



# DIGISPO

Dipartimento di  
Scienze Giuridiche,  
della Società e dello Sport

## **1<sup>st</sup> Palermo Human Rights & Democracy Graduate Workshop**

*11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015*

Università degli studi di Palermo  
Dipartimento di Scienze giuridiche, della Società e dello Sport  
Piazza Bologni, 8, 90134 Palermo (PA)

The PhD Programme in “Human Rights: Evolution, Protection and Limits” of the Università degli Studi di Palermo invites PhD students and recently graduated PhD’s to the **1<sup>st</sup> Palermo Human Rights and Democracy Graduate Workshop**, that will be held in Palermo, Italy, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2015.

PhD students and recently graduated PhD’s are invited to join the PhD Students in Human Rights from University of Palermo for a workshop dedicated to the debate about the current trends and challenges for human rights and democracy. The Workshop is intended as a platform for sharing of ideas and critiques as well as to establish contacts in order to create a community of young scholars working on related subjects. The core purpose of the Workshop is precisely to create such a community of interaction that goes beyond conventional academic networks and builds on the enthusiasm and energy of next generation scholars. We believe that a confrontation with fellow PhD students from different disciplines working on issues related to human rights and democracy can be greatly beneficial for one’s academic development. The University of Palermo’s PhD in Human Rights, famous for its interdisciplinary focus, presents itself as the perfect venue to host such an event. The creation of international networks is a challenge of this generation of young scholars that has turned international cooperation into its natural environment of work. This Workshop strives to give its modest contribution to this demanding task.

The 2015 Workshops will offer three **panels**:

### **1) Human Rights Theory: Open Problems**

*Norberto Bobbio* famously argued that no absolute foundation of human rights could be determined and so the focus should rather be put on their protection. Regardless, we believe that theoretical scrutiny of human rights should be one of the central preoccupations of scholars today. Not only the ever-persisting problems of the foundation and universalization, but also questions of the emerging subjects of human rights (e.g. nonhuman persons, corporations) and the relationship between human rights and other goods (freedom, security, economic growth, environmental protection etc.) require our full attention. This panel will attempt to address some of these important issues, approaching them from a legal theoretical point of view.

## 2) **Human Rights & Democratic Theory: New Challenges and Perspectives**

Human rights and democracy have always had a complicated relationship: on the one hand, human rights are said to be the crown jewel of contemporary democratic states; on the other hand, the majoritarian principle continues to be the most important argument in favor of limiting human rights of numerous individuals and minority groups. The panel will seek to confront the wisdom of the Ancients with the challenges of today, giving scholars specializing in democratic theory the opportunity to contribute to the resolution of this perplexing relationship between human rights and democracy.

## 3) **A Challenge for Democratic States: Guaranteeing Human Rights**

The Democratic principle is one of the founding principles stemming from the common constitutional traditions of all EU Member States. Along with Rule of Law, democracy and human rights are two of the three pillars of the Council of Europe, inscribed in the Preamble to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR). Nevertheless, the gap between the declarations made in constitutional charts and the implementation of human rights in practice seems today greater than ever.

This panel will attempt to provide critical insight into this growing divide between the multilevel normative affirmation of human rights and the (lack of) implementation in action and answer the question whether democratic States are indeed able to protect the fundamental rights of their citizens as well as of all other individuals on their territory.

These three themes should allow students from different disciplines and academic backgrounds to present their research and to interact with fellow participants, enabling them also to receive critical comments and suggestions.

The Workshop will benefit from the participation of **three keynote speakers**, renowned experts on human rights and democracy issues. We are happy to announce that we will be joined by Prof. *Michelangelo Bovero* (Università degli Studi di Torino), Prof. *Raffaele Bifulco* (Università di Roma LUISS – "Guido Carli") and Prof. *Pierluigi Chiassoni* (Università degli Studi di Genova).

