Opening Conference

Conceptual and Normative Underpinnings of Religion & Innovation Discourses: Social and Cultural Perspectives

Trento | January 25-26, 2018

Programme

Thursday, 25 January 2018

18.00 - 19.30   **Perché Dio cambia lingua?**
Dinamiche d'innovazione nella comunicazione religiosa
Massimo Leone, University of Turin, Senior Fellow of the IFK, Vienna

Friday, 26 January 2018

9.30 - 10.00   **Religion & Innovation. Our mission and the workshop series**
Marco Ventura, Fondazione Bruno Kessler

10.00 - 10.40   **Sociological perspectives on innovation: from "social impact"**
to "collective experimentation"
Federico Neresini, University of Padua

10.40 - 11.20   **Geography, Social Innovation and Leadership**
Marc Parés, Autonomous University of Barcelona

11.20 - 11.50   Break

11.50 - 12.20   ***Response and Discussion***
Response to Federico Neresini and Marc Parés
Matteo Bortolini, University of Padua

12.20 - 13.00   **Discussion**

13.00 - 14.30   Lunch

14.30 - 15.10   **What is cultural innovation? How do we measure it?**
Riccardo Pozzo, University of Verona

15.10 - 15.50   **The Religion of Connectedness**
Massimo Leone, University of Turin, Senior Fellow of the IFK, Vienna

15.50 - 16.20   Break

16.20 - 16.50   *Response and Discussion*
Response to Riccardo Pozzo and Massimo Leone
Boris Rähme, Fondazione Bruno Kessler

16.50 - 17.20   **Final discussion**

Abstracts

The Religion of Connectedness
Massimo Leone, University of Turin, Senior Fellow of the International Research Centre for Cultural Studies, Vienna

"To be connected with the whole": what does it mean? This or similar sentences often occur in the discourse of various present-day spiritual trends. They circulate through the contemporary culture by means of sundry texts and media. Even more significantly, they turn into the many stereotypical fragments through which society constructs its everyday discourse. "I feel connected with the whole" is a phrase that is often heard during night conversations among friends over a glass of wine. The purpose of this paper is to investigate both the sociocultural and the semiotic meaning of affirmations of this kind, aiming at a more encompassing critique of the concept itself of interconnectedness. What does it actually mean, "to be connected"? Delving into the semantic field of connection, interconnectedness, etc. is essential in an epoch in which the terms derived from such semantic field often constitute the linguistic and textual cornerstones of the prevailing digital rhetoric of our times, a rhetoric according to which there would be a value in the passive status of "being connected" as well as in the active status of "connecting".

Sociological perspectives on innovation: from "social impact" to "collective experimentation"
Federico Neresini, University of Padua

The presentation starts analyzing critically the well-established vision for which innovation can be described as the result of a linear process triggered by scientific research, then carried on by industry realizing new technological artifacts, finally ending with an increasing impact the more those new artifacts are diffused within the social context. Based on this critical discussion, an alternative concept of innovation will be suggested, the so-called "co-evolutionary model", that sounds more consistent with the recent sociological perspectives. Such a co-evolutionary vision is indeed built on the researches and the theoretical reflections developed within the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS), and specifically by authors like Bijker and Latour. Looking at innovation in terms of a "collective experimentation", it becomes possible to recognize the relevance of an array of actors otherwise taking a backseat in the innovation process; they are therefore transformed in active subjects for the development and the success of innovation, rather than remaining mere beneficiaries.

Geography, Social Innovation and Leadership
Marc Parés, **Autonomous University of Barcelona**

Realizing that governments would not solve the post-crisis aggravated community problems, social and religious organizations responded with creative solutions to their constituents' new landscape of scarcity. These socially innovative solutions are usually conceptualized as a way of improving territorial development. However, little attention has been paid to the dynamics by which responses emerge and how social change could be effectively accomplished. Bringing together disruptive theories of social innovation and constructionist theories of collective leadership this paper delves on the context-agency debate. In so doing we identify the main challenges for a novel approach to analysing social change at community level. On one hand, we emphasize that social innovation does not emerge anywhere or at any time; not all communities produce the same type of initiatives nor to the same degree. The paper draws upon the Urban Studies literature on the influence of neighbourhood characteristics on the life-chances of individuals to better understand how and why social innovation emerges. On the other hand, to better understand how things are getting done in these organizations the paper challenges leader-centred traditional understandings and propose instead highlighting the collective nature of leadership. Three types of leadership practices are introduced and described: unleashing human energies, bridging difference and reframing discourse.

