Responsible Research and Innovation for PhD students

Course Programme 2026

Overview

Responsible Research and Innovation is one of the guiding principles of European Research Policy, that considering research as one of the most important drivers of change in relation to the societal challenges that Europe faces.

The course Responsible Research and Innovation, now in its 6th edition, aims at familiarizing PhD students with the concept, with the purpose to embody it into their research practices. The course will encompass a theoretical background of RRI, examples of application of RRI to different disciplines, and will provide tools for designing research projects based on the RRI approach. Students will be actively involved in the course activities. They will be encouraged to share their thesis topic with other PhD students, to participate to the discussion with guided questions. A practical session on Horizon Europe will allow them to acquire the basic skills for project design.

Contact: prof. Valentina Mangano, valentina.mangano@unipi.it, prof. Gianluca Brunori gianluca.brunori@unipi.it

to register to the course:
'Responsible Research and Innovation' 2026

22 May 2026, 10.00-17.00

Module 1 – What is RRI? Introduction and case studies on RRI.

Aula: Sala Capitini, Palazzo Ricci

This module will introduce the theory of RRI, an overview of the use of RRI in the European Research and will encompass cases studies on the application of RRI in different disciplines. A structured discussion with the students will follow, based on a pre-defined grid of questions.

9:30	Gianluca Brunori	Welcome to participants, presentation of CISP
9:45	Valentina Mangano	Introduction to the course
10:00	Roberto Gronda	What is RRI?
11:00	Cristina Cuneo / Maria Ferrara	Research Ethics and Integrity: the Approach of Politecnico di Torino to Dual-Use Training. Preliminary Reflections on Annual Monitoring
11:30	Coffee break	
12:00	Maria Luisa Chiofalo, Marco Cattaneo	RRI in quantum physics
13:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Interactive session: students discuss their thesis topic in the light of RRI	
17:00	End of first day	

Gianluca Brunori
Gianluca Brunori is Professor of Food Policy at the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Environment at the University of Pisa. His main areas of interest are sustainable food systems

and transformative innovation. He is Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre "Sciences for Peace" and coordinator of the RRI PhD course 2025.

Valentina Mangano

Valentina Mangano is Professor of Parasitology at the Department of Translational Research and New Technologies in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Pisa. Her main research interests are epidemiology and control of poverty associated diseases, and global health. She is Vice-Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre "Sciences for Peace".

Roberto Gronda

Roberto Gronda is an Associate Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pisa. His fields of research are the philosophy of scientific expertise and the history of the philosophy of science, with a particular interest in pragmatism. He is the author of *Dewey's Philosophy of Science*(Springer, 2020), and of several essays in philosophy journals. He has recently coedited, with M. Janack and G. Marchetti, *Pragmatism and Philosophy of Science. Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (Routledge , 2025), and, with A. Tuboly, *Ernest Nagel on Science and Philosophy* (Springer 2025).

Maria Luisa Chiofalo

Marilù Chiofalo is a quantum physicist specialized in the design of quantum technologies for condensed matter, fundamental physics, neuroscience and biology applications, in fact a cross-discipline more recently engendered by encounters with inspiring women-scientist colleagues. She has introduced the physics outreach research, i.e. of methods and tools to educate and outreach citizens to quantum science, while coordinating the European QUTE4E pilot of the QTEdu initiative.

Marco Cattaneo

Cristina Cuneo

Cristina Cuneo, PhD, architect, is an associate professor (History of architecture) of Politecnico di Torino; her research focuses on the architecture and urban history of 16th and 17th century; she teaches History of Architecture in Early Modern Age and Environmental History of Architecture. She his scientific coordinator of the project CAMELOT "Heritage lab: loCAl Motion for hEritage-led sustainability in the Industria piLOT" in partnership with Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA. In 2023 she was visiting researcher at the Departamento de Historia del Arte (Universidad Complutense de Madrid UCM). She is currently member of the Academic Senate at Politecnico di Torino

29 May 2026, 10.00-17.00

Module 2 – RRI: case studies

Aula: Aldo Capitini - Via del Collegio Ricci 10

9:00	Francesco di Iacovo	Introduction to the second day
9:30	Maria Chiara Pievatolo	Open science: what is it and what can it be?
10:30	Anna Monreale	Responsible Artificial Intelligence
11:00	Maria Minunni	Innovative Analytical Chemistry for Responsible Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation
11:30	Coffee break	
11:30	Alberto Elmi	Building a Culture of Care: Responsibility in the Use of Experimental Animals
12:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Interactive session: students discuss their thesis topic in the light of RRI	
17:00	End of second day	

Francesco di Iacovo

Francesco di Iacovo is the Director of the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Pisa. He is professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development. His main areas of research are multifunctional agriculture, social farming and social innovation. He has 30+ years experience in coordinating and managing European Projects.

Maria Chiara Pievatolo

Maria Chiara Pievatolo (Florence, Italy, 1963) is professor of political philosophy at the university of Pisa. She is one of the earliest Italian proponents and practitioners of open (as in "free" or "libre") scholarly principles. She founded one of the oldest Italian OA journals in the humanities and social sciences, the "Bollettino telematico di filosofia politica". She is also a founding member of the Italian Association for the promotion of Open Science (AISA), of which she is currently president. Inspired by the philosophy of GPL she is interested in forms of copyright (such as Kant's) that are alternative to intellectual property and thus capable of taking seriously the interest of the public use of reason and the knowledge commons.

Anna Monreale

Associate Professor at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Pisa and member of the KDD-Lab, a joint research center with ISTICNR. Her research focuses on big data analytics, social networks, and privacy issues in the analysis of personal and sensitive data. She has taken part in several European projects, including PETRA on smartcity mobility. She was a visiting researcher at the Stevens Institute of Technology (2010) and at the University of New Brunswick (2014). She earned her Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Pisa in 2011 with a thesis on "Privacybydesign in data mining." She is also Deputy Director of the Big Data Master and vicerector for Masters and lifelong learning.

Alberto Elmi

Alberto Elmi is Associate Professor of Veterinary Physiology at the Department of Veterinary Sciences, University of Pisa. His research focuses on reproductive physiology, animal welfare, laboratory animal science and translational medicine.. He is actlually resident of European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. He is currently Deputy Director of the Veterinary Analytical Centre of Excellence of the Department of Veterinary Sciences, and Head of the Translational Medicine Unit. He is actively involved in national and international scientific societies in laboratory animal science and veterinary physiology.

Maria Minunni

Full Professor of Analytical Chemistry. She worked abroad at Nestlé Research Centre (CH), Pharmacia Biosensor AB (SE), Technical University of Munich (DE), and University College Cork (IE), specializing in affinity-based biosensing. She joined the University of Florence, Department of chemistry "Ugo Schiff" in 1999 up to 2023, when she moved to the University of Pisa, Department of Pharmacy. Her research focuses on bioanalytical assays, affinity sensing, biomimetic receptors, and low cost spectroscopic platforms in a view of sustainability. She serves on editorial boards of Talanta, Sensing and Bio-Sensing Research, and is Associate Editor of Sensors and Actuators Reports.