

Scientific and Didactic Relation

Name Luca Fabbris
University Università degli Studi di Torino
Name of Tutor Prof. Giovanni Leghissa
Cycle XXXV

Suggested name of the Supervisor (IF different from the tutor)(for 1st year students)

(A) Didactics

1) List of institutional or curricular courses

- *Common Core Program 2019-2020.*
- *Residential Seminar, 31 August-1 September 2020.*
- *Theoretical Philosophy Seminar:*
 - 29 November 2019: Andrea Osti, “Platone e gli Iconic Turns”.
 - 23 January 2020: Martina Mauri, “Fondamento intersoggettivo dell’esperienza del Sé. Indagine Daseinsanalitica sulle anomalie dell’esperienza del sé e del mondo”.
 - 8 April 2020: Gregorio Tenti, “Estetica e teoria del vivente nella Goethezeit”.
 - 16 April 2020: Eugenio Buriano, “Il pensiero dello stesso. Encomio della mania eleatica”
 - 8 May 2020: Angel Delrez, “Dell’eredità di-Marx-di-Derrida”.
- *Technologies of visibility. Images from Antiquity to Hypermodernity.*

- *Labont Seminars:*
 - 12 May 2020: Angela Condello, “Il metodo giuridico alla prova della rivoluzione digitale”.
 - 23 June 2020: Gabriele Gava, “Una nuova lettura della Deduzione B nella Critica della ragion Pura”.
 - 25 June 2020: Paolo D’Angelo, “Intorno all’immaginazione: Finzione”.
 - 7 July 2020: Jimmy Hernandez Marcelo, “Artifact and document. Toward the technological document”.
- *Ontology and Metaphysics: “The problem of Negation”.*

2) List of working papers written in those occasions

- “Black Box as a Theoretical Tool. Cybernetic and Systemic Approach to Control and Knowledge” [*Residential Seminar*].

3) List of other courses you have followed

- *Filosofia della Tecnica* (prof. Giovanni Leghissa).
- *Neural Networks* (prof. Matteo Osella).
- *Sistemi complessi per la biologia* (prof. Michele Caselle).

(B) Research and diffusion

1) List of seminars and conferences you have participated to

- 21-22 November 2019: “Forms, History, Narrations, Big Data: Morphology and Historical Sequence” [Conference].

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- 3 December 2019: “Doctoral Meetings 2019-2020” [Seminar of Semiotics Phd Students].
- 18 December 2019: Giorgio Grossi, “La società e la macchina. L’agire politico nell’era del post-umano” [Seminar organized by Dipartimento di Culture, Politica e Società].
- 21 January 2020: Jack Birner, “Friedrich August von Heyek. Overrated as a political philosopher, underrated as an economist?” [Seminar organized by Dipartimento di Culture, Politica e Società].
- 23-24 January 2020: “L’eredità scientifica e culturale di Gianluca Cavalli-Sforza” [Conference].
- 21 February 2020: Nicola Liberati, “Possiamo insegnare l’etica ai robot?” [Seminar organized by Maurizio Balistreri].
- 23 March 2020: Luca Fabbris, “Elementi di cibernetica” [Seminar organized by Giovanni Leghissa].
- 27 March 2020: Gianluca De Fazio and Paulo Levano, “Tracciati di Ecosofia” [Seminar organized by Giovanni Leghissa].
- 3 April 2020: Veronica Cavedagna and Giulio Piatti: “Il problema della tecnica in Raymond Ruyer e Gilbert Simondon” [Seminar organized by Giovanni Leghissa].

2) List of Talks (in some of the above-mentioned conferences)

- 23 March 2020: Luca Fabbris, “Elementi di cibernetica” [Seminar organized by Giovanni Leghissa].
- 11 June 2020: Luca Fabbris, “Moltitudine e Negazione”, [FINO Seminar “Ontology and Metaphysics: the Problem of Negation” organized by Gaetano Chiurazzi and Giacomo Pezzano].

3) List of published or submitted papers

- [Introduction] “Critica della ragion progettuale”, in William Ross Ashby’s *Progetto per un cervello*, Orthothes 2020 [in press].

- [Article] “A Cybernetics-Grounded Ethics for Anthropocene?” (with Nicola Manghi) [Abstract accepted for the WOSC Moscow 2020 (event postponed to September 2021)].
 - [Review] “L’Inland Empire di Niklas Luhmann”, review to “Aut Aut 383. Niklas Luhmann. Istruzioni per l’uso”, in *Philosophy Kitchen*, Novembre 2019.
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(C) Project of the dissertation

1) Update of the planning of your research program

During the first year, I have structured my research in three parts.

In the first part, I have focused on the reconstruction of the first period of cybernetics history (1940-1953), from the seminal works published by Ross Ashby, Norbert Wiener, Arturo Rosenblueth, Julien Bigelow, Walter Pitts and Warren McCulloch in the early 1940s, to the last Macy Conference, which took place in 1953. Alongside the research about the Macy Conferences, I have focused on the informal cybernetic group named Ratio Club, constituted in 1949 in London, in which Alan Turing, Ross Ashby and Grey Walter took part. The aim of this historical enquiry is to understand the way in which the problem of self-organization emerged in the context of first-order cybernetics and how it became central in second-order cybernetics (1954-1974).

In the second part, I have tried to develop “didactic” tools in order to explain key cybernetic concepts in a simple and accessible manner. I have worked on the Black Box methodology pointed out by Ross Ashby in *An Introduction to Cybernetics*, showing the possibility to draw main cybernetic concepts and categories from it (states-determined, stochastic and random systems; organization; information; noise; uncertainty; complexity; island of stability; levels of observation; emergence; network, etc.).

In the third part, I have applied Ashby’s concepts and models to ecology. In particular, I have worked using “the law of requisite variety” to outline a cybernetic ethics for the Anthropocene, and I have also used the “homeostat” as an ecosystemic model to shed some light on ecological dynamics.

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In the second year, I will focus on the birth of Biological Computer Laboratory (1954-1974) directed by Heinz von Foerster, in which Ross Ashby, Humberto Maturana, Gordon Pask, Gotthard Günther worked and where the research about self-organizing systems was the main focus. I will also delve into the French debate about self-organization, which started in the middle of 1970s with the work of Henri Atlan and culminated in the “Colloque of Cerisy” in 1983.

The third part of my research will concern the “new horizons” in the study of self-organization, with particular attention to the Santa Fe Institute research program.

For each part, an *historical* enquiry will be joint to a *theoretical* (explanation of ideas, concepts and models) and a *practical* one (application of models to a particular problem or domain, i.e. ecological crisis).