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## Maurice Anthony Finocchiaro

Revised November 29, 2013



My family immigrated from Italy in 1957. Three years later, I entered MIT as a regular American student, majoring in “Humanities and Science” (Course XXI-B), specifically philosophy and physics. Then I attended graduate school at the University of California-Berkeley, receiving a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1969, and specializing in logic and philosophy of science. At Berkeley, I met and married Ramona, an undergraduate majoring in art; we are still married. From 1970-2003, I taught at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, promoted to associate professor in 1974, tenure in 1976, full professor in 1977; and appointed department chair from 1989-2000, distinguished professor in 1991, and emeritus in 2003. Since early retirement in 2003, I work full time on scholarly research, free of teaching and administrative duties.

My research involves three interrelated areas. One is logic, critical thinking, and argumentation theory, where I follow a practical, applied, and empirical approach, sensitive to actual reasoning as recorded in written texts; this may be seen in my *Arguments about Arguments* (Cambridge University Press, 2005). Another area is philosophy of science, where I follow an historical approach, studying important episodes and figures to learn about the nature of scientific method and its relationship to religion, philosophy, art, etc.; this may be found in my *The Galileo Affair* (University of California Press, 1989). My third area is social-political philosophy, which I approach by way of a critical examination of the views advanced by 20th century Italian thinkers; this is apparent in my *Beyond Right and Left: Democratic Elitism in Mosca and Gramsci* (Yale University Press, 1999). For these and other similar projects, I was also supported by grants, fellowships, and awards from the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Guggenheim Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, and International Society for the Study of Argumentation.

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