view, these areas have not only a mathematical, but also a philosophical aspect, the latter of which became a key focus of her work. She is also interested in the nature and limits of scientific evidence, scientific explanation and prediction.

Academic and Professional Career

since 2019	Emeritus Professor, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
2016	Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Foundations of Science, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
2014	Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Foundations of Science, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
2012	Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Foundations of Science, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
2006 - 2011	Director, Interdisciplinary Research Centre of History and Philosophy of Science (CIRESS), University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
2004	Visiting Fellow, Centre for Time, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
since 1998	Full Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
1998	Bologna-Clare Hall Visiting Fellow, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
1994 - 1998	Professor, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy

1991	Visiting Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Princeton University, Princeton, USA
1989 - 1990	Visiting Fellow, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA
1984	Visiting Fellow, Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI), Stanford University, Stanford, USA
1982 - 1994	Associate Professor, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
1975 - 1982	Researcher Associate, Department of Philosophy, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
	Research Associate, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences (CPNSS), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, UK

Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees

2016 - 2018	Member, Scientific Committee, Réseau national des Maisons des Sciences de l'Homme, France
2011 - 2015	Vice-President, Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology, International Union of History and Philosophy of Science
2011 - 2014	Member, Executive Board, International Council for Science (ICSU), (today: International Science Council, ISC)
since 2009	Member, Scientific Committee, Federico Stella Centre for Study of Penal Justice and Criminal Policy (CSGP), Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy
2008 - 2013	Chair, Scientific Networking Programme "The Philosophy of Science in Europe", European Science Foundation (ESF)
2006 - 2011	Member, Steering Committee, European Philosophy of Science Association (EPSA)
since 2002	Member, Scientific Committee, Vienna International Summer University, Vienna, Austria
2000 - 2003	Coordinator, Network "Historical and contemporary perspectives of the philosophy of science in Europe", ESF
	Member, Editorial Board, Erkenntnis, European Journal for the Philosophy of Science and Vienna Circle Institute Yearbook
	Co-Editor, The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective and European Studies in Philosophy of Science
	International Cooperation Partner, PhD Programme "The Sciences in Historical, Philosophical and Cultural Contexts", University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Honours and Awarded Memberships

since 2014	Member, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany
since 2013	Member, Accademia Nazionale di Scienze, Lettere e Arti di Modena, Modena, Italy
since 1998	Life Member, Clare Hall College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
since 1990	Life Member, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA

Research Priorities

Maria Carla Galavotti is an Italian philosopher of science. She focuses, above all, on aspects relating to probability and statistics. In her view, these areas have not only a mathematical, but also a philosophical aspect, the latter of which became a key focus of her work. She is also interested in the nature and limits of scientific evidence, scientific explanation and prediction.

Concepts such as probability play a role in many research areas, ranging from statistics, climatology, and biology, to economics and philosophy. However, various concepts of probability are in conflict with each other. The philosophical debates centre around the question of whether probability is a measurable quantity or whether it reflects degrees of belief. The question of which "realities" are modelled by various concepts of probability is also a topic of debate. Maria Carla Galavotti examines these questions in her research. The answers she discovers are, on the one hand, of theoretical interest. On the other hand, various theories of probability have consequences for issues such as risk analysis and safety.

Maria Carla Galavotti has described the distinctive features of the major interpretations of probability, including the classical theory of Pierre Simon de Laplace, frequentism, propensionism, logicism, and subjectivism. The philosopher has examined the last of these topics and its origins particularly closely. According to this way of thinking, probability reflects a subjective degree of belief – in other words, a person's confidence in a particular thing. Galavotti has given particular attention to two representatives of this theory: the British mathematician and logician Frank Ramsey (1903 - 1930) and the Italian mathematician Bruno de Finetti (1906 - 1985).

Another focus of her work is "scientific explanation", particularly in medical and criminal trials. She questions the nature and limits of these explanations and the relationship to prediction and causality. The concept of causality is very important in scientific research. For example, a disease can be cured once its cause has been discovered. Maria Carla Galavotti looks at probabilistic causality, according to which causes change the probability of their effects. This is linked to questions about the role of scientific laws as well as the possibilities and limits of scientific explanation.