We are also excited to announce that at the end of the Workshop the Scientific Committee will select the best papers presented, giving the authors the opportunity to publish their articles in the acclaimed legal theory journal *Diritto & Questioni Pubbliche*\*.

### **Abstracts Submission**

Abstract should be no longer than **500 words** and should include: the author's name and academic affiliation, the title of the paper, max. five keywords and an indication of the preferred panel and format (see below). The abstracts should be sent as a pdf file, named as follows: NameInitial.SURNAME.Abstract (Example: J.SMITH.Abstract)

Abstracts should be sent to: [palermo.humanrights.workshop@gmail.com](mailto:palermo.humanrights.workshop@gmail.com).

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\* The papers that will be chosen by the Scientific Committee will in any case be subject to further peer review, as dictated by the rules of the journal. The authors of the papers will be notified of the selection via e-mail.

## **Formats**

*Individual oral presentations:* the presenter will be given 20 minutes for his or her presentation.

*Group presentations:* Students are invited to coordinate among themselves to create an interactive discussion on a topic of their choice analyzed from different perspectives or discussed from conflicting points of view. At least 3 students have to share the time available. They will be given 45 minutes for the presentation and additional 30 minutes for the general debate.

*Passive participation:* participation at the Workshop is also open to all who do not wish to submit their work for presentation (non-presenting students).

## **Target Audience**

PhD students interested in the human rights & democracy debate, specializing in disciplines such as legal philosophy, political philosophy, public law, environmental law, and other related disciplines. PhD's who have obtained their title no earlier than in 2012 are also invited to participate. If you do not fall within either category but are interested to participate, you are welcomed to contact the organizational committee.

## **Registration**

Participation at the event is **free of charge**. However, registration is obligatory for active and passive participants alike.

Please, send your registration to our email address:  
[palermo.humanrights.workshop@gmail.com](mailto:palermo.humanrights.workshop@gmail.com).

## **Deadlines & Important dates**

**30 June 2015:** Deadline for the submission of abstracts.

**31 July 2015:** Notification of acceptance of abstracts.

**14 August 2015:** Final deadline for the confirmation of participation of selected presenters & for the registration of non-presenting participants.

## **Housing**

Accommodation is not guaranteed by the organizer. However, participants not residing in Palermo can rent a room at the ERSU Palermo (*Ente Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario*), at budget prices. For further information, please contact us at: [palermo.humanrights.workshop@gmail.com](mailto:palermo.humanrights.workshop@gmail.com).

In addition, participants may find useful information about accommodation at reasonable prices here:

<http://www.budgetplaces.com/palermo/>

<http://www.hostelworld.com/>

**Official languages**

English, Italian, Spanish

**Scientific Committee**

Michelangelo Bovero, Marco Brigaglia, Bruno Celano, Pierluigi Chiassoni, Raffaele Bifulco, Giorgio Pino, Aldo Schiavello, Isabel Trujillo, Vittorio Villa

**Scientific Supervisor**

Marco Brigaglia

**Organizational Committee**

Irene Grifò, Giulia Sajeve, Matija Žgur

## Presentation of Keynote speakers

*Prof. Pierluigi Chiassoni (Università degli Studi di Genova)*

His areas of interest include theory of legal argumentation and interpretation, general theory of law, law and economics, and meta-ethics. He holds a basic law degree from the University of Genoa (1984), a master of laws from Cornell University (1987), and a PhD in analytical philosophy and general theory of law from the University of Milan (1990). He was admitted to the bar in 1992. A co-editor of *Materiali per una storia della cultura giuridica*, he is also a member of the advisory boards of *Ragion Pratica*, *Discusiones*, and *Nordicum Mediterraneum*. Several of his books and articles have been translated into other languages. His publications include *Law and Economics. L'analisi economica del diritto negli Stati Uniti* (Giappichelli, 1992); *La giurisprudenza civile. Metodi d'interpretazione e tecniche argomentative* (Giuffrè, 1999); *L'utopia della ragione analitica. Origini, oggetti e metodi della filosofia del diritto positivo* (Giappichelli, 2005); *L'indirizzo analitico nella filosofia del diritto. I. Da Bentham a Kelsen* (Giappichelli, 2009); *Diritti umani, sentenze elusive, clausole ineffabili. Scritti di realismo militante* (Aracne, 2011); *Técnicas de interpretación jurídica* (Marcial Pons, 2011); and *Desencantos para abogados realistas* (Externado de Colombia, 2012).

