



Editorial

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Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the third issue of *PRNR*, continuing our exploration of the rich intersections between the life sciences and the humanities. Titled *Embracing the Incremental: Preliminary Insights and Methodological Considerations in Life Science and Humanities*, this issue underscores our ongoing commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue—particularly where early-stage research contributes meaningfully to broader theoretical and empirical conversations.

We begin this issue with an exclusive interview with **Prof. Giacomo Rizzolatti** (Massimino, 2025), “*Ten Key Questions on the Importance of Preliminary Reports and Negative Results for Scientific Research.*” In this thoughtful exchange, Prof. Rizzolatti reflects on the value of early findings, the often-overlooked role of null results, and the broader implications of methodological transparency for scientific progress. His insights set the tone for the contributions that follow, which likewise embrace the provisional and evolving nature of interdisciplinary inquiry.

Immanuel Kant’s invocation of the “starry heavens above” and the “moral law within” remains a resonant metaphor for the dual nature of human inquiry—one that seeks to reconcile the objective and the subjective, the empirical and the existential. This spirit of integration animates the contributions gathered here, all of which engage with complex questions through diverse methodological lenses. Rather than definitive conclusions, the emphasis in this issue falls on preliminary findings, methodological transparency, and the epistemological scaffolding that supports future research.

In this spirit, Certo’s review (Certo, 2025) of Lucifora and Vicario’s (2023) *Il cervello morale* offers an illuminating reflection on the interplay of philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence. The text is examined not merely for its content, but for its methodological framework—a rigorous attempt to synthesize cognitive science with normative inquiry. In highlighting this integration, Certo draws attention to one of the central challenges of interdisciplinary work: navigating the convergence of empirical data and conceptual analysis with clarity and coherence.

A similarly grounded approach is evident in Spanò’s contribution (Spanò, 2025), which evaluates the *Magna Grecia Park* project in Crotona through the lens of Smart Tourism. By situating the analysis within the socio-economic and cultural context of Southern Italy, the paper provides a critical assessment of feasibility and sustainability. Importantly, the author does not seek to predict outcomes with unwarranted certainty but rather to map potential trajectories with due attention to the limitations and contingencies that shape real-world applications. This form of case-study analysis exemplifies the constructive role of early evaluations in public policy and development studies.

Falzone's paper (Falzone, 2025) takes a more conceptual turn, addressing the epistemological foundations necessary for bridging cognitive science and psychopathology. Advocating for a shared conceptual ground rooted in neuroscience, ethology, and evolutionary theory, the author emphasizes the need for theoretical synthesis in fields often marked by fragmentation. The absence of immediate empirical data does not diminish the value of the work; rather, the paper's strength lies in its careful delineation of theoretical boundaries and its invitation to future empirical elaboration.

The contribution by Cardile et al. (2025) presents a single-case study exploring the utility of skin-conductance responses (SCR) as a potential diagnostic marker for disorders of consciousness (DoC). The findings—though preliminary—suggest that SCR modulation in response to emotionally salient stimuli may offer clinically relevant information. The authors are explicit about the study's limitations, notably the small sample size, and call for further replication. Yet, in doing so, they uphold the very ethos of this issue: a recognition that even tentative results, when transparently presented, can serve as a steppingstone toward more robust clinical applications.

Finally, in continuity with a previous work of this research team (Casula et al., 2024), Casula et al. (2025) offer a timely and original investigation into the cognitive and moral underpinnings of vaccine hesitancy in the post-pandemic context. By combining the Moral Foundations Questionnaire with structured moral dilemmas and analyzing the moderating role of COVID-19 misinformation susceptibility, the authors show that higher endorsement of authoritarian values and specific moral decision-making patterns predict greater vaccine hesitancy. Strikingly, these effects are amplified among more informed individuals. This contribution extends our understanding of how ethical appraisal and epistemic vulnerability shape public health attitudes and highlights the crucial role of nuanced psychological and sociocultural frameworks in addressing complex behavioral phenomena.

Taken together, the articles in this issue exemplify the value of incremental research: work that may be preliminary in scope but is nevertheless foundational in its implications. Through methodological rigor and a candid acknowledgment of limitations, these contributions affirm our belief that interdisciplinary inquiry—when pursued with intellectual honesty and conceptual clarity—can illuminate not only what we know, but how we come to know it.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial board for their continued commitment to this project, and we invite our readers to engage with these works in the spirit in which they are offered: as open-ended inquiries, grounded in method and animated by curiosity.

Warm regards,

The Editorial Team

PRNR – Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences Research

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