

Ist Year Scientific and Didactic Relation

Name: **Simone Ghelli**

University: **Università degli studi di Pavia**

Name of Tutor: **prof. Luca Vanzago**

Suggested name of the Supervisor (IF different from the tutor): **prof. Simona Forti**

(A) *Didactics*

1) List of institutional or curricular courses

- Ian Carter, *Libertà ed eguaglianza* – FINO mandatory seminar for Ethics & Politics curriculum (Vercelli)
- Simona Forti and Carlotta Cossutta, *Soggettività e potere* – FINO mandatory seminar for Ethics & Politics curriculum (Vercelli)
- Theory of Argumentation – FINO mandatory shared activity (Genova)
- Rolling Seminar on *Philosophical Methodologies*– FINO mandatory shared activity (Genova)
- Gianluca Mori, *Evoluzionismo e nascita della cultura: Daniel Dennett* – Institutional course in Università del Piemonte Orientale – Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici
- *Percorso formativo 24 CFU per l'insegnamento* – Università di Genova

2) List of working papers written in those occasions

- *Il peso insostenibile della fortuna. L'ateismo di Primo Levi*  
(submitted to prof. Luca Vanzago)
- *Voluntary Inequality. On Primo Levi's Normality of Evil*  
(submitted to prof. Simona Forti)

(B) *Research and diffusion*

1) List of seminars and conferences you have participated

- 6/11/17 - E. Bencivenga, *Il bene e il bello: etica dell'immagine* (Torino-FINO)
- 15/11/17 – F. Zuolo, *Possibilità e limiti della cooperazione tra esseri umani e animali* (Pavia)
- 16/11/17 - D. Marconi, *Quid est Veritas? Una conversazione sulle regole del gioco nelle scienze umane* (Vercelli-FINO)
- 17/11/17 – P. P. Portinaro, *Max Weber e la secolarizzazione* (Vercelli-FINO)
- 22/11/17 - *Cucire parole, cucire molecole Primo Levi e il sistema periodico* (Torino)

PhD Program in Philosophy  
North Western Italian Philosophy Consortium

- 27/11/17 – A. Beccaro, *Il ritorno della religione nelle relazioni internazionali tra Jihad e guerra al terrorismo* (Vercelli-FINO)
- 14/12/17 - *Linguaggi e transfert linguistici della politica moderna* (Vercelli-FINO)
- 18-19/12/17 – J. Hornsby, *Human Agency* (Genova-FINO)
- 25-26/1/18 – *Politiche di debito e credito* (Vercelli/Torino-FINO)
- 23-24-25/3/2018 - Society for Italian Philosophy Annual Meeting [Rochester (New York, USA)]
- 11/5/2018 – G. L. Paltrinieri, *Heidegger e il problema della soggettività moderna* (Vercelli-FINO)
- 24/5/2018 – S. Fabrini, *Le trasformazioni dell'Europa e il suo futuro* – Ritiro Premio di laurea “Lorella Cedroni” per la tesi magistrale *Il pensiero di Primo Levi tra norma ed eccezione* (Roma)
- 19-20/9/18 – Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy (Pavia)

2) List of Talks

- 19-20/9/2018 - *The Normality of Evil. Primo Levi's Thought Between Necessity and Seduction* – Talk at Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy [University of Pavia, Pavia (Italy)]
- 24/3/2018 - *The Normality of Evil. Primo Levi's Thought Between Necessity and Seduction* – Talk at Society for Italian Philosophy Annual Meeting [Rochester Institute of Technology - Rochester (New York, USA)].

3) List of published or submitted papers

- S. Ghelli, *Il peso insostenibile della fortuna. L'ateismo di Primo Levi*, in «Iride», a. XXXI, n. 84, maggio-agosto 2018, pp. 245-259.
- A. Clemente, S. Ghelli, *Amor proprio. Attualità politica di una passione moderna*, in «Lo Sguardo», 27/2018 [forthcoming].
- S. Ghelli, *In difesa del moderno* (nota critica a R. Mordacci, *La condizione neomoderna*, Einaudi, Torino 2017), in «Quaderni BDL» [forthcoming 2018].
- S. Ghelli, *Democrazia delle élite* (nota critica a S. Wolin, *Democracy Incorporated. Managed Democracy and the Specter of Inverted Totalitarianism*, Princeton University Press 2008), in «Quaderni BDL» [forthcoming 2018].

(C) *Project of the dissertation*

1) Short Update of the planning of your research program

My current PhD research aims to offer a comparison between Analytic and Continental philosophy of human-animal relationships. I am developing this research through three different stages.

Firstly, I would like to put into question the main presupposition of the contemporary debate on animality, according to which, the animal is the most powerful dispositive that contests the anthropo-logocentrism of modern subjectivity. The latter is considered the theoretical framework which established the well-known cruel identification between animals and *automata*. Following Deleuze's historical works, I believe instead that contemporary reflection of animality stands for a recovery of the modern anti-cartesian tradition (from Spinoza, to Bayle, to Condillac and even Voltaire). I do believe that a more in-depth analysis of such a tradition (the "official" narration identifies in Bentham the starting point of contemporary animal studies) can offer a deeper perspective on the way western anthropological thought has conceived the relationship between humanity and animality.

The second part of my research is devoted to Primo Levi's thought. The Italian writer's testimony can be inserted within the biopolitical reflection on *Shoah*, which has largely turned to animals to understand the dehumanisation of Nazi concentration camp victims. I will compare Levi's testimony with philosophers such as Arendt and Agamben in order to stress how the *Shoah* could be considered one of the most powerful empirical refutations of any metaphysics of human being. In my opinion, Levi's perspective stands also for a perfect synthesis between philosophy and science. A synthesis which is quite infrequent within Continental animal studies and which is instead well experienced within Analytic tradition.

In the third section I will compare Continental and Analytic reflection. I aim to demonstrate the idea that animal studies' persistence of the "abilities", above all suffering, risk reinforcing an anthropocentric understanding of the relationship between animals and human beings. I believe that conceiving suffering as a form of passivity which attests the finitude of the living can be the proper way whereby to move from the paradigm of the rational animal – a model which has been invalidated both by philosophy and by science - to the paradigm of the suffering animal.

During the second year of my PhD I mean to write one or two essays concerning the first part (October-March). I am planning also to spend a visiting period abroad where I can process the second part and start writing some paper about it (April-June). I aim to write, at least to sketch, the first and the second chapters of my PhD thesis within the end of September 2019.