



ALESSANDRO FERRARA, Ph.D.

University of Rome Tor Vergata

Academic Career

Alessandro Ferrara is Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of Rome Tor Vergata and teaches Legal Theory at the Department of Law of Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome. He served as President of the Italian Association for Political Philosophy (2005-2010).

He graduated in Philosophy in Italy (1975) and later, as a Harkness Fellow, received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley (1984). He has conducted post-doctoral research in Munich and Frankfurt with Jürgen Habermas as a Von Humboldt Fellow and later at Berkeley again, leading to the publication of his first book *Modernity and Authenticity* (1993).

He has been an Assistant Professor in Sociology at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" between 1984 and 1998, then an Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Parma between 1998 and 2002, and since 2002 is Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

Prof. Ferrara has served as Director of the Ph.D. Program at the University of Rome Tor Vergata between 2008 and 2012, and as Director of the School of Journalism of the same University between 2004 and 2010.

He currently serves as Member of the National Committee for Habilitation in Political Philosophy, Italian Ministry of University and Education. He has served in the same capacity in 2013–2014 and as Member of the National Group of Experts (GEV-14) for assessing the quality of research in Italy (2004-10).

He presently serves as Chair of the Panel of Experts for assessing the quality of research in the humanities in the Czech Republic (2015-2019) and has served in the same capacity during the former evaluation of research in the Czech Republic (2010-14).

Leadership of scientific networks

Since 1991 Ferrara has been a Co-Director of the Yearly Prague Conference on *Philosophy and Social Science*, originally founded by Jürgen Habermas in Dubrovnik in 1976 and since 1993 held under the auspices of the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Science. Co-Directors formerly included Jean Cohen, Axel Honneth, Frank Michelman, Seyla Benhabib, Nancy Fraser, Rainer Forst, William Scheuerman, and currently include Maeve Cooke, Simone Chambers and other distinguished colleagues.

He has been a founder, and between 1990 and 2019 a Co-Director, of the *Seminario di Teoria Critica*, which meets yearly in Cortona, Italy.

Since 2007 he is on the Executive Committee of the Istanbul Seminars on religion and politics, held at Bilgi University in Istanbul under the auspices of the Association Reset - Dialogues of Civilizations, as of 2016 relocated in Venice at Ca' Foscari University. <https://www.resetdoc.org/who-we-are/resetdoc-europe/the-organization/>

Editorial Experience

He co-edits (with David Rasmussen) the series *Philosophy and Politics – Critical Explorations* at Springer.

He serves or has served as editorial consultant on the board of a number of journals including:

- *Constellations*
- *Philosophy and Social Criticism*
- *Berlin Journal of Critical Theory*
- *Social and Political Philosophy*
- *Krisis*
- *Balsa de la Medusa*
- *Studies in Social & Political Thought*
- *Symposion: Theoretical and Applied Inquiries in Philosophy and Social Sciences*

He has served as editorial consultant for the following publishers: Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Stanford University Press, Penn State University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Ashgate, Routledge, Sage, Polity Press.

Visiting and lecturing experience

Prof. Ferrara has taught courses and lectured in various capacities in a number of universities and institutions, including Boston College, Harvard University, Oxford University, Yale University, Columbia University, Rice University, Cardozo Law School, New School for Social Research in New York, EHESS and Sorbonne in Paris, CASS in Beijing, Sapienza University of Rome, Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, and the Universities of California at Berkeley, Madrid, Chicago, Potsdam, Amsterdam, Mexico City, Exeter, Manchester, Johannesburg, Coimbra, Braga, Lisbon, Berne, Barcelona, Dublin, Lyon III, Singapore, Milan, Tilburg, Luxembourg, Mumbai, Indore, Rio Grande do Sul at Porto Alegre, Mato Grosso at Campo Grande, Catholic University of Chile in Santiago.

