



GSH 2018 Summer Seminars

6th-11th September 2018  
GENOA

ORGANISED BY:  
Lorenzo Chiesa  
Raffaello Palumbo Mosca

**SPEAKERS AND SEMINAR LEADERS:**

DAVIDE BRULLO (novelist and poet)

TIZIANA CERA ROSCO (artist)

GIORGIO CESARALE (philosopher)

LORENZO CHIESA (philosopher)

CRISTIANA CIMINO (psychoanalyst)

RAFFAELLO PALUMBO MOSCA (literary critic)



# THE ANIMAL (Nature/Science)

Established in 2013 and directed by Lorenzo Chiesa and Raffaello Palumbo Mosca, the Genoa School of Humanities (GSH) offers weekly series of seminars in English held by scholars of philosophy, literature, and other subjects, as well as by psychoanalysts, filmmakers, poets, and novelists.

In the 2018 Summer Seminars, we will focus on the animal in its close connection with nature in general and science as today's hegemonic discourse. Our interdisciplinary approach will be from the standpoints of philosophy, psychoanalysis, poetry, literary criticism, and fine art.

Since its origins, Western philosophy has given great importance to the thresholds that would allegedly separate the non-rational life of the animal from both the political commonality of human beings as endowed with language and the life of plants as merely nutritive and reproductive. But the modern state, which was founded theoretically on the exclusion of a state of nature where "man is wolf to man", has now been mostly reduced to the anarchic administration of the bare life of human animals increasingly deprived of basic rights (terrorists, migrants, precarious workers), if not surviving in a semi-vegetative condition (the terminally ill, so-called "lifers"). How do Agamben's critique of biopolitics and Derrida's investigations of the "animal that therefore we are" help us to clarify this predicament? Are the current weakening of the state and concurrent withering away of traditional sovereignty inevitably doomed to pave the way for an apocalyptic, and unprecedented, "war of all against all"?

The consolidation of Darwinism as a dominant scientific paradigm in turn problematised the natural divisions created by classical philosophy and Christian religion. On the one hand, evolutionary theory seems to have refuted anthropocentrism. On the other hand, it still widely relies on a genetic determinism that runs the risk of projecting onto animality a human-all-too-human model of competition and selection (the "survival of the fittest"). Can Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis contribute to elucidating this conundrum? Is human sexuality fundamentally different from animal sexuality? And, if we assume that the former revolves around the sexual difference between woman and man as symbolically constructed categories, how should we map this difference back onto the animal while avoiding both a sexist naturalisation of woman as unable "to attain the ideal" and a hysterical bestialisation of man as "predatory"?

The animal has always played a central role in literature, from Aesop's fables to Kafka's nightmares, Borges's bestiaries, Montale's ornithology, and Ted Hughes' zoology. How do the more recent engagements of prominent novelists, including Ishiguro and Houellebecq, with the dystopian possibilities created by cloning complicate the already tenuous border between humans, animals, and plants? Can the writer emerge as the spokesperson for a renewed notion of pietas capable of tackling the ethical dilemmas of a highly advanced – and potentially uncontrollable – technological society, which more and more sees itself as post-human? Conversely, in what sense could one claim that, following the title of a well-known story by Henry James, the poet is himself a beast in the jungle of bodies and signs, whose savage identity awaits to be fully unfolded? Would it be possible to reverse this very identity, extended to the artist's practice, into a "spiritual hunt"?

The GSH provides a venue where young scholars can deepen their knowledge, not only by attending seminars, but also by actively discussing in an informal context their own research projects with highly qualified teachers and among themselves. One of the basic ideas of the GSH is that learning is enhanced by the suspension of formalisms, hierarchies, and the principle of authority that usually define traditional academic contexts. Each seminar day revolves around one or two presentations by an invited speaker and is enriched by roundtables, small study groups, and debates that are always attended by one or more seminar leaders. The exchange of knowledge and ideas is facilitated by the limited number of students (up to fifteen), and by the interdisciplinary nature of the seminars.

