The Valencia Philosophy Lab was founded just ten years ago, but its roots go back to the early 1970s. The Universitat de València was a pioneer in the reception of analytic philosophy, with professors such as Manuel Garrido, founder of *Teorema*, playing an important role in its early development. Against this significant historical background, the figure who contributed most to shaping the philosophical and human ethos that ultimately influenced the dynamics of the Valencia Philosophy Lab was Josep Lluís Blasco Estellés (1940–2003), Professor in the Department of Metaphysics and Theory of Knowledge.

Blasco introduced the work of authors such as Carnap, Quine, and Wittgenstein in Valencia. The author or co-author of several major works, he founded the Societat de Filosofia del País Valencià in the early 1980s. In recognition of his civic and intellectual career, in 2005 the Universitat de València, at the initiative of Tobies Grimaltos, created the Càtedra Blasco de Filosofia i Ciutadania, which is currently one of the Valencia Philosophy Lab's most important instruments for promoting philosophy.

Under the auspices of Blasco and other colleagues such as Rafael Beneyto, Enric Casaban, and Alfonso García Suárez, analytic philosophy gained renewed momentum during the 1980s and 1990s. Numerous international symposia were organised, with distinguished invited speakers including W. O. Quine, David Pears, and Peter F. Strawson. During this period, a new generation of philosophers joined the group: Josep Corbí, Tobies Grimaltos, Valeriano Iranzo, Julián Marrades, Josep Lluís Prades, Nicolás Sánchez, and Vicente Sanfélix. In 1995, the Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy (SEFA) was founded in Valencia at the initiative of Carlos Moya, who became its first president.

This research activity crystallised at the beginning of the twenty-first century in two research groups: Phrónesis and Méthodos. Phrónesis was mainly composed of scholars affiliated with the UV Department of Metaphysics and Theory of Knowledge, including Josep Corbí, Miracle Garrido, Tobies Grimaltos, Carlos Moya, Sergi Rosell, and Jordi Valor, although it also included researchers from the University of Murcia, such as María José Alcaraz, Paco Calvo, and Francisca Pérez Carreño. The group addressed contemporary debates in the philosophy of language and philosophy of mind, as well as issues in metaethics and aesthetics. Phrónesis was responsible for several initiatives that continue to this day, including the founding in 2002 of the Inter-University Workshop on Art, Mind, and Morality and, together with the Logos group, the creation in 2006 of the Nomos Network for Analytic Philosophy. Méthodos, by contrast, focused on issues in the philosophy and methodology of science and was affiliated with the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science. The group has been coordinated by Valeriano Iranzo, and its initiatives include several editions of the Meeting in Philosophy, Probability and Scientific Method.

Phrónesis and Méthodos provided the starting point for the Valencia Philosophy Lab, although the arrival of new researchers with strong international profiles was crucial to the creation and development of the VLC Lab. These included Jordi Valor (2009) and Sergi Rosell (2016), both trained at the Universitat de València but with research stays in Sheffield, Oxford, and St Andrews; Pablo Rychter (2010) and Marc Artiga (2016), who were trained in the Logos group; and Chon Tejedor (2017), who was trained at Oxford and came to Valencia from Hertfordshire. Following these appointments, the need to rethink the organisational structure of research in analytic philosophy in Valencia became

apparent. It was at this point that the decisive step towards the creation of the VLC Lab was taken. At the founding meeting, held on 27 June 2017, the group was formally established and officially named the "Valencia Philosophy Lab". The Lab was initially coordinated by Marc Artiga and Pablo Rychter, and its founding members were Josep Corbí, Tobies Grimaltos, Carlos Moya, Valeriano Iranzo, Sergi Rosell, Chon Tejedor, and Jordi Valor. The group also already included several predoctoral researchers: Virginia Ballesteros, Anna L. Batalla, Marta Cabrera, Joan Gimeno Simó, and Saúl Pérez González.

From an organisational perspective, the VLC Lab was inspired by a model that had already been successfully adopted by other groups, particularly Logos. Its backbone was, and remains, the Valencia Colloquium in Philosophy, a fortnightly seminar in which invited researchers and Lab members present and discuss their work. This central activity was complemented by various reading groups and other events, including workshops and conferences.

A seemingly minor decision, but one whose impact should not be underestimated, was the adoption of English as the Lab's official language, both for its activities and for internal communication. In 2017, all members of the group were fluent in Catalan and Spanish, and the application of this criterion therefore sometimes felt somewhat artificial. In the medium term, however, the decision played a decisive role in encouraging international researchers to consider visiting the group and even to move to the Universitat de València on postdoctoral contracts.