Conferences organized during the last 5 years

- “A Genealogy of Post-metaphysical Thinking: A Seminar with Jürgen Habermas” Cortona, Italy, 18-19 October, 2019.
- “Philosophy and Social Science”, Prague, 29 May – 2 June, 2019
- “Identità collettive in movimento”, Critical Theory Seminar, Cortona, Italy, 19-20 October, 2018
- “Philosophy and Social Science”, Prague, 16-20 May, 2018
- “Il Socialismo: una storia (in)finita?”, Critical Theory Seminar, Cortona, Italy, 13-14 October, 2017
- “Philosophy and Social Science”, Prague, 17-21 May, 2017.

- “Potere/i”, Critical Theory Seminar, Cortona, Italy, 14-15 October, 2016
- “Religion, Rights and the Public Sphere”, Istanbul Seminars, Bilgi University, Istanbul, 24-28 May 2016.
- “Philosophy and Social Science”, Prague, 18-22 May, 2016

Lectures held on invitation during the past 5 years

- Lecture on “The Revolution of the «Most Reasonable». Rawls's Legacy in the 21st Century”, at the Conference “What Justice? The legacy of John Rawls 100 years after his birth” 16-17 December 2021, Luiss University Guido Carli, Rome.
- Lecture on “Political Liberalism and Hyperpluralism: A View from *The Democratic Horizon*”, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, India, 04.03.2021.
- Lecture on “The Revolution of the «Most Reasonable». Rawls's Legacy in the 21st Century”, Centennial Anniversary of Rawls's Birth, University of Mumbai, India, 21.02.2021.
- Lecture on “Representing the People and Transforming the Constitution”, CEPS Workshop at the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, 26.01.2021.
- Lecture on “Sequential Sovereignty. Constituent Power and Political Liberalism”, CEPS Workshop at the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, 25.01.2021.
- Lecture on “Constituent power, political liberalism and the Kelsen-Schmitt opposition”, Faculté de Droit, d'Économie et de Finance, University of Luxembourg, 23.09.2020.
- Lecture on “Che cosa è un popolo e chi lo rappresenta”, Doctoral Program in Political Studies, Sapienza, University of Rome, 25.02.2020.
- Lecture on “The populist river and its three tributaries”, at the Conference “The nature and transformation of contemporary political regimes: Sino-European perspectives”, Centre for Political Thought, University of Exeter, 13-14.02.2020.
- Lecture on “Post-metaphysical reason, solidarity and the reasonable: on Habermas’s *Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie*”, at the Conference “Jürgen Habermas: The Last Systematic Philosopher”, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, 21.11.2019.
- Lecture on “Demos and finalité”, at the Conference Bilbao European Encounters 2019, Globernance Center, Bilbao, 18.11.2019.
- Lecture on “Capitalism in Neoliberal Times: Rethinking the Left”, at the Conference “Capitalism and Critical Theory: a Workshop with Nancy Fraser”, Sapienza University of Rome, 4.10.2019.
- Keynote Lecture on “What Is a People, and Who Represents It?”, at the Pavia Graduate Conference, 17-18 September, 2019.
- Lecture on “Legitimacy and Reasonability: Reflections on Judicial Review”, at the ICON-S Conference “Public law in times of change?” Santiago, Chile, 1-3 July 2019.
- Lecture on “Courts Also Represent. Legitimation by Constitution, Representation and the Courts”, at the “II Encontro do Grupo de Estudos Democráticos” Campo Grande, Brazil, 24-26 June 2019.
- Lecture on “Embodied de-transcendentalized reason and the sources of solidarity” at the Conference “The History of Postmetaphysical Philosophy and the Future of Democracy: in Honor of Jürgen Habermas”, Goethe University Frankfurt, June 20-21, 2019.
- Lecture on “Unconventional adaptation and constitutional authenticity. On Ackerman's Revolutionary Constitutions”, Prague Conference *Philosophy & Social Science*, Prague, 29 May – 2nd June 2019.
- Lecture on “Narcissism and Critique. On Kohut’s Self Psychology” at the 12th International Critical Theory Conference, John Felice Rome Center of