Speakers and seminar leaders at the GSH are leading international figures in their academic and extra-academic fields. They are based both in Italy and abroad. Participants are thus exposed to different cultures, teaching methods, and disciplinary perspectives. They are also enabled to establish new research networks and acquire practical information on how to access PhD and post-doctoral programmes. The GSH has welcomed students from several countries, including Italy, the UK, Russia, Iran, Israel, and the Ukraine.

## HOW TO REACH US

Seminars are held in Genoa, Via Parini 10, in a nineteenth century villa. From Genova Brignole railway station take bus number 43 toward Nervi. Get off in Via Albaro; cross Piazza Leopardi and you reach Via Parini.

## REGISTRATION FEES

6 days of seminars: €300  
5 days of seminars: €250  
4 days of seminars: €200  
3 days of seminars: €150  
2 days of seminars: €100

The interdisciplinary programme of the series is conceived to enable participants to be exposed to fields of research and practice that are not necessarily their own. We encourage participants to register for the entire series. It is also possible to select specific (and non-contiguous) seminars. Attendance of a single seminar should be discussed with the organisers.

Please, pay by bank transfer to:

Spazio Musica (reason for payment: GSH)  
Bank: CA.RI.GE.  
IBAN: IT72 M061 7501 44800000 0260 880

Payments should be received no later than 23 August 2018. Please, send a copy of the payment receipt to [registration@gsh-education.com](mailto:registration@gsh-education.com)

The GSH reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the seminar series in case of any event beyond its control. Should this happen participants will be informed at least ten days prior to the beginning of the series and are entitled to a full refund of the registration fee.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
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## PROGRAMME 2018 SUMMER SEMINARS

### Thursday 6 September:

- 10:00 Welcome and introduction to the 2018 summer seminars  
([Lorenzo Chiesa](#) & [Raffaello Palumbo Mosca](#))
- 10:30 "State Sovereignty, Human Animal, and Nature"  
([Giorgio Cesarale](#))
- 12:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 15:00 Roundtable on Giorgio Cesarale's seminar  
(chair: [Lorenzo Chiesa](#))
- 17:00 Drinks and nibbles

### Friday 7 September:

- 10:30 "Animal and Human Sexuality: Between Psychoanalysis and the Life-Sciences"  
([Lorenzo Chiesa](#))
- 12:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 15:00 Roundtable on Lorenzo Chiesa's seminar  
(chair: [Giorgio Cesarale](#))

### Saturday 8 September:

- 10:30 "The Feminine-Animal Absolute Other"  
([Cristiana Cimino](#))
- 12:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 15:00 Roundtable on Cristiana Cimino's seminar  
(chair: [Lorenzo Chiesa](#))

### Sunday 9 September:

- 10:30 "The Spiritual Hunt"  
([Tiziana Cera Rosco](#))
- 12:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 15:00 Roundtable on Tiziana Cera Rosco's seminar  
(chair: [Raffaello Palumbo Mosca](#))

### Monday 10 September:

- 10:30 "The Poet in the Jungle"  
([Davide Brullo](#))
- 12:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 15:00 Roundtable on Davide Brullo's seminar (chair: [Raffaello Palumbo Mosca](#))

### Tuesday 11 September:

- 10:30 "Humans, Animals, Clones: Literature's Encounter with the Other and the Concept of Pietas"  
([Raffaello Palumbo Mosca](#))
- 12:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 15:00 Roundtable on Raffaello Palumbo Mosca's seminar (chair: [Davide Brullo](#))
- 17:00 Drinks and nibbles

### MORE INFORMATION

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## SPEAKERS AND SEMINAR LEADERS

**Davide Brullo** is a poet and novelist. His novels include *Il lupo* [The Wolf], *Rinuncio* [I renounce], *Ingmar Bergman: La vita sessuale di Kafka* [Ingmar Bergman: Kafka's Sexual Life], *Pseudo-Paolo. Lettera di San Paolo Apostolo a Pietro* [Pseudo-Paul. Saint Paul's Letter to Peter]. He translated from Hebrew into Italian the *Book of Psalms*, the *Book of Lamentations*, and *The Book of Wisdom*. He published the following books of poetry: *Annali* [The Annals], *L'era del ferro* [The Iron Age], *Abbecedario antartico* [Antarctic Primer], *Lettera a Ushuaia*. As a cultural journalist he collaborates with *Il Giornale* and *Linkiesta*. He is the editor in chief of the magazine *Pangea* (pangea.news).

