



**ALESSANDRO FERRARA, Ph.D.**  
**Professor Emeritus, University of Rome Tor Vergata**

**Academic Career**

Alessandro Ferrara is Professor Emeritus of Political Philosophy at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. He currently teaches Legal Theory at the Department of Law of Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome and Political Theory at Loyola University Chicago (JFRC). 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 has served as Member of the National Committee for Habilitation in Political Philosophy, Italian Ministry of University and Education in 2018-2020. 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 has also served 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 Parma, 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/>, as of 2023 relocated in Dublin, at Boston College Ireland.

## 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*
- *Astérisque*

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

Recently Prof. Ferrara has taught a course on “John Rawls, constituent power and political liberalism”, as Visiting Professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Spring 2024.

Prof. Ferrara has also 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, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Sapienza University of Rome, Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, EUI in Fiesole, 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, Leuven.

### Conferences organized during the last 5 years

- “Philosophy and Social Science”, Prague, 8-12, 2024
- “Philosophy and Social Science”, Prague, 10-14, 2023
- “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

### Lectures held on invitation during the past 5 years

- Lecture on “Il potere costituente del popolo tra *agency* e imputabilità”, at the TRANSHAB conference “Habitus, potere, pratiche”, University of Rome Tor Vergata, 5 July 2024.
- Lecture on “Constitutional Identity and Constitutional Authenticity”, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 6 June 2024.
- Lecture on “Political Liberalism”, at the Conference “The Revival of Constituent Power”, University of Hamburg, 20-22 March, 2024.
- Lecture on *Sovereignty Across Generations*, Institute of Philosophy and Social Theory, Belgrade, 7.3.2024.
- Lecture on “Constitutional Authenticity, Vertical Reciprocity, and Political Liberalism”, at the Conference “Constitutional Communities”, Institute of Philosophy/Faculty of Law, KU Leuven, 8-9 February, 2024.
- Lecture on “Sequential Sovereignty and Vertical Reciprocity”, at the XXXIV Seminario di Teoria Critica, Parma 6-8 October 2023.
- Lecture on “Rethinking Sequential and Serial Semocratic Sovereignty. A Reply to Critics”, Workshop on *Sovereignty Across Generations*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 8.9.2023.
- Lecture on “Justice as (Social) Freedom: on Honneth’s *Recht der Freiheit*”, at the 15th International Critical Theory Conference, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University, Rome, 7-9.5.2023.
- Lecture on “Vertical reciprocity: Can Rawls's case for implicit unamendability be strengthened?” at Research in Political Philosophy Leuven (RIPPLE), Institute of Philosophy, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 27.4.2023.
- Lecture on “Reciprocità verticale: cosa è inemendabile in una costituzione, e perché?”, Doctoral Program in History and Social-Philosophical Studies, University of Rome Tor Vergata, 19.4.2023.
- Lecture on “*Il contratto sociale* di Rousseau: tre insegnamenti per il nostro tempo”, University of L’Aquila, 16.12.2022.
- Lecture on “Post-metaphysical reason and the reasonable: on Habermas’s *Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie*”, at the 14th International Critical Theory Conference, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University, Rome, 16-18.5.2022.
- Lecture on “Vertical reciprocity: Can Rawls's case for implicit unamendability be strengthened?” at Faculté de Droit, d’Économie et de Finance, University of Luxembourg, 27.4.2022.
- Lecture on “Politica, verità e democrazia al tempo dei social media”, Doctoral Program in History and Social-Philosophical Studies, University of Rome Tor Vergata, 13.4.2022.
- 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## PUBLICATIONS

### A. Monographs (1993-2023):

9. *Sovereignty Across Generations. Constituent Power and Political Liberalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023 (Italian edition also) [awarded “Best 2023 Book” prize by ICON-S, International Society of Public Law]

#### Symposia on the book (forthcoming):

- a. “A Discussion of Alessandro Ferrara’s *Sovereignty Across Generations. Constituent Power and Political Liberalism*”, forthcoming in *Jerusalem Law Review*, 2024 (articles by I.Porat, A.Sharon, R.Gargarella, A.Harel, reply by A.Ferrara);
  - b. “Debating Alessandro Ferrara’s *Sovereignty Across Generations. Constituent Power and Political Liberalism*”, forthcoming in *Biblioteca della libertà (BdL)*, forthcoming 2024 (articles by E.Galeotti, M.Santambrogio, M.Croce, F.Pasquali, F.Pizzetti, reply by A.Ferrara);
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 and Portuguese 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](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, *Between State and Civil Society: Who Protects Individual Liberties and Human Dignity*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2023, Vol. 49, 5.
- with D.Rasmussen e V.Kaul, *Free Speech, Its Primacy and Challenges*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2022, Vol. 48, 4.
- with D.Rasmussen e V.Kaul, *Communities and the Individual: Beyond the Liberal-Communitarian Divide*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2021, Vol. 47, 4.
- with D.Rasmussen e V.Kaul, *Fountainheads of Toleration – Forms of Pluralism in Empires, Republics, Democracies*, special issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 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.

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

- “Introduzione”, in J.Habermas e J.Rawls, *Dialogo sulla democrazia deliberativa*, a cura di A.Ferrara, Milano-Udine: Mimesis 2023, 9-23.
- “La Teoria dell’agire comunicativo, quarant’anni dopo”, Presentazione della nuova edizione di J.Habermas, *Teoria dell’agire comunicativo*, Bologna: il Mulino 2022, 9-27.
- “Exemplarität in Politik und Recht”, in M.Summa and K.Mertens (eds.), *Das Exemplarische. Orientierung für menschliches Wissen und Handeln*, Paderborn, Brill/Mentis, 2022, 295-317.

- “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.

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

- “What the controversy over ‘the reasonable’ reveals: On Habermas’s *Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie*”, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2022, Vol. 48(3) 313–332.
- “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.
- “Capitalism in neoliberal times: Rethinking the left”, *Philosophy and Public Issues (New Series)*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (2021): 19-34.
- “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.