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**Sbagliando s’impara: the power of errors for learning and teaching**

Although errors in many cultures are seen as part of life and essential to human progress, the institutions that most societies have built as formal settings for learning—schools—are often places where errors made by students and teachers are to be avoided and are often punished. In the first part of this lecture, I will discuss the role of errors in learning and cross-cultural, video-based research I have conducted on teachers’ handling of student errors in Italian and U.S. mathematics lessons. This research highlights revealing cultural differences and calls for a better approach to student learning experiences in both countries. In the second part of the lecture, I will argue that teachers should also be allowed to make teaching errors and to experiment with innovative teaching approaches. I will briefly summarize a longitudinal study that encouraged prospective teachers to take risks, conduct systematic analyses of teaching and learning supported by video, and learn from their mistakes. The productive reflection and noticing skills they developed through the process set the stage for their continuous learning and improvement once they entered the profession.

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**Załęska Maria**  
*University of Warsaw, Poland*

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*Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies*

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**Rhetorical literacy in the quarrelling society**

Treating rhetoric as an intellectual equipment for living, the lecture will address the persuasive phenomena within the counter-discourses, a dominant feature of the so-called quarrelling society. In the world deeply divided by conflicts, misunderstandings and fake news, the rhetorical literacy is needed more than ever to cope with the complexities of multilayered messages. Each citizen should develop the rhetorical awareness, meant both as passive competence of deciphering the messages of others and as an competent communicative performance, able to lead to consensus. After the preliminary distinctions between folk and learned meanings of the term ‘rhetoric’ and ‘counter-discourses’, the lecture will focus on rhetorical mechanisms of constructive and destructive conflicts. Several typologies of overt and covert mechanisms of conflict escalation and appeasement will be discussed and exemplified in contexts of private and professional communication, in order to offer the participants theoretical and practical means useful in both monitoring and actively shaping the conflictual interactions in which they are involved. The examples are expected to foster the discussion of the utility of the rhetorical research in context of other disciplines and to address the issue of the significance and meaning of academic expertise in context of non-academic activities.
Development of active, smart and sustainable packaging

Conservation and shelf life enlargement of different products are current challenges that incentivize the innovation in the development of active and intelligent packaging. This type of packaging had had a great development from the use of plastic films or modified paper board because of its versatility, good processability, recyclability and low cost. These features make the packaging sustainable. Particularly, when the need arises to solve an specific actual problem that involves the development of a technology, the first step is the establishment of the frame of reference including, besides product requirements, actual market, packaging costs (products and both manufacturing and operative technologies), operational simplicity both in the manufacture of the film and in the construction of the container, different aspects of marketing (paintability, printability, sealing, etc.), productive sector involved (adaptability to automatic filling / pelletizing machines, associated costs, etc.), potential consumer acceptance, competitive advantages relative to current systems (savings, sustainability, practicality, etc.), between others. With this framework established, the initial restrictions the chances to achieve, from the academy, a development applicable are enhanced. However, it is not easy for academics to have all of this data, then joint developments with manufacturing companies of packaging is the key to obtain innovative and applicable developments in times compatible with the actual use thereof.

Using this approach, in our group we have developed different types of packaging based on plastic polyolefin films with customizing its properties. Different paths were chosen for problem solving: the inclusion of nanoparticles within a polymer (nanocomposites), nanoparticle surface modification, and/or a combination of both paths. To achieve the desired properties while maintaining sustainability, in each development a base study was carried out that involved the real relationship of the structure-properties-processing. The following developments will be presented: a) films for silo bag containing surface repellent and its technology of use, b) active, hermetic and intelligent system for the export of organic grains in containers that guarantees the traceability of the same by means of radiofrequency use, c) packaging systems for vegetables that allow them to be stored for five months without refrigeration, d) cardboard boxes repellent to fruit fly and anti-weevils, e) polyolefin hydrophilic, writable and erasable films (plastic paper), f) Anti-fungal films to extend the shelf life of cut fresh cheese and g) multifrequency wave screen films for packaging of electronic components.

