

## Furio Semerari – Curriculum

Graduated in Philosophy in 1976 at the University of Bari, I was assistant in charge of Philosophy of law, in the years 1979-1981, at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the same University. Researcher from 1982 to 2002, associate professor from 2002 to 2006, full professor since 2006 in the Moral Philosophy field at the University of Bari, I held, at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the same University, from 1993-1994 to 2007-2008, the teaching of History of moral philosophy, from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014, of Ethics of Relationships, from 2014-2015 to today, of Moral Philosophy and, from 2004-2005 to today, also that of Communication Ethics.

I was part of the editorial office or the scientific committee of the magazines: "Scienze umane" (1978-1980), "Lectures" (1979-1980), "Paradigmi" (1993-1996), "Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia" (2011-2015).

I was a member of the Faculty of the Doctorate in Ambiente, Medicina e Salute for the cycles of XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXV (administrative seat of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bari) and of the PhD program in Ambiente, Medicina e Salute of the Doctoral School in Scienze del Benessere for the cycles XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII (administrative seat of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bari).

## Research activity

My research was initially oriented towards the problems of communication considered from an ethical, social and political perspective. Of this interest, subsequently taken up and continued in other forms than those initially assumed, some studies have been born on the theory of the argumentation of Chaim Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca, on the relationship between conservation or, on the contrary, change of social systems and ideology, on certain contemporary expressions of the search for consensus. These researches, dating back to the second half of the '70s and the early '80s, and published mainly in magazines, were then merged, together with other studies, in the volume *Relazioni morali. Forme e Problemi* (2001).

A further phase of the research took the form of an investigation into the moral, juridical and political reflection of the seventeenth century, as shown by the works of Hobbes, Locke, Pascal, La Rochefoucauld, Gracián, La Bruyère. To this phase belong the volumes *Potenza come diritto. Hobbes Locke Pascal* (1992) and *La fine della virtù. La Rochefoucauld Gracián La Bruyère* (1993). The first volume highlighted the link between Hobbes and Locke, between subjective power (deployed in the form of work) and subjective right (freedom, happiness, property, etc.), in the sense that the subjective right is defined on the basis of the power unfolded by the individual subject, and the different perspective of Pascal, which considers any form of earthly justice imaginary, and invites, however, to respect as a function of peace relations that its observance guarantees. In the second volume, the criticism of the seventeenth-century "moralists" on the fictional character of moral "virtues", which, in their apparent altruism, generally hide a basically selfish interest.

A subsequent moment of my research has been the analysis of some themes and problems, which emerge from the Nietzschean reflection, in particular, on the one hand, the theme of limit and measure and, on the other, that of the relation of otherness through the identification of three fundamental modalities, traceable in the Nietzschean work, of relationship with the other: the appropriation/nutrition relationship, the relationship of cruelty, the relationship of care. Expressions of this phase are the volumes *Il gioco dei limiti. L'idea di esistenza in Nietzsche* (1993) and *Il predone, il barbaro, il giardiniere. Il tema dell'altro in Nietzsche* (2000).

Another moment of research consisted in an analysis of the moral, psychological and social condition of man in the era of post-modernity: a condition marked by a great individualism and a

tendential indifference towards others. This phase of the research was expressed in the volumes *Individualismo e comunità. Moderno, postmoderno e oltre* (2005) and *Indifferenza postmoderna* (2009), that, while carrying out an analysis of the condition of the postmodern man characterized in the said sense, also underline the emergence, in the epoch of post-modernity, of processes and movements, both theoretical and practical, oriented in a different and opposite direction respect to the prevailing individualism and indifference, such as the development of the solidarity economy, of volunteerism, of animalist and ecological ethics.

Since the mid-90s I have edited some collective volumes on themes that have already emerged or are connected to the research of the previous and following years, and focused, as appropriate, on general theoretical questions concerning the sphere of moral reflection, on questions concerning the condition of man in post-modern society, on the theme of communication and of one's responsibility in communication to other human and non-human beings. The volumes are as follows: *Amore. Itinerari di un'idea* (1996), *Il viaggio e la dimora. Tra metafora e realtà* (2003), *Il senso della comunità, oggi* (2010), *Metropolitania. Aspetti e forme di vita della città postmoderna* (2011), *Etica ed estetica del volto* (2013), *Stili di vita, senso della vita* (2015), *Che cosa vale. Dell'istanza etica* (2017).