- Loyola University, Rome, May 9-11, 2019.
- Lecture on “Justice”, University of Castel Sant’Angelo, Rome, 3.4.2019.
- Lecture on “Rappresentanza e costituzionalismo”, Italian Senate, 14.2.2019.
- Lecture on “Parties and Public Reason” at the Workshop on Bonotti’s *Partisanship and Political Liberalism in Diverse Societies*, Politeia Center and University of Milan, 31.1.2019.
- Lecture on “A Crypto-Liberalism of Collective Self-Restraint?”, at the Workshop “Inside and Outside Global Law”, School of Law, University of Roma TRE, 15.1.2019.
- Module of three Lectures on “The Revolution of Political Liberalism”, Istituto di Studi Filosofici, Naples, 1-3 December, 2018.
- Lecture on “«Most Reasonable for Humanity: legittimazione tramite costituzione su scala globale”, at the Conference “Unità e frammentazione dentro e oltre lo Stato”, ICON-S Italia, 23-24 November, 2018.
- Lecture on “La rivoluzione del ragionevole”, at the Conference “Rethinking *Political Liberalism*”, Politeia Center and University of Milan, 11.10.2018.
- Lecture on “Legitimate Authority: Too Many Gaps for One Concept to Bridge?”, Paris, Doctoral Program at SciencesPo, CEVIPOF, 4.10.2018.
- Lecture on “Unconventional Adaptation and the Authenticity of a Constitution”, at the Conference on Bruce Ackerman’s *Revolution Constitutions*, Yale University, New Haven, 24-25 August, 2018.
- Lecture on “Plato’s Cave and Pluralism”, at the Conference on “Legitimacy” of the Association for Social and Political Philosophy, Rome, 21-23.6.2018.
- Lecture on “«Most Reasonable for Humanity”: Legitimation by Constitution on a Global Scale», at the Conference “Hegemony in the International Order”, Rome 11-12 June 2018, Institute ‘Luigi Sturzo’.
- Lecture on “Sideways at the Entrance of the Cave: Plato and Pluralism”, at the ResetDoC Seminars on “Fountainheads of Toleration Forms of Pluralism in Empires, Republics, Democracies”, Venice, 9.6.2019.
- Lecture on “The «Communis» in *Sensus Communis*”, Prague Conference *Philosophy & Social Science*, Prague, 19.5.2017.
- Lecture on “Sideways at the entrance of the cave: Plato and pluralism” at the 10th International Critical Theory Conference, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University, Rome, May 10-12, 2018.
- Lecture on “Democracy and the Populist Challenge”, at the Conference “The State and Public Goods/Services: Regulator or Provider?”, European University of Tirana, Albania, 27-30 April 2018.
- Lecture on “«Most reasonable for humanity»: Legitimation by Constitution on a Global Scale” at the Conference “The Legitimacy of Transnational Orders: Discussing the Idea of a World State”, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, April 12-13, 2018.
- Lecture on “Social Freedom and the Challenge of Pluralism: Reflections on Honneth’s *Freedom’s Right*”, at the Conference “Recognition, Democracy and Social Liberty”, Sapienza University of Rome, 8.3.2018.
- Lecture on “La democrazia e la sfida populista”, at the Conference “La democrazia in difficoltà”, Pontifical University Angelicum, Rome, 3.2.2018.
- Intervention on “How is individuality possible? Georg Simmel’s philosophy and sociology of individualism”, at the Conference “Georg Simmel’s Living Heritage”, Catholic University, Milan, 30 November-1st December 2017.
- Lecture on “How to Accommodate *Modus Vivendi* Within Normative Political Theory” at the Workshop on “Modus Vivendi”, 10.11.2017, Centro Einaudi, Turin.

- Lecture on “Populism, the Crisis of Political Representation and the Future of Democracy”, at the Conference “Desafios políticos em um mundo em intensa Transformação”, Sao Paulo, 14-15 September, 2017.
- Lecture on “What Can Political Liberalism Tell Us About Populism?”, at the ResetDoC Seminars on “The Populist Upsurge and the Decline of Diversity Capital”, Venice, 8.6.2017.
- Key-note Lecture on “Political Liberalism, Revisited: The Upsurge of Populism and How to Cope”, at the Conference “Democracy and Dissent”, Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford, 2.6.2017.
- Intervention on “Coping with *Indigenous Unreasonability*”, at the Workshop on “The Stormy Democratic Horizon”, Prague Conference *Philosophy & Social Science*, Prague, 19.5.2017.
- Lecture on “Political liberalism revisited, the upsurge of populism and how to cope with it”, at the IX International Critical Theory Conference, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University, Rome 10-13 May 2017.
- Lecture on “Political liberalism revisited, the upsurge of populism and how to cope with it”, at the Colloquium of the Tilburg Law School, The Netherlands, 4.5.2017.
- Lecture on “Political Liberalism, Indigenous Unreasonability and Post-Liberal Democracy”, Trejo-Mathys Memorial Lecture, Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, Boston, 3.4.2017.
- Lecture on “Six Features of a Democratic Model of *Laïcité*”, at the Conference “State and Religions: Their Relation in Contemporary Pluralist Democracies”, Barcelona, Fundació Joan Maragall, 26.11.2016.
- Lecture on “The Dual Paradox of Authenticity in the 21st Century”, at the Conference “Theory and Practice of Authenticity in the 21st Century”, Berne, 17.11.2016.
- Lecture on “Giustizia ed equità nella società globale”, at the Conference “Diseguaglianze, Giustizia ed Equità nel Contesto Globale”, Italian Association of Sociology, Verona, 10.11.2016.
- Lecture on “Normativismo per il 21 secolo: una riflessione su potere e autorità”, at the Seminario di Teoria Critica, “Potere/i”, Cortona, 14.10.2016.
- Lecture on “The Overlapping Consensus and Modus Vivendi”, at Kick-off Conference on “Postsecular Conflicts”, Obergurgl, Austria, 16.06.2016
- Lecture on “Legitimate Authority: Too Many Gaps for one Concept to Bridge”, Prague Conference *Philosophy & Social Science*, Prague, 20.5.2016.
- Lecture on “Authority, Legitimacy and Democracy: How Can Political Liberalism Respond to the Challenge of Williams' Political Realism?”, at the Conference “Perspectives on State Authority and Democracy”, National University of Singapore, Political Theory Symposium Singapore, 5-6 February 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

A. Monographs:

9. *Sovereignty Across Generations. Constituent Power and Political Liberalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023 forthcoming.
8. with Frank I. Michelman, *Legitimation by Constitution. A Dialogue on Political Liberalism*, (Series: Oxford Constitutional Theory), New York, Oxford University Press, 2021.
7. *Rousseau and Critical Theory*, Boston and Leiden, Brill, 2017.
6. *The Democratic Horizon. Hyperpluralism and the Renewal of Political Liberalism*,

New York, Cambridge University Press, 2014 (Spanish Edition also).

Symposia on the book:

- a. “Liberalism between Politics and Epistemology: A Discussion of Alessandro Ferrara’s *The Democratic Horizon: Hyperpluralism and the Renewal of Political Liberalism*”, in *Political Studies*, 2016, pp. 1-23, (articles by M.Ivkovic, J.Loncar, S.Prodanovic, B. Simeunovic, reply by A.Ferrara);
<http://journals.sagepub.com/action/doSearch?SeriesKey=pswa&AllField=ferrara&>
 - b. “Democracy in the Age of Hyperpluralism. Special Section on Alessandro Ferrara’s *The Democratic Horizon: Hyperpluralism and the renewal of political liberalism*”, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2016, Vol. 42 (7), pp. 635–706 (articles by D.Rasmussen, F.Michelman, S.Benhabib, S.K.White, W.Scheuerman, A.S.Laden, reply by A.Ferrara);
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/pscb/42/7>
 - c. “The Prospect for *Liberal-Democracy* in Troubled Times. A Symposium on Alessandro Ferrara’s *The Democratic Horizon*”, supplementary volume of *Jura Gentium. Journal of Philosophy of International Law and Global Politics* (2017), Vol. XIV, n. 1, edited by L.Marchettoni, pp. 1-132 (articles by D.Owen, M.Festenstein, L.Baccelli, D.A.García, M.Solinas, L.Marchettoni, I.Testa, reply by A.Ferrara).
http://www.juragentium.org/Centro_Jura_Gentium/la_Rivista_files/JG_2017_1.pdf
 - d. “Le sfide della democrazia e il liberalismo politico”, Comments on A.Ferrara, *The Democratic Horizon*, in *Notizie di Politeia*, XXXIII, 126. 2017, pp. 165-183 (articles by E.Biale, V.Ottonelli, M.Santambrogio, reply by A.Ferrara)
5. *Democrazia e apertura*, Milan, Bruno Mondadori, 2011.
 4. *The Force of the Example. Explorations in the Paradigm of Judgment*, New York, Columbia University Press, 2008. (Spanish and Italian Edition also)

Symposia on the book:

- a. “Review Symposium on *The Force of the Example*” in *Political Studies*, 2009, pp. 1-16 (articles by D.Castiglione, J.Richardson, A.Schaap, C.Wagner, reply by A.Ferrara).
 - b. “Validità esemplare, estetica e politica. Discutendo *La forza dell'esempio* di A.Ferrara” numero monografico di *Jura Gentium*, a cura di L.Marchettoni (articles by L.Baccelli, C.Bottici, L.Cortella, F.Crespi, E.Galeotti, T.Griffero, L.Marchettoni, M.Rosati, D.Santoro, reply by A.Ferrara)
3. *Justice and Judgment. The Rise and the Prospect of the Judgment Model in Contemporary Political Philosophy*, London, Sage, 1999. (Italian edition also)
 2. *Reflective Authenticity. Rethinking the Project of Modernity*, 1998, London and New York, Routledge. (Spanish and Italian edition also)

Symposium on the book:

- a. “Symposium on *Reflective Authenticity*” in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2004, 30, 1, pp. 5-24 (articles by Ch.Larmore, A.Honneth, reply by A.Ferrara).
1. *Modernity and Authenticity. A Study of the Social and Ethical Thought of Jean Jacques Rousseau*, 1993, New York, SUNY Press.

B. Volumes and special issues edited during the past 5 years:

- with D.Rasmussen e V.Kaul, *Fountainheads of Toleration – Forms of Pluralism in Empires, Republics, Democracies*, 2019, Vol. 45, 2.
- with D.Rasmussen e V.Kaul, *The Populist Upsurge and the Decline of Diversity Capital*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2018, Vol. 44, 4.
- A.Ferrara (ed.), *Prague: 25 Years of Critical Theory*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2017, Vol. 43 (3), pp. 235-372.
- with D.Rasmussen e V.Kaul, *Religion, Rights and the Public Sphere*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2017, Vol. 43, 4-5.