The bases of each development will be discussed, analyzing the structure that gives rise to the set of desired properties, in conjunction with the processing operations that allow obtaining them in real manufacturing conditions.
**Dante and the Foundations of Argentine National Identity: Literature, Politics, and the Dream of a New Nation**

This seminar will explore the literary and political uses of Dante Alighieri in the building of the Argentine national identity, from the mid-19th to the early 20th-century. The romantic myth of Dante as the father of the Italian nation and as the founder of modern times was unexpectedly adopted by Argentine intellectuals and politicians to build the cultural identity of the new nation. The political dimension of Dante’s reception in Argentina is a hardly studied and still fascinating topic, both for Dante studies and for the better understanding of the rich history of Italian and Argentine relations. The seminar will focus on five major moments in the history of Dante’s reception in Argentina: an introduction to the reception of the romantic interpretation of Dante in the first generation of Argentine intellectuals in the mid-19th century; the discussion on the civic value of poetry and the first Latinamerican translation of the Divine comedy published by the President of the Argentine Republic, Bartolomé Mitre; Leopoldo Marechal and Leopoldo Lugones’s catholic and nationalist interpretation of Dante; and some references to Paul Groussac and Victoria Ocampo’s publications, and Borges’s essays on Dante, read in the broader context of his interpretation of Argentine national identity.

**Who Knows: Medical Expertise in the Internet Age**

It is increasingly the case that concerned and informed laypeople encroach on terrain seen as the jurisdiction of scientific experts. Because scientific and lay knowledge emerge within different social contexts and reflect different epistemological principles, they often diverge – sometimes leading laypeople to challenge scientific authority over issues that directly impact their well-being and that of their communities. Although sociologists of science and other science scholars have examined how expertise concerning scientific matters can be acquired by laypeople acting within local communities, they have not systematically examined how Internet communities create new opportunities for the development of such expertise. This is particularly commonplace in medicine, where online illness forums are popular sites for the production of lay knowledge concerning medical matters. In this lecture I put forward a theoretical framework for understanding the production and consequences of online patient-generated knowledge. Specifically, I explicate three interrelated forms of connectivity as core features of patient-generated expertise in the Internet Age.
Transformations of the Istrian landscape from Antiquity into the Middle Ages in light of recent archaeological research

The landscape of Roman Istria is characterised by a large number of rural sites of various typologies and with heterogeneous features, but all presenting numerous elements which allow the reconstruction of their main production activities - in primis olive cultivation and oil production, and on the coast fish farming, followed to a minor extent by other crops cultivation and wine production, as well as natural resources exploitation (stone quarrying, salt, husbandry, etc). These activities were, in certain cases, backed by production of transport containers and other pottery and ceramics. Moreover, several of these properties can be linked to senatorial families as well as to the Emperors. A first reorganisation of the Istrian rural structures is noticed between the end of the 2nd and the 3rd c. This tendency will continue in the next centuries as well, often obliterating production features to create either living spaces or establish new economic activities. These transformations are still to be fully understood, but several recently explored case studies can provide new insights into the dynamics behind them.
**Kossek Ellen Ernst**  
*Purdue University, USA*

**Work-Life Leadership: Managing Self and Others for Well-being On and Off the Job**  
Dr. Kossek’s lecture will center on actions leaders can take to proactively create a culture of work-life being for employees and leaders. She will discuss the trends making work-life relationships a critical workplace mental health issue, and how individuals and leaders need to proactively manage themselves, work-life technology boundaries, and their subordinates through work-life supportive actions in a 24-7 world.

