Amilcare Porporato earned a Master Degree in Civil Engineering (summa cum laude) in 1992 and a Ph.D. in Hydraulic Engineering in 1996 from the Polytechnic of Turin, where he was appointed as a researcher and then associate professor. He moved to Duke University in 2003, where he became the Addy professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering with a secondary appointment with the Nicholas School of the Environment. Currently is the Thomas J Wu '94 Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the High Meadows Environmental Institute at Princeton University.

Porporato received the Arturo Parisatti International Price, awarded by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere e Arti (1996), was Research Associate at the Texas A&M University (USA) in 1998 and Visiting Scholar at Princeton University (USA), from 1999 to 2001. In 2008-2009 he was the first Landolt & Cie Visiting Chair in "Innovative Strategies for a sustainable Future" at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. He was awarded the 2007 Professor Senol Utku' award, the 2010 Earl Brown II Outstanding Civil Engineering Faculty Award, and in 2011 he received a Lagrange fellowship from the Polytechnic of Turin, the CRT bank and the Institute for Scientific Interchange. In 2012 he was elected an AGU fellow. He gave the 2015 Borland lecture in Hydrology at the Hydrology Days and was awarded the 2016 AGU Hydrology award. Highly cited researcher (2018 and 2019) and the Dalton Medal (EGU) in 2022.

Porporato has been Editor of Water Resources Research (AGU) (2004-2009) and Hydrological Processes (2011-2017). He is also member of the editorial board of Entropy, Advances in Water Resources, and the Hydrologic Science Journal. Among other things, he was chairman and convener of the Ecohydrology sessions of the AGU Spring Meeting in 2001 and 2002 and of the EGU in 2004-2006. Porporato has been part of the Italian research groups of Turbulence and Vorticity and of Climate, Soil and Vegetation Interaction, an adviser for real-time forecasting in the Piedmont Region (Italy), and ecohydrology (US National Academy).

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Porporato's didactic experience comprises courses in Environmental Fluid Mechanics, Hydraulics, Hydraulic Constructions, Statistical and Physical Hydrology, Ecohydrology, Nonlinear Dynamics and Stochastic Processes. He has also been the didactic coordinator for the International School "Hydroaid: Water for Development", co-organized by the Polytechnic of Turin and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Porporato is author of more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, several publications presented at national and international conferences and invited talks. He is also co-author of the book "Ecohydrology of water controlled ecosystems" (Cambridge UP, 2004), Ecohydrology: dynamics of life and water in the critical zone (Cambridge UP 2022) and the edited the book "Dryland Ecohydrology" (Springer, 2005).