



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

LABORATORIO
STORIA DELLE IDEE LINGUISTICHE

Saussure and his Italian interpreters

Antonino Pagliaro, Rome's School of Linguistics and the European milieu

Rome, La Sapienza, 6-7 June 2016

The centenary of Saussure's Course in General Linguistics (1916-2016) provides an important opportunity to investigate how Saussurean ideas circulated and influenced both Linguistics and the Philosophy of language during the 20th century. The History of Ideas on Language Workshop - promoted by the two chairs of Philosophy of Language at "Sapienza, University of Rome" - will examine this issue in depth and analyse it with regard to Italian culture, starting from Saussure's reception in the 1920s-1930s to his 'rediscovery' during the 1950s-1960s on the basis of new handwritten sources.

As is well-known, classic works, such as **Godel** (1957), **Engler** (1967-74) and **De Mauro** (1967), played a pivotal role in approaching Saussure according to philological as well as critical guidelines. However Italian 'glottology' had already considered Saussure's key ideas on language soon after the publication of CLG. While **Benedetto Croce** ascribed no scientific value to categories such as 'grammar', 'vocabulary', 'rule' and the like, some young talented linguists such as **Giacomo Devoto**, **Bruno Migliorini**, **Benvenuto Terracini**, and **Antonino Pagliaro**, drew on Saussure in order to underpin, establish and develop the linguistic studies from both the empirical and the epistemological stances. Saussure provided an alternative path between Neogrammarians' naturalism and Idealistic subjectivism, much like **Croce**, **Vossler** and their followers' (Bertoni was a case in point). In recent years, the debate around **Antonio Gramsci's** ideas on language (1929-1935) has revealed that a "social" approach to the realm of language had also come to the fore, due to the interplay of the 'neo-linguist' **Matteo Bartoli's** lesson and the - indirect, but evident - influence of Geneva's school of Linguistics



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This Colloquium intends to retrace the history of Italian linguistic thought along the XX century sub specie saussureana. Sources such as 1920s and 1930s scientific journals, Congresses on Linguistics and the Philosophy of Language (1933, 1940, 1956), debates concerning language along with law in terms of an ‘institutional’ object (1946-1963), will be systematically investigated. Antonino Pagliaro's scientific work will be the guiding thread of the investigation: his manifold activity as both a linguist and a philosopher of language resulted in a constant dialogue with the theoretical-linguistic studies of the time, from Saussure and Cassirer up to functionalism; while the field of semantics (a field that also his disciple Tullio De Mauro was to dig upon) emerged as the central issue of linguistic research.

Invited speakers: prof. Tullio De Mauro (emeritus, Sapienza, University of Rome); prof. Daniele Gambarara (Calabria University); Marco Mancini (Sapienza, University of Rome); Christian Puech (Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle) Jürgen Trabant (emeritus, Freie Universität Berlin).

Organizing committee: Marina De Palo and Stefano Gensini.

A limited number of communications (each of 20 minutes in length) will be accepted: proposals should be submitted following the usual conventions (an anonymous abstract and, separately, a file including full references of the proponent). Any topic falling into the scope of the Colloquium's subject may be considered for communication. Particular attention will be paid, however, to contributions focusing on concrete evidence of Saussure's reception (reviews, discussion, elaboration) as well as application of his concepts to philosophical-linguistic issues rooted into the Italian tradition.

Possible guidelines for contributors are the following ones:

- 1 - G. I. Ascoli's legacy, neo-linguistics and Saussurean topics in the Italian linguistics: 1900-1935
- 2 - Linguistic theories and educational strategies: from Giuseppe Lombardo-Radicke to the ‘educational linguistics’;
- 3 - The Rome's school of linguistics: Pagliaro, Lucidi and De Mauro readers and interpreters of the Course in General Linguistics;
- 4 - Meaning analysis, stylistics and the ‘semantic criticism’;
- 5 - Individual and Society from a linguistic stance: Gramsci's contribution, linguistic Institutionalism and De Mauro's “Saussure”.



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Scientific committee: S. Gensini, M. De Palo, L. Formigari, D. Gambarara, F. Albano Leoni, D. Savatovsky.

Abstracts should not exceed 4.000 characters (references included); contributors are requested to send both their (anonymous) abstracts and the files including their personal credentials to the following email address: **labsil@uniroma1.it**.

Deadline for submission: Nov. 15, 2015.

Scientific Committee's decisions will be communicated to contributors within Jan. 15, 2016.