*Prof. Michelangelo Bovero (Università degli Studi di Torino)*

Michelangelo Bovero is a Professor in Political Philosophy and succeeded Norberto Bobbio at his chair the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Turin, where he teaches courses Fundamental Political Concepts and Theories of Justice. His scientific career combines the study of classical authors, ancient and modern, with the analysis of today's political theories and issues. Particularly, his focus has been on theory of democracy and fundamental rights. Since the 80's he has led numerous local, national and international research teams in the field of political theory. He regularly lectures abroad at universities and cultural institutions in Europe and Latin America. In 2002 he was awarded the prize in Philosophy *Viaggio a Siracusa*. In 2007 the Facultad de Derecho of UNAM (Mexico City) awarded him the prize *Isidro Fabela*. He is the Director of the international review *Teoria politica*, member of the scientific board of the review *Ragion pratica* as well as a member of the executive committee of the *Centro Studi Piero Gobetti (Turin)* - Director of *Scuola per la buona politica di Torino*.

*Prof. Raffaele Bifulco (Università di Roma LUISS – "Guido Carli")*

He earned his PhD in Public Law at University of Napoli "Federico II" (Italy). He is a full Professor of Constitutional Law at LUISS – "Guido Carli" University (Rome) and he is a member of the Board of Professors of PhD course in Law and Business at LUISS – "Guido Carli" University (Rome). His publications include *La c.d. costituzionalizzazione del diritto internazionale: un esame del dibattito* (Acta Philosophica, 2014), *Brevissime considerazioni sul rapporto tra la sentenza della Corte costituzionale 1/2014 e le legislazioni elettorali regionali* (Nomos, 2014), *A New Senate? A first Look at the Draft Constitutional Bill* (Italian Journal of Public Law, 2014), *Le riforme costituzionali in materia di bilancio in Germania, Spagna e Italia alla luce del processo federale europeo* (Giappichelli, 2013), *Crisi economica e trasformazione della dimensione giuridica* (Giappichelli, 2013), *Il dilemma della democrazia costituzionale* (Rivista Aic, 2012), *La teoria della democrazia deliberativa e la realtà della democrazia rappresentativa* (Solaris, 2010), *Human Rights in Europe. Commentary on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (Carolina Academic Press, 2010) as well as several essays on various topics published in public law and constitutional law journals.

## **Provisional Program\*\***

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Day 1 – Human Rights Theory: Open Problems**

9:00 Opening and greetings

9:30 Keynote lecture: *Prof. Pierluigi Chiassoni*

10:30 Discussion

11:00 Break

11:15 Student presentations & debate

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Student presentations & debate

16:00 End of Day 1

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Day 2 – Human Rights & Democratic Theory: New Challenges and Perspectives**

9:30 Keynote lecture: *Prof. Michelangelo Bovero*

10:30 Discussion

11:00 Break

11:15 Student presentations & debate

13:00 Lunch Break

14:30 Student Presentations & debate

16:00 End of Day 2

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Day 3 - A Challenge for Democratic States: Guaranteeing Human Rights**

9:30 Keynote lecture: *Prof. Raffaele Bifulco*

10:30 Discussion

11:00 Break

11:15 Student Presentations & debate

13:00 Lunch Break

14:30 Student Presentations & debate

16:00 End of activities

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\*\* The organizer reserves the right to make changes to the programme.