C. Essays in edited volumes during the past 5 years:

- “Unconventional Adaptation and the Authenticity of a Constitution”, in R.Albert, *Revolutionary Constitutionalism. Law, Legitimacy, Power* (Oxford: Hart, 2020), 155-177.
- Os tribunais também representam: “Legitimidade pela Constituição”, Representação e os Tribunais, in Marta Nunes da Costa (ed.), *Representação: Variações de um conceit*, São Paulo, LiberArs, 2020, pp. 85-100.
- “Narcissism and Critique. On Kohut’s Self Psychology”, in A.Allen and B.O’Connor (eds.), *Transitional Subjects. Critical Theory and Object Relations* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2019), 75-105.
- “Deconstructing the Deconstruction of the Law: Reflections on Menke's «Law and Violence»”, in D.Owen (ed.), *Law and Violence. Christoph Menke in Dialogue*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2018, pp. 112-136.
- “Curbing the Absolute Power of Disembedded Financial Markets: The Grammar of Counter-Hegemonic Resistance and the Polanyian Narrative”, in B.Bargu and C.Bottici (eds.), *Feminism, Capitalism, and Critique. Essays in Honor of Nancy Fraser*, Cham (CH), Palgrave MacMillan, 2017, pp. 167-184.

D. Peer-reviewed articles published during the past 5 years:

- “Capitalism in neoliberal times: Rethinking the left”, *Philosophy and Public Issues (New Series)*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (2021): 19-34.
- “The revolution of ‘the most reasonable’: Rawls's legacy in the 21st century”, in *Sambashan*, 2021, special issue on John Rawls (1921-2021), 21-39.
- “The People and the Voters”, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2021, 47, 1, 45-53.
- “What the controversy over ‘the reasonable’ reveals: On Habermas’s Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie”, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2021, online first, DOI: 10.1177/01914537211034907.
- “Habermas e Rawls, Ciò che la controversia intorno al «ragionevole» rivela”, in *Quaderni di Teoria Sociale*, 2020, 1-2, 665-677.
- “Further Thoughts on A-Legality, Exemplarity and Constituent Power: Responding to Hans Lindahl” in *Etica & Politica/Ethics & Politics*, 2020, 22, 461-474.
- ‘Authority, legitimacy, and democracy: Narrowing the gap between normativism and realism’, in *Constellations* 2020, 27, 4, pp. 655-669.

- “A Crypto-Liberalism of Collective Self-Restraint? On H.Lindahl’s *Authority and the Globalization of Inclusion and Exclusion*”, in *Etica & Politica/Ethics & Politics*, 2019, 21, 371-381.
- “«Most Reasonable for Humanity»: Legitimation Beyond the State”, in *Jus Cogens*, 2019, Vol. 1, 1, pp. 1-17.
- “Social freedom and reasonable pluralism: Reflections on Freedom’s Right”, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2019, Vol. 45 (6), pp. 665-674.
- “Sideways at the entrance of the cave: A pluralist footnote to Plato”, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2019, Vol. 45 (4), pp. 390-402.
- “Debating Exemplarity: The ‘Communis’ in Sensus Communis”, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2019, Vol. 45 (2), pp. 146-158.
- “Che cosa è un popolo”, in *Politica & Società*. 2019, 2, 163-182.
- “Come continuare a parlare di ideologia entro un orizzonte post-moderno”, in *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia*, 2018, Vol. 59, 3, pp. 515-535.
- “How to Accommodate *Modus Vivendi* Within Normative Political Theory”, in *BDL-Biblioteca della Libertà*, 2018, Vol. 53, 2, pp. 9-26.
- “Can Political Liberalism Help Us Rescue “the people” from Populism?”, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2018, Vol. 44 (3), pp. 463-477.
- “Judicial Review and Its Discontents: A Reply to Frank Michelman”, in *Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia del Diritto*, 2017, 4, pp. 615-636.
- “Exemplarity in the Public Realm”, in *Law & Literature*, 2017, pp. 1-13.
- “Prague, or Critical Theory in the 21st Century”, in A.Ferrara (ed.), *Prague: 25 Years of Critical Theory*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2017, Vol. 43 (3), pp. 235-42.
- “Sul fare «volontariamente» quello che non si vorrebbe fare”, *Annali di studi religiosi*, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, 18, 2017, pp. 37-43.