

## Research options available

Research topic(s) offered by every Doctoral Course involved in UNIPhD are frameworks within which every applicant has to present an original research project in collaboration with a Supervisor at the University of Padua.

Potential Supervisors at Unipd have proposed the following detailed research options, which are related to the research topic. They are offered as a guideline and should facilitate your contact with potential Supervisors. Supervisors' e-mail is specified in every research option table. You are welcome to contact them directly.

Note that this research option list is not at all exhaustive and, within the topic you have chosen, you are free to propose a different research project.

<b>Doctoral Course</b>	<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>
<b>Macro-area</b>	Humanities
<b>Department name</b>	Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://elearning.unipd.it/scienzeumane/course/view.php?id=1888">https://elearning.unipd.it/scienzeumane/course/view.php?id=1888</a>
<b>Research topic</b>	<p><b>Natural Objects and artifacts. Topics in Analytic Metaphysics and Semantics</b></p> <p>In the philosophical literature it is sometimes assumed, sometimes discussed, that it is possible to divide the domain of concrete objects into natural and artificial ones. Such assumption strongly derives from our pre-theoretical idea on the classification of material objects. These intuitions are well expressed in natural language and have, as an extension, the distinction between artifact kinds conceived in contrast with natural kinds. What is the conception in contemporary analytic metaphysics of natural objects? What is the one of artifacts? What are the best semantic theories for natural and artifact kinds terms?</p>
<b>Link to the UNIPhD Call (Academic Year 2023/2024)</b>	<a href="https://uniphd.eu/">https://uniphd.eu/</a>
<b>Latest Update</b>	02.12.2022
<b>#Number of available Research Options</b>	1 <i>Scroll down to see all the Research Options</i>

## #1 Research Option Description

<b>Doctoral Course</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>
<b>Department name</b>	Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology (FISPPA)
<b>Research topic</b>	Natural Objects and artifacts. Topics in Analytic Metaphysics and Semantics
<b>Research option</b>	On the Metaphysics of Natural Objects and Artifacts and of their Kinds or Semantics of Natural and Artifactual Kind Terms
<b>Supervisor</b>	Supervisor: Massimiliano CARRARA, <a href="mailto:massimiliano.carrara@unipd.it">massimiliano.carrara@unipd.it</a> Research Group: Marzia SOAVI; Gabriele TOMASI, Vittorio MORATO; Giuseppe Mario SPOLAORE; Cecilia POLETTA
<b>Webpage</b>	Institutional webpage of the supervisor: <a href="https://www.unipd.it/en/schedapersonale?key=4EAE96067D5255640B9FA29BDFCDC619">https://www.unipd.it/en/schedapersonale?key=4EAE96067D5255640B9FA29BDFCDC619</a> Personal webpage of the supervisor: <a href="https://sites.google.com/fisppa.it/massimilianocarrara/">https://sites.google.com/fisppa.it/massimilianocarrara/</a>
<b>Context of the research activity and objectives</b>	<p>First: Metaphysics. The metaphysical claim that it is possible to divide the domain of concrete objects into natural and artificial ones is usually taken for granted while discussing natural and artifactual kinds: there is a deep metaphysical divide between natural kinds, qua natural essences, and artifactual kinds. Specifically, in the metaphysical tradition it has been argued that (a) whereas the origin of an artifact originates in the intentions of an agent, a natural entity originates in from something like itself and (b) whereas an artifact needs an external cause both to move and to persist, a natural entity has in itself both the principle of movement and the principle of persistence. (a) and (b) are not without controversy. Aim of the project is to analyse the current metaphysical debate on the existence and nature of artifacts and natural entities. Second: semantics. What kind of references (if any) do terms for artifacts, such as “chair,” “pencil,” “television,” and so on, have? Hilary Putnam controversially suggested that they are semantically on a par with natural kind terms, that is terms for substances and species, like “water,” “tiger,” “gold,” and so on. Such a suggestion gave rise to an ongoing debate between directly referential and descriptivist theorists. Typically, the dispute revolves around establishing whether artifactual kind terms are directly referential expressions. To this aim, it is common to thoroughly examine their inferential behaviour in various kinds of linguistic contexts. However, other semantic considerations might be relevant as well. The objectives of the research activity are to investigate semantic topics connected to the debate, and to explore semantic tools and notions that might be applied to the semantics of natural and artifactual kind terms.</p>

<b>Infrastructures</b>	Libraries of the Humanities hub (Philosophy, Literary Studies, Linguistics, Education and Performing Arts Studies, and others)
<b>Skills and competencies for the development of the activity</b>	The candidate should be proficient either in analytic metaphysics or in semantics. This competence should be clearly inferable from either the candidate's study background and/or their published works.
<b>Training offer</b>	PhD Course teaching activities in Analytic Philosophy BoBoPa (Bologna/Boon/Padova) research group and seminars ( <a href="https://bobopa.wordpress.com">https://bobopa.wordpress.com</a> ). Other seminars, workshops, and lectures proposed by the Philosophy Doctorate Course.
<b>Possible Secondments</b>	Institut de philosophie - Université de Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel Institute of Logic, Language, and Information (ILLC) – University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Istituto di Filosofia e USI - Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano Université Côte d'Azur Nice - Laboratoire Bases, Corpus, Langage (BCL) - CNRS, Nice Department of Philosophy - University of Vancouver, Vancouver Department of Philosophy, Nanjing University, Nanjing Renmin University of China, Pecking Department of Philosophy and Antropology, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostella