

# International Association for Critical Realism 2017 Annual Conference

## The 20th IACR Annual Conference

July 17-21, 2017, University of Torino, ITALY.

### *“Human Emancipation and the Problem of Violence”*

How do we understand human emancipation and the problem of violence in modern societies today? Violence as a philosophical problem of the modern age, has to be understood in terms of the public and institutional act of legitimating, justifying or ennobling its use in line with modern cultural or political programs. In this scenario, the social sciences are in danger of becoming a sounding board for dominant ideological thought, their task to clothe the narratives of the power elite with a pseudo-scientific aura. In its original and dialectical forms, and with its later discovery of metaReality; with its understanding of human emancipation, human history, ideology, and the relationship between human science and natural order, Critical Realism offers a variety of entry points able to resist this danger.

The conference invites papers from those interested in critical realism in its different forms, and with a broad interest in the issues contained in the theme. It is intended also to be the occasion for a meeting and dialogue between two different traditions of contemporary realist thought, Critical Realism and New Realism. Turin is the birthplace of New Realism, the philosophical theory founded by Maurizio Ferraris. It has described a set of structures forming social reality and making it possible. Among these, one of the most remarkable is that of documentality, “document-constructed society”, which creates social objects by recording acts. Documentality, the overlapping of documentality and documediality in the web age”, underlies governmentality, which makes power effective in social reality.

In these perspectives, the conference will address the following topics too:

- So called “global terrorism”, not-declared wars and emergence in international relations;
  - The illiberal and mystifying mainstream communication;
  - The pressure of economic-financial power on democratic governments;
  - The reduction of states’ and people’s sovereignty;
  - The submission of the natural sciences and technologies on economic interests;
  - Difficulties in relationships between social and natural sciences.
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- The new features of violence in the age of documediality;
  - Governmentality, violence and war in the web-based societies;
  - The invisible violence of total mobilization;
  - The possibilities of emancipation in a web-based society;
  - Documents and media as possible instruments of violence;
  - Iconoclastic and “document-clatic” strategies of violence in the age of the web.

To **present a paper** for consideration, please prepare an abstract of no more than 300 words and send it by email – along with your paper title, name, contact info, and organizational affiliation – to [IACR.turin2017@gmail.com](mailto:IACR.turin2017@gmail.com). Submissions must be received by May 30 for full consideration for inclusion on the program.

### **Local Organization Committee**

The core organising team based at the Department of CPS in Torino combines a range of knowledge and expertise at different levels to meet the diverse audience attending the conference. The team is led by Dr. Roberto F. Scalon (Assistant prof., Promoter) together with prof. Roberta Ricucci (Associate prof.), Dr. Sara Lagi (Assistant prof.), Dr. Simone Martino (PhD); and with the external collaboration provided by prof. Andrea Maccarini (Full prof., University of Padova).

A partnership with the “Department of Philosophy and Sciences of Education” (PSE) has already successfully been activated, with the direct involvement of prof. Maurizio Ferraris (Full prof.) and prof. Tiziana Andina (Associate prof.) who takes part to the core organizing team.

The department of CPS would support the local administrative staff with a PCO or the hiring of a temporary administrative staff dedicated to the conference.

### **The conference location: Campus Luigi Einaudi (CLE)**

The Conference will be held at the “Luigi Einaudi” Campus of the University of Torino, seat of the CPS department; this new Campus, inaugurated in 2013, has been described as one the world’s “10 most spectacular university buildings” (Source: [www.empooris.com](http://www.empooris.com)).