Shortly after the group was formed, several members secured new projects funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation. Since 1997, the Phrónesis group had received funding through various projects from the Ministry and the Generalitat Valenciana under the direction of Carlos Moya and Josep Corbí. The creation of the VLC Lab, however, led to a significant increase in the number of projects, the thematic diversity of those projects, and the range of funding sources. The first project within this new structure was *Intercultural Understanding, Belonging and Value: Wittgensteinian Approaches* (2018–2022; PI: Chon Tejedor), soon followed by *Eliminativism, Fictionalism and Expressivism. The Possibility of a Negative Metaphysical Verdict about a Discourse* (2020–2023; PIs: Pablo Rychter and Víctor Verdejo).

Since 2018, the group has secured nine projects funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation, five of which are still ongoing, led or co-led by a member of the Lab. The Lab has also received funding from the Generalitat Valenciana. Since 2022, it has secured three two-year emerging research projects awarded by the Conselleria de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, as well as a four-year Scientific Excellence project for Junior Researchers. Thanks to the latter project, the group hired its first support officer, Jorge Guardiola, whose contribution to the organisation of activities and coordination of the Lab has been invaluable. In 2024, the Generalitat Valenciana awarded the PROMETEO excellence-group project *Autonomy as Address* (CIPROM/2023/55), which came with substantial funding that enabled the recruitment of an additional support officer, Sandra Navalón, and two postdoctoral researchers, Fabian Hundertmark and Laura Delgado. This is the first project to encompass the majority of the Lab's members. Several members of the group are currently exploring the possibility of applying for European research projects as well.

The VLC Philosophy Lab team has also evolved considerably since its foundation in 2017. On the one hand, coinciding with a period of generational renewal in the Department of Philosophy, a number of new assistant professors joined the group: Víctor Verdejo (2019, until his move to Universitat Pompeu Fabra in 2023 on a Ramón y Cajal fellowship), Víctor J. Luque (2021), Saúl Pérez (2022), Virginia Ballesteros (2023), Manuel Almagro (2023), Pilar Terrés (2023), Lorenzo Baravalle (2024), and Carlota Serrahima (2024, currently in Copenhagen on a Marie Curie fellowship). On the other hand, the Lab has attracted a considerable number of postdoctoral researchers. Through the Ramón y Cajal programme, Anna Giustina (2023), Daniel Gregory (2025), and Jean Moritz Müller (2026) joined the group. Thanks to the Juan de la Cierva programme and similar schemes, the Lab has also hosted Manuel Almagro, Aarón Álvarez, Paolo Bonardi, Francesco Consiglio, Aida Roige, and Benjamin Matheson.

Although space constraints make it impossible to provide a more detailed account of other aspects of the group or of important debates that have taken place within it, several organisational milestones of recent years are worth highlighting. In 2019, the VLC Lab organised the Ninth Congress of the Spanish Society for Analytic Philosophy, a major challenge for a group still in its early stages, which helped consolidate the Lab and increase its visibility. More recently, two editions of the Summer School have been organised (2025 and 2026), comprising a full week of activities—including talks, discussion sessions, professional-development sessions, and cultural activities—with the participation of around thirty researchers from around the world. The Summer School has been possible thanks to the organisational expertise of the entire group, but above all that of Anna Giustina and Carlota Serrahima. The Valencia Rural Lab also deserves special mention: a working weekend in the mountains involving all members of the group, designed to help us become better acquainted with one another's work and to strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration.

The group's commitment to training is manifested primarily in its efforts to create an environment conducive to doctoral education. Since 2017, seven people have completed their PhDs within the context of the Lab—Carmen Martínez Sáez, Marta Cabrera, Virginia Ballesteros, Ana L. Batalla, Joan Gimeno-Simó, Saúl Pérez-González, and Javier Castellote—and a further thirteen doctoral theses are currently in progress by researchers holding predoctoral contracts. Since 2024, the Lab has also coordinated an annual teaching-innovation project aimed at undergraduate students, with the goal of promoting research in philosophy at that level. Finally, professional-development sessions for predoctoral researchers are organised every year, as are talks for secondary-school teachers on topics in analytic philosophy through the Càtedra Josep L. Blasco.

As regards its integration into research networks, the Lab maintains very close ties with other groups in its institutional environment, including Logos-BIAP in Catalonia, METIS at UNED, Filolab at the University of Granada, and ARESMUR at the University of Murcia. It also works closely with a number of international researchers who regularly participate in the activities it organises—María Álvarez, Christopher Bennett, David Liggins, Jennifer Saul, and Nicholas Shea, among others—as well as with international institutions, notably the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The Valencia Philosophy Lab currently has 21 senior members and 15 predoctoral researchers. We have hosted 17 visitors, including María Álvarez, Diana Pérez, Fintan Mallory, and Miguel Ángel Sebastián. In the 2025–26 academic year alone, the Lab

organised 20 conferences or workshops, 16 sessions of the VLC Colloquium, and 10 reading groups. Yet, in our view, the greatest virtue of the VLC Philosophy Lab lies in the care, good humour, and commitment with which we treat one another. This is not something that can be captured in figures or fully expressed in words, but it is a virtue that we are determined to preserve and foster.

Marc Artiga
Pablo Rychter