



Università  
degli Studi  
di Padova

FISPPA – DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOSOFIA, SOCIOLOGIA,  
PEDAGOGIA E PSICOLOGIA APPLICATA

### Speakers:

Carola Barbero (University of Turin)  
Francesco Campana (ZfL, Berlin)  
Jan Czarnecki (University of Köln)  
Mario Farina (University of Florence)  
Eileen John (University of Warwick)  
Peter Lamarque (University of York)  
Alberto L. Siani (University of Pisa)  
Giuseppe Spolaore (University of Padova)  
Gabriele Tomasi (University of Padova)  
Alberto Voltolini (University of Turin)

### Participants:

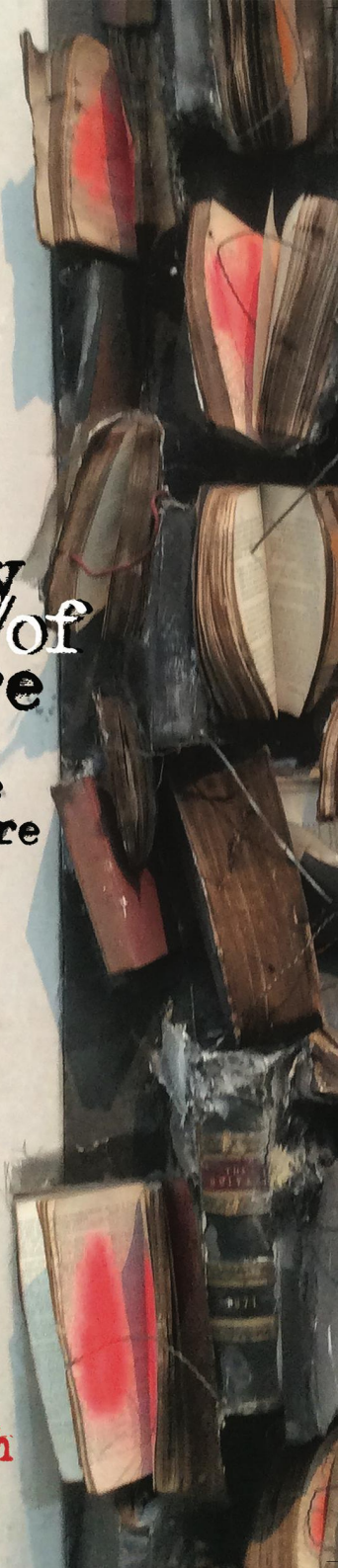
Michela Bordignon, Valentina Bortolami,  
Elisa Caldarola, Massimiliano Carrara,  
Luca Corti, Eleonora Cugini, Davide Dalla  
Rosa, Laura Dequal, Alessandro Esposito,  
Marco Ferrari, Armando Manchisi,  
Giovanna Miolli, Vittorio Morato, Barbara  
Santini, Niccolò Sbolci, Elena Tripaldi

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Foundation. Photo by F. Campana

# Philosophy as/and/of Literature

On the cognitive  
value of literature

International  
Workshop  
Padova 14th-15th  
December 2017





# Philosophy as/and/of Literature On the Cognitive Value of Literature University of Padova, December 14th – 15th 2017

## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

Aula Diano – Palazzo Liviano

14.00: Introduction

Chair: Gabriele Tomasi

14.15: Eileen John

*Fables and philosophy: stories for people  
who know too many stories*

15.15: Francesco Campana

*Dialectical Affinities: Remarks on Philosophy,  
Literature, and Knowledge*

16.15 – 16.45: Coffee Break

Aula Diano – Palazzo Liviano

Chair: Jan Czarnecki

16.45: Giuseppe Spolaore

*Agency and literary truth*

17.45: Mario Farina

*The cognitive value of form  
in the context of literary fragmentation*

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

Aula A – Palazzo Liviano

Chair: Francesco Campana

10.30: Peter Lamarque

*Truth in Poetry: a Matter of Detail*

11.45: Jan Czarnecki

*Truth in Fiction.  
Ingarden's Quasi-Judgments Revisited*

13.00 – 14.30: Lunch

Aula Diano – Palazzo Liviano

Chair: Mario Farina

14.30: Carola Barbero

*Why is reading literature important for us?*

15.45: Alberto L. Siani

*Nowhere between river and road.  
Thomas Nagel and Cormac McCarthy*

17.00: Alberto Voltolini

*What We Learn from Literary Authors*

18.00: Conclusion

In his *Critique of Judgment*, Kant affirms that an «aesthetic judgment is unique in kind and provides absolutely no cognition (not even a confused one) of the object»; it brings to our attention «only the purposive form in the [way] the presentational powers are determined in their engagement with the object».

The cognitive value of art is a long lasting topic in philosophical debates and becomes even more complex if we take literature into account, i.e. an art that makes use of a verbal and even conceptual dimensions. Can we learn anything from literature? What kind of possible knowledge can we gain from it? Can we come to know something true through fiction? Can we acquire a general wisdom or a particular expertise from it?

This kind of problem calls into question the more general relationship between philosophy and literature. From Ancient Greek Thought to Classic German Philosophy, from Marxist analysis of literature to Structuralist investigations on its nature, from the Phenomenological and Hermeneutical conceptions of the 20th Century about the truth in the arts to the debate between cognitivists and anti-cognitivists in the Analytical Tradition, the connection (and sometimes struggle) between philosophy and literature has produced many insights, positions, and approaches. With the title *Philosophy as/and/of Literature* – which clearly recalls Arthur C. Danto's renowned article – this workshop aims to discuss the relationship between the two disciplines, with a particular focus on the cognitive value of literature.

**Organizing committee:**  
Gabriele Tomasi (University of Padova)  
Francesco Campana (Zentrum für Literatur-  
und Kulturforschung, Berlin)

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Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy and Applied  
Psychology of the University of Padova and  
the PhD Course in Philosophy.**