Curriculum Vitae – Europass

Rosella Gennari, PhD
Associate Professor of Computer Science
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz)
Italian National Scientific Habilitation (ASN): Full Professor – ING/INF 09/H1
ORCID: 0000-0003-0063-0996

Personal Profile

Associate Professor of Computer Science with consolidated scientific maturity and long-standing international recognition in Human–Computer/Machine Interaction (HCI). Research focuses on interaction design, physical and tangible computing, and human-centred intelligent systems, with particular emphasis on technology-enhanced learning, inclusive design, and participatory approaches involving children, learners, teachers, and non-expert users. Her work combines design-oriented research, action research, empirical evaluation, and interdisciplinary collaboration, and is characterised by continuity, methodological coherence, and sustained scientific leadership. She holds the Italian National Scientific Habilitation (ASN) for Full Professor (ING/INF – 09/H1), positively evaluated on the basis of scientific production, leadership, and academic service.

Work Experience

Since 2022 – Associate Professor of Computer Science, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. Responsibilities include scientific leadership in HCI, coordination of research units and laboratories, management of competitive research projects, teaching at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level, doctoral supervision, and institutional and third-mission service.
2005–2022 – Researcher (RTD-A, RTD-B), Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, with progressive responsibility for research coordination, supervision of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, and development of innovative teaching activities.
2003–2005 – Postdoctoral Researcher, FBK-IRST (Fondazione Bruno Kessler), Trento.
2002–2003 – ERCIM "Alain Bensoussan" Postdoctoral Fellow, CWI, Amsterdam.

Education and Training

1998–2002 – PhD in Computer Science, University of Amsterdam. Dissertation area: Automated Reasoning and Knowledge Representation. Doctoral training provided a strong formal background later transferred to applied and human-centred research in HCI and intelligent systems.

Research Activity and Scientific Production

Author of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications in international journals and conferences, with continuous publication activity from the early 2000s to the present. Journal publications appear in leading Q1 venues including International Journal of Human–Computer Studies, Future Generation Computer Systems, Computers in Human Behavior, and International Journal of Child–Computer Interaction. Her publication record demonstrates sustained productivity, increasing journal output, and thematic coherence. In the majority of publications, Gennari has held a leading scientific role as first author or senior author, typically assuming responsibility for conceptual framing, research design, methodology, and interpretation of results. Publications address participatory and inclusive interaction design, physical computing for learning, responsible and ethical design of socio-technical systems, and technology-enhanced learning. Several contributions are the result of long-term interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Research Leadership and Project Coordination

Scientific and Technological Coordinator of the FP7 European project TERENCE (2010–2013), a 12-partner consortium with a total budget exceeding €2M. In this role, she coordinated scientific activities, led work packages, and presented project outcomes to the European Commission during periodic review meetings, obtaining a final evaluation of

excellence. She also served as Principal Investigator for the unibz unit and WP leader.

Principal Investigator in several competitively funded national and institutional projects, including CRESCO, DARE, TORUS, GOST, GAPH, SOOfA, and SNAP, with responsibility for project design, team coordination, and budget management. Overall management of research funding exceeding €500,000.

Former Head of the Research Unit "Human-Centred Intelligent Systems" and current Head of the Physical Computing Research Laboratory (pc.projects.unibz.it), supporting advanced research, prototyping, and doctoral training.

Teaching, Doctoral Supervision, and Research Training

Teaching activity integrates research and pedagogy through laboratory-based and learner-centred approaches. Courses designed and taught include Maker Lab (Bachelor in Applied Computer Science) and Computer Programming (Master in Applied Linguistics), in addition to PhD-level modules in interaction design, user research for AI, and transdisciplinary workshops, spanning different terms and for longer than 3 years.

Doctoral supervision constitutes a major indicator of scientific maturity. Gennari has supervised or co-supervised at least 5 completed PhD theses in Computer Science between 2007 and 2021 (including dissertations by Ornella Mich, Alessandra Melonio, Andrea Bonani, Mehdi Rizvi, and Eftychia Roumelioti), all successfully completed. Former PhD students currently hold academic or research positions in Italy and abroad. She currently supervises 4 additional PhD candidates in Computer Science and in the interdisciplinary doctoral programme "Experimental Research through Design, Art and Technologies". She has served continuously as member of PhD Committees and as internal or external examiner in doctoral committees at unibz and other international universities (in 2026, she has been invited by N. Iivari to act as external examiner for a PhD in Oulu U., Finland).

Academic and Institutional Service

Recently, Program Co-Chair of AVI 2026 (ACM) and long-standing leadership roles in the MIS4TEL conference series (Springer), including General Chair, Program Chair, and Steering Committee Member across multiple editions. Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Child–Computer Interaction (Elsevier, Q1), and co-editor of more than twelve Springer conference proceedings volumes. Regular Associate Chair acting as meta-reviewer for top-tier international conferences (e.g., CHI, INTERACT, IDC), with responsibility for managing peer-review processes. At institutional level, responsible for long-term research agreements with universities and research institutions such as Ca' Foscari University of Venice, NTNU (Norway), and Politecnico di Milano.

Internationalisation

Sustained international collaborations with institutions in the Netherlands, Norway (NTNU), United Kingdom, Spain (University of Salamanca), United States (RIT), and other countries. Invited speaker at international events, including as Distinguished Speaker at the University of Oxford (Women in Computer Science Series, 2014), international conferences on teaching deaf learners in Amsterdam, and worldwide dissemination events such as World Usability Day. Service as Program Co-Chair, Steering Committee Member, and Associate Chair of international conferences contributes to the international visibility of unibz and to the consolidation of global research networks.

Third Mission and Societal Impact

Member of the Third-Mission Board of the Faculty of Engineering since 2023, with delegated responsibility for initiatives addressing schools, educational stakeholders, and institutional boards. Principal responsible for long-term collaboration and knowledge-transfer agreements with regional authorities for STEM and Artificial Intelligence education, including multi-year agreements with the Province of Bozen-Bolzano, the latest started in December 2025. Coordinator of large-scale outreach initiatives such as STEM School 2025, involving more than 200 participants, and long-standing contributor to fablab and makerlab initiatives (e.g., Bitz FabLab Coordinator for Engineering). Active engagement in teacher training, public dissemination, and citizen-oriented activities is documented by more than 20 media contributions.

Language Skills

Italian: Native; English: C1; German: B2 (reading/listening), B1 (speaking/writing); Dutch: A2.