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**Leake Elizabeth**  
*Columbia University, USA*

**Fear and courage. The dictatorship and resistance in the literature of political confinement**  
This project examines a specific aspect of the Fascist regime’s juridical practices—internal exile— from a cultural perspective, through analyses of the varieties of self-expression used by prisoners. There has been an explosion since the early 1990s of works devoted to representations of confino experiences, including theoretical, historical, and regional studies. This boom comes after a relative dearth of works devoted to the subject, a dearth that extends essentially to the end of World War II. Unlike texts published during the 1930s-‘40s (say, those of Lussu or Jacometti), which were published with the goal of educating an uninformed but politically like-minded readership, the new wave of confino books does not share the same goals as the first generation, or adhere to any stylistic or generic norms in the same way the first wave did. Specifically, the seminar considers structural, thematic and generic similarities in a survey of first- and second-generation confino texts collections of personal correspondence; memoirs and testimonies; and literary representations. The book argues that confino possesses a cultural history that speaks to the present. The scope of this study, therefore, is to provide a cultural reading that makes manifest aspects of confino that have been appropriated by contemporary political discourse.
Fear and Technoculture: a future of Humanoid Society in Post-human Age

The relationship between machinery and humans has spun the history of fear. Since the middle Ages, especially the Early Modern era, the development of science and technology has been achieved on the basis of the idea of Cartesian dualism which opposes "man and machine", "material and spirit". This dualistic thought originates a human-centered viewpoint (anthropocentrism) that makes machines oppose humans, and any invasion of machines into the human world has been generated "fear" in a human society. Today, in the frontiers of advanced science and technology engineering including robotics, AI technology, neurosciences and biotechnology in recent years, the ontological and epistemological issue of human existence has been rapidly changing. Under the latest development of science and technology, it is necessary to reconsider now the Cartesian dualistic view on the definition of human category which has been the ideological base of modern scientific philosophy and to rethink of human condition and sociocultural belief on its characteristics based on the traditional dichotomy of <material (matter, body) / mental (mind)> substances and <man / machine> relations. The ongoing evolutionary advance and innovation which especially pushing forward "robotization" of human (cyborg) and "humanization" of robot (humanoid) results in the ambiguity of human category to be transgressed into the new ontological existence, id est post-human. The technological engineering has been trying to incorporate more and more qualities that have been deemed inherent to humans like sensitivity, intelligence and emotion to not-human artificial substances. In fact, in robotics and bioengineering, the human-inherent properties, innate abilities and capacities, whether sensitive, affective, emotional or spiritual, could be believed reproducible in humanoid other synthetic bio-organisms made by the parts of any kind of artifacts, AI and regenerative cells. The ontology with preferential distinction of human superiority to not-human characterized as the definitive paradigm of the philosophy of modern science has been strongly shaking since last few decades in the world of advanced science and technology. Our time is an era of fear which is generated by invasions to the category boundary of man/machine and nature/artificial. In this light, the lecture discusses sociological problems caused by the situations of advanced science and highest technology, so as to explore the characteristics of our age of fear.
**The Future of Memory: the humanities in exile**

In 2019 a five-year project called ‘The Future of Memory’ starts. The Humanities increasingly exist in exile from the mainland of scholarly and community support. ‘The Future of Memory’ argues that the Humanities need to apply their skills in new environments: interpretation, the art and science of meaning, must be materialized in concrete ‘forming situations.’ To give shape to this argument, ‘The Future of Memory’ is a research collaboration with the Parco archeologico di Paestum (Campania). The origin of this collaboration was a study of the tomb painting known as *il tuffatore* (The Diver), which focused on the problem of its interpretation: as a figure in transition, The Diver represents the poetic labour of what Paul Ricoeur calls ‘living metaphor’.

The first product of this collaboration, announced last October at Paestum, is *Rovine di un tempo che fu*, a program of public events commencing in September 2019 that explores the role of archaeological time consciousness in understanding anthropogenic climate change. The second, ‘Diving In: from refugee to refuge’ is the focus of my Bologna residency, and is proposed for 2020. It draws a connection between the ‘transitional zones’ provided for refugees in Greek colonial cities and a culture of care born of shared experiences of exile, shipwreck and precarity. It suggests that these urban elements acquire their significance from the application of a *hermeneia* of concomitant production, where reading the past is directly tied to a new creative *atteggiamento* towards the design and navigation of the future.

The exilic condition also applies to traditional definitions of memory: one corollary of this is that new hermeneutical techniques and interests are migrant, ontologically located in the experience of poetic migration. A re-orientation of the humanities to peoples and places understood physically and psychically as in transition has profound institutional, pedagogical and societal implications. Practically and culturally, it implies a new, archipelagic organization of knowledge and knowledge communities.
Are Polymer Nanocomposites practical for applications?

Polymer nanocomposites (PNCs) typically contain one or more inorganic nanoparticle (NP) component within an organic, plastic matrix. These hybrid materials have been studied from the 1940’s with a particular focus on applications such as rubber tires, gas separation membranes, water purification technologies, and space applications (such as shielding for the Jupiter spacecrafts). These demonstrations inspired the community to understand how to cost-effectively disperse nanoscale sheets, rods or spheres into polymers. We first ask why such hybrid constructs work and why they improve the resulting material properties. The relationship of these ideas to composite materials in nature (in humans: bone, teeth enamel; in other contexts: oyster shells), and what we can learn from billions of years of evolution is another topic that I will discuss.

Due to the scalability of the early applications (e.g., rubber tires), many felt that these concepts would be the foundation of a revolution in the plastics industry, where new resin lines would be based on judicious formulation of existing resins and nanofillers. However, over 75 years of innovative research have yet to produce this broad plastics revolution; rather PNCs have provided many valuable niche solutions. We therefore need to understand the outstanding challenges required for the cost-effect scale-up and manufacturing of these materials in the very large scale. This will then form the second thrust of my talk.
**Why the Trump era will last thirty years**

This talk takes off from the question: Is the current upsurge of ‘populism’ & nativistic nationalism a short-term aberration, to be replaced within a few years by “normal” centrist politics; or are we in the early years of a global anti-liberal revolution which will endure for decades? The latter is more likely. The simple (simplistic) reason is extrapolation from the two political-economy orders since World War Two: three decades from 1945 to 1975 (les trente glorieuses in France) of Keynesian social democracy (in the West); followed by another three decades of neoliberal economics and culture, from around 1980 (Thatcher, Reagan) to 2008 and the Financial Crash. Ergo, next come three decades of Trump/Orban-type economics and politics, 2016-2046. More seriously, three decades of neoliberalism, now compounded by leaps in digital technologies, are causing sufficient (a) economic resentments and (b) geopolitical contradictions to sustain a long period of angry mass support (increasingly white-collar as well as blue-collar) for ‘populist’ leaders appealing to nativistic nationalism. This talk spells out some of the “bulldozer” forces (climate as distinct from “weather”) fracturing neoliberalism & globalization as we know them. These bulldozer forces include: (1) several different mechanisms which increasingly sluice income and wealth to the top in national income distributions (including “globotics”), generating economic resentments lower down; (2) global value chains which increasingly limit the upward mobility of developing countries to the living conditions of the developed countries, sustaining immigration pressure, legal and illegal; (3) social media which enables polarizing, paranoid beliefs to spread far and wide at high speed; and (4) challenges to US hegemony which make the US increasingly reluctant to push the neoliberal-globalization agenda, as in the past, and instead adopt a narrower, more nationalistic stance in the inter-state systems, prompting others to do the same.
The Anthropocene Debates

Since 2000, the idea of Anthropocene has infiltrated academic disciplines as well as the public imagination. Disagreements rage about its meaning, usefulness, and implications. The seminar will consider the origins of the concept and ongoing debates about it. In 2000 two prominent scientists popularized the term Anthropocene, meaning the interval of earth history since about 1780, characterized by rapid changes in the global environment, especially its biogeochemical cycles – and in particular the carbon cycle that plays such as powerful role in shaping earth’s climate. The two proposed that the Anthropocene be understood as a successor to what natural scientists call the Holocene. The idea had precedents including the ‘antropozoico’ of the Italian priest and paleontologist Antonio Stoppani (1824-91). Geologists take the concept of the Anthropocene seriously. In 2008 the International Union of the Geological Sciences formed an Anthropocene Working Group, a collection of scholars whose remit is to recommend whether the Anthropocene should formally be designated a unit of geological time. The AWG is still at work. Detractors deny its scientific validity, calling it a political stunt. Supporters point to the scale, scope, and pace of global environmental change to claim that the earth is genuinely in a new moment in its long history. As a historian and not a geologist, I approach the Anthropocene in a non-technical way.

Diversity and Organizational Development

The potential benefits of employee and management diversity for organizational development have been clearly documented. Differences in ethnicity or gender can enhance innovation and decision making in task teams, and can improve stakeholder commitment and organizational performance. At the same time, it is not always easy to realize these diversity benefits. Building a more inclusive team and organizational climate proves to be quite challenging. But failing to do so causes those who are different to get discouraged and opt out, or prevents them from adding value as they adapt to existing ways. In this talk I will review evidence from experimental and applied research carried out in my lab to address these issues. The results we obtained elucidate some of the unexpected difficulties that are encountered when people with different backgrounds start working together. This work also helps to identify concrete measures that can be taken to build more inclusive work teams and organizations.
Alzheimer’s disease and Down syndrome: implications of the shared neuropathology to the development of new therapeutic approaches

Alzheimer’s disease (AD), a condition that affects 45 million people in the world, is characterized by different neuropathological hallmarks and dementia. Today, the only approved pharmacological treatments for this condition have very limited efficacy and their effect are only symptomatic. In the last years, different strategies targeting the tau protein or aiming to reduce β-amyloid production, to prevent β-amyloid aggregation, or to enhance β-amyloid elimination (through active or passive immunotherapies) have been tested. Although many of them have been proven to be effective in preclinical settings, over 99% of them have not demonstrated any efficacy or have been shown to have important adverse effects in Clinical trials. One of the reasons for this failure has been suggested to be fact that most animal models of AD, in which preclinical studies are performed, are based on genetic alterations found in different types of Familial AD, that only accounts for 5% of the cases of AD, which are not found in Sporadic AD (95% of the cases). Because 100% of individuals with Down syndrome (DS) develop AD neuropathology by their fourth decade of life, it has been proposed that Down syndrome could be a more adequate setting to study the neurobiological basis of AD and to test new therapeutic targets. This seminar will review the preclinical evidence that have led to Clinical trials that are taking place in DS and AD, with special emphasis on the new therapeutic strategies.
You have to be cool to go to Mars

Many challenges face us as we consider sending astronauts to Mars. How do we carry enough food and water for the 4-year trip? How do we protect from radiation? How do we deal with the social isolation and psychological impacts of limited human contact in a small space? There may be a single answer to solve several problems of long-term space flight --- deep torpor. Science fiction writers have had this figured out for decades. But how do we put into practice a real hypometabolic state in humans? Mother Nature has solved this several times over in animals that hibernate for an oncoming winter, in animals that utilized torpor during the fire season, in animals that estivate, and in animals that enter a dauer (enduring) state during development. How about humans – can humans hibernate? Lots of anecdotal evidence suggests that human babies, toddlers, and in a few cases, adults, can enter a torpor-like state, withstanding hours and even days of severe hypothermia. This seminar will examine current strategies utilized throughout the animal kingdom, and their application to human hypometabolism for long-term space flight.
Image Analysis between Semiotics and Computational Methods

This lecture aims at describing the relationships between semiotic analysis of images ('close reading') and computational analysis of big corpora of images ('distant reading'). We'll pursue two objectives. The first is to describe the different types of analysis created through Media Visualization as practiced by Lev Manovich and the Cultural Analytics Lab.

We will study two ways in which vast collections of archived images (Big Visual Data) are visualized – as montages and diagrams, posing the hypothesis that these visualizations function as an analysis of the visual archive through specifically visual and topological means. The visualizations created with this automatic and statistic techniques can be seen as diagrams that classify image corpora according to visual descriptors (color, shape, topological arrangement). The issue of visual metalanguage will be broached. We’ll show that the concept of analysis is not exclusively limited to natural and formal languages for its implementation, but that visual language may also serve as an analysis medium. The second objective is to define a series of new indexation parameters for image databases (especially compositional and mereological parameters). This strategy will enable us to go beyond the usual metadata on which these databases are constructed and to evaluate whether and how the question of archiving images can be useful for rethinking plastic/figurative analysis and enunciate theory in Semiotics.