What is cultural innovation? How do we measure it?
Riccardo Pozzo, **University of Verona**

"Cultural innovation" sounds like an oxymoron. It is not, though. It is something real that tops up social and technological innovation. How can we measure 'cultural innovation'? The answer is, as a result of co-creation. Items of cultural innovation are: content providers such as museums, science centres and libraries, as well as processes triggered by issues such as cosmopolitanism, inclusiveness, mobility, migration, heritage and creativity. Measuring the impact is fundamental to improve societal acceptance of public investment in culture, because these measurements may provide a basis for aligning research and innovation with the values, needs and expectations of society. In recent years, it has become clear that co-creation plays a central role within open innovation, because a 'specific innovation can no longer be seen as the result of predefined and isolated innovation activities but rather as the outcome of a complex co-creation process involving knowledge flows across the entire economic and social environment' (Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World, 2016). Yet, an accepted methodology is still lacking. The objective of this paper is to develop and test a methodology to measure the impact of technology transfer from basic research to industry application and its cultural and socio-economic effects.

Biographies

MATTEO BORTOLINI is an Associate professor in sociology at the University of Padova, where he teaches Logica delle scienze sociali, Social Dynamics of Local Development, and Foundations of the Social Sciences. In the past, Bortolini taught at the universities of Verona, Bologna, Harvard, and California at Berkeley. He has been a co-editor of the international scholarly review, Sociologica, from 2013 to 2015, and is currently an associate editor of Serendipities. His scholarly interests range from the sociology of ideas and intellectuals to the historical sociology of the Italian and American social sciences, the sociology of religion, and social and political theory. In the last few years he wrote a short institutional history of Italian sociology with Andrea Cossu (Palgrave, 2017). He is currently writing a full-fledged sociological biography of the late sociologist and theologian Robert N. Bellah as a case study in the sociology of ideas. His writings have been published, among other venues, on "Theory & Society", "The American Sociologist", "The European Legacy", "Sociologica", "Studi culturali", "Politica e Società", "Rassegna italiana di sociologia" and "European Journal of Social Theory".

MASSIMO LEONE is Professor of Semiotics, Cultural Semiotics, and Visual Semiotics at the Department of Philosophy, University of Turin, Italy. He graduated in Communication Studies from the University of Siena, and holds a DEA in History and Semiotics of Texts and Documents from Paris VII, an MPhil in Word and Image Studies from Trinity College Dublin, a PhD in Religious Studies from the Sorbonne, and a PhD in Art History from the University of Fribourg (CH). He was visiting scholar at the CNRS in Paris, at the CSIC in Madrid, Fulbright Research Visiting Professor at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Endeavour Research Award Visiting Professor at the School of English, Performance, and Communication Studies at Monash University, Melbourne, Faculty Research Grant Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto, "Mairie de Paris" Visiting Professor at the Sorbonne, DAAD Visiting Professor at the University of Potsdam, Visiting Professor at the École Normale Supérieure of Lyon (Collegium de Lyon), Visiting Professor at the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Munich, Visiting Professor at the University of Kyoto, Visiting Professor at the Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University, Visiting Professor at The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, Eadington Fellow at the Center for Gaming Research, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Fellow of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg „Dynamics in the History of Religions Between Asia and Europe" (Bochum, Germany), Visiting Senior Professor at the Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Vienna, and High-End Foreign Expert and Visiting Professor at the University of Shanghai, China. His work focuses on the role of religion in modern and contemporary cultures. Massimo Leone has single-authored seven books, _Religious Conversion and Identity: The Semiotic Analysis of Texts_ (London and New York: Routledge, 2004; 242 pp.), _Saints and

Signs: A Semiotic Reading of Conversion in Early Modern Catholicism_ (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2010; 656 pp.), _Sémiotique de l'âme_, 3 vols (Berlin et al.: Presses Académiques Francophones, 2012), _Annunciazioni: percorsi di semiotica della religione_, 2 vols (Rome: Aracne, 2014, 1000 pp.), _Spiritualità digitale: il senso religioso nell'era della smaterializzazione_ (Udine: Mimesis, 2014), _Sémiotique du fundamentalisme : messages, rhétorique, force persuasive_ (Paris: l'Harmattan, 2014; translated into Arabic in 2015), and _Signatim: Profili di semiotica della cultura_ (Rome: Aracne, 2015, 800 pp.), edited thirty collective volumes, and published more than four hundred articles in semiotics and religious studies. He has lectured in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas. He is the chief editor of Lexia, the Semiotic Journal of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Communication, University of Turin, Italy, and editor of the book series "I Saggi di Lexia" (Rome: Aracne) and "Semiotics of Religion" (Berlin and Boston: Walter de Gruyter). He directs the MA Program in Communication Studies at the University of Turin, Italy.