**Tiziana Cera Rosco** is an artist working on animals and nature <http://www.tizianacerarosco.it>

**Giorgio Cesarale** graduated from the University of Rome "La Sapienza", where he also obtained his PhD in Philosophy. He has been Wissenschaftlicher Gast at the Hegel-Archiv of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, visiting scholar at the Philosophy Department of the Boston College (USA), and visiting fellow at the London School of Economics. Currently, he is Associate Professor of Political Philosophy at Ca' Foscari, University of Venice. He serves as a member of the editorial board of *Micromega* and as a corresponding editor for *Historical Materialism*. His major publications include: *La mediazione che sparisce. La società civile in Hegel* (Carocci, Rome 2009); *Hegel nella filosofia pratico-politica anglosassone dal secondo dopoguerra ai giorni nostri* (Mimesis, Milan 2011); *Filosofia e capitalismo. Hegel, Marx e le teorie contemporanee* (Manifestolibri, Rome 2012). He edited (with Mario Pianta) Giovanni Arrighi's *Capitalismo e dis(ordine) mondiale* (Manifestolibri, Rome 2010). He is now attempting to rethink critical theory in the light of the concept, derived from Hegel's philosophy, of "reflected negativity".

**Lorenzo Chiesa** is a philosopher who has published extensively on psychoanalysis, biopolitics, Marxism, and European thought. His main works include *Subjectivity and Otherness* (MIT Press, 2007); *The Italian Difference* (Re. press, 2009) (with A. Toscano), *Lacan and Philosophy* (Re.press, 2014), *Italian Thought Today* (Routledge, 2014); *The Not-Two* (MIT Press, 2016); and *The Virtual Point of Freedom* (Northwestern UP). He is currently working on a book on bureaucracy. Chiesa serves as Director of the GSH, and teaches at the Freud Museum of London and at the Freud's Dream Museum of St Petersburg. He is the editor of a new book series on Italian radical thought ("Insubordinations") at the MIT Press. He was previously Professor of Modern European Thought at the University of Kent, where he founded and directed the Centre for Critical Thought. He held visiting positions at numerous institutions, including the University of New Mexico, the European University at St Petersburg, the Istituto di Scienze Umane of Naples, the Institute of Philosophy of Ljubljana, the American University of Beirut, and the Jnanapravaha of Mumbai.

**Cristiana Cimino** is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst following the Freudian and Lacanian orientation. She is a full member of the IPA (International Psychoanalytical Association) and a member of the Istituto di Studi Avanzati in Psicoanalisi. She served as co-editor in chief of the *European Journal of Psychoanalysis* and is currently a member of the editorial board of *Vestigia. The Journal of the International Network of Psychotherapeutic Practice*. Cimino collaborates with the Istituto di Studi Filosofici (Naples and School of Rome). Her numerous articles have been published in several languages in both scientific journals and cultural magazines (including *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, *La Rivista di Psicoanalisi*, *aut aut*, *La Psicoanalisi*, *Doppiozero*). She has devoted many years to studying Elvio Fachinelli's thought. She is the author of *Il discorso amoroso. Dall'amore della madre al godimento femminile* [The Amorous Discourse. From the Love of the Mother to Feminine Enjoyment] (Manifestolibri, 2015).

**Raffaello Palumbo Mosca** is Director of the GSH and a literary critic. He holds a PhD with honors in Romance Languages from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Italian literature from the University of Turin. He has taught Italian literature in the US (University of Chicago) and the UK (University of Kent). He is the author of a number of essays on modern and contemporary European literature and history of literary criticism published in American and European journals ("Lettere Italiane", "Modern Language Notes", "Raison Publique", "Nuovi argomenti", "Studi Novecenteschi", and others). His book *L'invenzione del vero. Romanzi ibridi e discorso etico nell'Italia contemporanea* won the International Tarquinia-Cardarelli prize in 2014. He is also a reviewer for Books In Italy and an author for the publishing house Zanichelli.

### MORE INFORMATION

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