



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

**Studi** DIPARTIMENTO  
**Um** DI STUDI  
UMANISTICI

### How is the workshop organized?

The central idea is that doing research is possible only when there is plenty of time left for intellectual exchange and mutual interaction is searched and fostered. Following this simple (but alas all too often forgotten) principle, all the speakers will have 40 minutes (maximum) granted for each presentation, followed by 20 minutes of discussion/question time. All participants (both speakers and audience) are encouraged to engage in discussions, in the positive and constructing spirit of cooperation and curiosity. All speakers are invited to get involved in discussions for the entire length of the workshop, in order to create a positive synergy among all participants. At the same time, a group of highly competent and specialized audience will be warmly invited to take part in the discussions, in order to maximize the positive effects of making research together.

### “Have We Ever Been Modern?”

Paradigms of Modernity and Research  
Methodologies in Normative and Area Studies

The debate around Modernity is quite a complex one. Many have discussed about themes such as: a) What is the nature of Modernity and is it so different from the previous periods? b) Is it the final step in human history or is there a period after Modernity (Postmodern, Late-Modern, not-anymore-Modern)? c) Is there a bifurcation between different Modernities or is it only singular? To these questions, different thinkers have elaborated various and often contrasting approaches, which have consequently influenced the academic research methods, theories and themes in many respects. The very research paradigms of all disciplines, or even more radically, the very definitions of these disciplines, have been transformed through various allegedly modern ideas. Modernity appears as a double-edged concept, based upon a distinction between center/Identity and periphery/Other: on one hand, moderns presume to have the power to represent themselves, yet on the basis of modern premises. On the other, the images of the past (the temporal Other), and of different regions or cultures (the geographical Other) are strongly derivative of this self-definition.

This symposium aims at shedding some light upon the question whether and how allegedly modern approach has influenced the academic research toolbox: its categories and presuppositions, its methods of analysis, intellectual procedures and research aims in all disciplines, be they normative or temporally/regionally defined in nature. In order to discuss such a theme, the organizers have invited speakers from different approaches: anthropology, cultural studies, historiography, linguistics and philology, literature, philosophy, religious studies, social theory. Debating about the “state of the art” and the history of critical approaches may help to define an “archeology of knowledge” of academic research and provide precious indications about its representational orientations and significance for the present time.

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DIPARTIMENTO DI STUDI UMANISTICI

## “HAVE WE EVER BEEN MODERN?”

PARADIGMS OF MODERNITY AND RESEARCH  
METHODOLOGIES IN NORMATIVE  
AND AREA STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



TURIN

NOVEMBER 13TH – 14TH – 15TH 2019  
PALAZZO DEL RETTORATO - VIA PO, 17

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## NOVEMBER 13TH 2019

(SALA PRINCIPI D'ACAJA C/O RETTORATO, VIA PO 17)

### 9:45 Opening and Introduction

10:00-12:00 **Session I** (Chair: Alessandro Mengozzi, Univ. of Turin)

**Cristina Scherrer-Schaub** (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), Paris Sciences Lettres (PSL), Lausanne University) - *What in the Name of (nihil?) sub sole novum in Indian Buddhism?*

**Carlotta Moiso** (University of Turin) - *Modernity and/of Mysticism? Some Methodological and Transcultural Reflections*

### 12:00-12:15 Break

12:15-13:15 **Adam Yuet Chau** (University of Cambridge) - *Death by a Thousand Cuts? Modernity and Death in China and the China Field*

### 13:15-14:15 Lunch break

14:15-16:15 **Session II** (Chair: Carlo Capello, Univ. of Turin)

**Darin Tenev** (Sofia University) - *The Crisis of Modernity and the World in Ruins*

**Giovanni Leghissa** (University of Turin) - *Modernity and Foundation. Toward an Anthropological Approach to the Processes of Rationalisation*

### 16:15-16:30 Break

16:30-17:30 **Matteo Cestari** (university of Turin) - *De-essentializing "Modernity". From Modern Identity to Historical Connectedness*

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## NOVEMBER 14TH 2019

(SALA DELLA BIBLIOTECA "ARTURO GRAF", VIA PO 17)

10:00-12:00 **Session III** (Chair: Giovanni Leghissa, Univ. of Turin)

**Oleg Benesch** (University of York) - *Global Medievalism, Disciplinarity, and the Question of Modernity*

**Sonia Favi** (University of Manchester) - *Pre-modernity, or Multiple-Modernities? The Issue of 'Tokugawa Modernity'*

### 12:00-12:15 Break

12:15-13:15 **Tommaso Bobbio** (University of Turin) - *Struggling with Past: Modernity and Tradition in the Quest for Promoting National Heritage in Contemporary "Hindu" India*

### 13:15-14:15 Lunch break

14:15-16:15 **Session IV** (Chair: Tommaso Bobbio, Univ. of Turin)

**Andrea Revelant** (University of Venice Ca' Foscari) - *Japan's Modernity: Paradigm Shifts in Historical Research*

**Patrick Heinrich** (University of Venice Ca' Foscari) - *Language ad its Double*

### 16:15-16:45 Break

16:45-19:00 **Session V** (Chair: Matteo Cestari, Univ. of Turin)

**Carlo Capello** (University of Turin) - *The Modern Individual and his Other, or not? A Critical Return on the Anthropology of the Person*

**Mikael Carleheden** (University of Copenhagen) - *'Reason and Freedom Remain our Principles'. Normative and Ontological Theorizing in the Social Sciences*

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## NOVEMBER 15TH 2019

(SALA DELLA BIBLIOTECA "ARTURO GRAF", VIA PO 17)

10:00-12:00 **Session VI** (Chair: Gianni Pellegrini, Univ. of Turin)

**Daniela Moro** (University of Venice Ca' Foscari) - *Is Ancient Japanese Female Literature 'Other'? Reflections on the Modern Category of Women's Style Literature (joryū bungaku)*

**Pierantonio Zanotti** (University of Venice Ca' Foscari) - *'Modernism' in the Critical Discourse on Modern Japanese Literature*

### 12:00-12:30 Conclusion and Greetings



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