Climate is changing ... since 4.5 billion years ago

The scaremongering on "climate change" and the disasters it will allegedly cause is mainly associated with socio-political and economic interests, rather than with scientific data. The very notion of "climate change" is not adequately defined as a scientific term. In fact the term is a pleonasm, as change is inherent in climate. The study of paleoclimatic data and historical hydrometeorological time series shows that climate has always been changing, on all time scales and as far back in time climate reconstruction studies allow. The hypothesis that recent changes (e.g. the increase of average global temperature by about 0.3°C in the last three decades) is anthropogenic, unlike the natural changes which always have taken place, is not supported by evidence. The climate models that have been used in support of this hypothesis, when tested in independent studies, have shown no skill in reproducing correctly the known past climate. A fortiori, the predictions of these models for the future can not be trusted.
Inequality, Innovations, and Globalization

Income inequality has increased substantially since the early 1980s in most countries in the world. Going back two centuries for the advanced countries it is shown that inequality has changed substantially over time. In this presentation, I discuss factors that have driven inequality over time such as 1) technological epochs; 2) globalization waves; 3) taxes; 4) declining investment prices; 5) unionization; 6) wars and 7) democratization. Furthermore, I show that inequality is increasing in economic progress in pre-industrial periods.

Designing, implementing and evaluating organizational interventions to improve employee well-being

Although interventions that aim to improve employee well-being through changing the way work is organized, designed and managed (organizational interventions) are generally recommended (ILO, 2001, EU-OSHA, 2010), reviews reveal inconsistent effects; while some show positive effects, others show no effects, mixed or even negative effects on employees’ working conditions and well-being (Semmer, 2011). These inconsistent effects have led researchers to take an interest in examining how the interventions may be designed and implemented to ensure an intervention’s success. Process evaluation frameworks and reviews have highlighted a number of process factors that may either make or break an intervention (Nielsen & Randall, 2013, Nielsen & Abildgaard, 2013). It has also led to scholars calling for innovative ways of evaluating such interventions with a view to understand what works for whom in which circumstances thus moving beyond the randomized-controlled trial’s question of whether an intervention worked or not. I put forward suggestions for how researchers can design, implement and evaluate organizational interventions to promote employee well-being. I will present state-of-the-art research in the area and present practical tools that may support change agents in translating research into practice throughout all phases of intervention: From designing, identifying problematic areas of the working environment, developing and implementing action plans to evaluating action plans.
Lazy young men? The Bolognese Accademia degli Oziosi as an emotional and scientific community

Scholarship on Italian academies has focused on their artistic and philosophical “outputs”, and more recently on the social networks that underpinned them. The reason for this is that publications by their members have survived abundantly. While this allows for perspectives on how the academicians fashioned themselves within the republic of letters, it does not supply an understanding of how they related to each other and their common project. I want to approach such questions based on manuscripts now preserved in Austin/Texas and produced by the Bolognese Accademia degli Oziosi, founded in 1563 by Camillo (1542–66) and Pompeo (1542–1607) Vizzani. The documents are significant not only because the Vizzani family archive has not survived, but also because they provide rich insight into the communication between the academy members. The Oziosis ceased to exist at Camillo’s death, but are considered a transition point from the Accademia Bocchiana to the later, and more famous Accademia dei Gelati. My lecture will explore how the apprenticeship and performance of emotions and natural philosophy co-determined the Oziosi as a generational cohort. Secondly, I propose that the conservation of their manuscripts may be understood not only in terms of the preservation of Aristotelian philosophy, but also of the transmission of “emotional knowledge” across the generations. This approach hopes to enrich the historical understanding of scientific and social knowledge more widely.