FEDERICO NERESINI (Ph.D. Sociology and Social Research, Trento 1992) is full professor of Sociology of Innovation and Public Communication of Science at the University of Padua (Italy). He is currently President of STS-Italia (2016-2018), Director of CIGA (Centre for Environmental Law Decisions and Corporate Ethical Certification, an interdisciplinary research centre established at Padua University for studying the societal and ethical issues related to emerging technologies), member of the scientific board of the reviews "Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia" and "Tecnoscienza". His main interests are in the field of science and technology studies (STS), focusing in particular on construction processes of scientific knowledge, public communication of science and social representations of science. His research activities have regarded biotechnologies, in vitro fertilisation, cloning and nanotechnologies. During the last years he is also addressing the relationships between big-data and scientific research activities, as well as the implications for the social sciences of the availability of large amounts of data through the web.From 2008 he is the coordinator of the Padua Science, Technology and Innovation Studies research unit (PaSTIS - www.pastis-research.eu); in particular, he is leading the TIPS project (Technoscientific Issues in the Public Sphere), aimed at analysing the societal relevance and evolution of technoscience using the media as a source.

MARC PARÉS is Professor of Geography at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and head of the Research Group on Urban Governance, Commons, Internet & Social Innovation (URGOCIS) at the Institute for Government and Public Policy (IGOP).

RICCARDO POZZO received his M.A. at Università di Milano in 1983, his Ph.D. at Universität des Saarlandes in 1988, and his Habilitation at Universität Trier in 1995. In 1996, he went to the U.S. to teach German Philosophy at the School of Philosophy of the Catholic University of America. In 2003, he came back to Italy to take up the Chair of the History of Philosophy at Università di Verona. From 2009 to 2012, he was Director of the Institute for the European Intellectual Lexicon and History of Ideas of the National Research Council of Italy. From 2012 to 2017, he served as Director of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Cultural Heritage of the National Research Council of Italy. Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany on ribbon. Elected full member of the Institut International de Philosophie and chair of the World Congress of Philosophy Beijing 2018 program committee. Appointed member of the Horizon 2020 Programme Committee Configuration Research Infrastructures and expert in the Strategy Working Group Social & Cultural Innovation of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures. On Sep. 21, 2015 he appeared on CCTV-News in "Dialogue: Ideas Matter," moderated by Yang Rui. He is currently finishing a book on History of Philosophy and the Reflective Society.

His areas of specialization are: Migration Studies, Cultural Innovation, Lexicography, Aristotelianism, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, Kant and Hegel. He has published monographs on the Renaissance (Schwabe, 2012), the Enlightenment (Frommann-Holzboog, 2000), Kant (Maia 2016; Lang 1989), and Hegel (La Nuova Italia, 1989) and he is currently finishing a book on the history of philosophy and the reflective society (De Gruyter, 2017). He has edited the philosophical academic programs of the German Enlightenment (Frommann-Holzboog 2011), the writings of Fichte and Kant on intellectual property (Biblioteca di via Senato, 2005), the impact of Aristotelianism on modern philosophy (CUA-Press 2003), the lecture catalogues of the University of Königsberg (Frommann-Holzboog, 1999), and twentieth-century moral philosophy together with Karl-Otto Apel (Frommann-Holzboog, 1990). He has published in the following journals: Ave Maria Law Review, Archiv für Begriffsgeschichte, American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Diogène, Economia della Cultura, Giornale critico della filosofia italiana, Hegel-Jahrbuch, History of Science, History of Universities, Intersezioni, Isis, Jahrbuch für Universitätsgeschichte, Journal of the History of Philosophy, Kant-Studien, Medioevo, Philosophical News, Quaestio, Rhetorica, Review of Metaphysics, Rivista di storia della filosofia, Studi Kantiani, and Topoi.

BORIS RÄHME, Ph.D. in Philosophy from Freie Universität Berlin, joined ISR's research team in 2013. Previously, he has been researcher and lecturer at the Department of Philosophy of the Freie Universität Berlin, and Visiting Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. His main research interests are in the fields of

argumentation theory, social epistemology, philosophy of religion, and theories of truth. Recently, Rähme has also worked on themes from the philosophy of technology (in particular ICT) and the philosophy of gender. Together with Paolo Costa, he is currently working on the project "Arguing Religion", which focuses on argumentative approaches to religious disagreement and brings together perspectives from recent analytic epistemology, religious studies, and debates on secularity. He is a member of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie (GAP) and the Società italiana di filosofia analitica (SIFA). Among his publications: Wahrheit, Begründbarkeit und Fallibilität (Ontos 2010), "Digital Religion, the Supermarket, and the Commons" (forthcoming in Sociétés 1/2018), "Transcendental Arguments, Epistemically Constrained Truth, and Moral Discourse" (in: G. Gava, R. Stern (eds.), Pragmatism, Kant, and Transcendental Philosophy, Routledge 2016).