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To Whom It May Concern

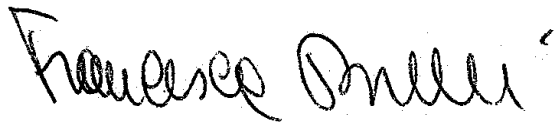
I have known Dr. Francesca Ferrando since her participation in the contest for a Doctorate in Philosophy and Theory of Human Sciences at the University of Roma Tre, in the academic year 2008-2009. Dr. Ferrando won the competition and received an excellent evaluation by the whole jury, which immediately appreciated her professionalism and scientific commitment, her intellectual acuity and knowledge. As a tutor of the candidate in her doctoral work I had many meetings and conversations with Dr. Ferrando, and I confirmed this first opinion. Not only do I value her methodologies and theoretical assumptions in Women's and Gender Studies, but I also highly appreciate the specific perspective she is addressing in her field of studies, creating a very innovative approach in Italy. The research Dr. Ferrando is pursuing is characterized by great originality of methods and content with specific attention to the Post-Human movement, which has not received much attention in Europe. She wonders whether the Post-Modern Era has dissolved into a Post-Human or a Trans-Human Era, and she follows specific routes of thought. In her research she addresses Feminist Epistemology, Cyberfeminism and Criticism of Science as fundamental theoretical standpoints.

Her research demonstrates a wide and versatile formation, which comprehends various fields of knowledge (from contemporary philosophy to psychology, from literature to film studies, from comics to virtual reality.) The multidimensionality of her work does not disguise a solid preparation not only in Philosophy, but also in the Human Sciences. The specific field in which the candidate has already demonstrated excellent capacities is the one characterized by the classic and "hard" question: What does it mean to be "human"? This question indicates the precise field investigated by Dr. Ferrando, and also represents the most innovative and transgressive focus for the contemporary philosophical debate. In fact, a second question arises out of the first: what are the borders between being human and being a cyborg? Dr. Ferrando chooses a specific philosophical path which, after Nietzsche and Heidegger, postulates a "deconstruction" of the identity, in line with the most significant trends in contemporary philosophy. In particular, Dr. Ferrando has developed a double interest and so a double investigation in her studies and research. On one side, the conditions of global culture, the perspectives of new technologies and the dimensions of a post-human world are announcing homologated and destructive outcomes. On the other, they unfold a unique dynamic potential in the increasing multiplication of differences. Finally, her research explores the more disturbing question: as a category distorting the subject and the world itself, is the post-human compatible with criticism, ethics and politics?

In my interaction with Dr. Ferrando, I have come to appreciate her ability to work seriously and

continuously; her dedication and rigorous attempt to delve into her subjects with remarkable maturity and autonomy; and also her pragmatic skills in organizing cultural events, interdisciplinary debates and discussions among colleagues and teachers. Dr. Ferrando's research is characterized by great originality in her methods and contents. Her work begins by noting that identity is not something given, but it is always the result of an action under which a line - never final - is drawn between the identical and the different, the interior and the exterior, the friend and the foe, the self and the alien. In particular, on the question regarding the boundary between being human and being a cyborg, she reinterprets the studies that have established a radical change in the historical and ontological vision of the human. Adopting and privileging a gender perspective and an approach rooted in the Philosophy of the Difference, Dr. Ferrando analyzes the philosophical consequences of the scientific-technological revolution which, since the second half of the twentieth century, have affected the concept of human *tout court*, leading to its necessary reconfiguration. Dr. Ferrando explores the tensions that inhabit the individual and over which the individual has no control, trespassing the limits that separate the "normal" from the "pathological". Her research also addresses issues related to ethical and moral inner conflicts of modern civilizations, threatened by the new uncertainty concerning their defining boundaries. Dr. Ferrando's research deals with the deepest questions affecting human knowledge, in particular philosophy and psychology, as disciplines directly related to the formation of the individual identity. Nevertheless, the enigma of identity formation emerges forcefully in contemporary history, investing the collective subjects.

Sincerely,
Prof. Francesca Brezzi

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francesca Brezzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'F'.