



We would be happy to get to know something about your academic career and it would be nice if you could describe your academic work in a few words.

Since 2001 I am full professor for philosophy of science at the University of Macerata. Since 2005 I am an ordinary member of the “Académie Internationale de Philosophie des Sciences” and since 2011 I am Co-Editor of “Epistemologia. An Italian Journal for the Philosophy of Science”. My main research interests are in philosophy of science and roughly correspond to the subject-matters of my main books: K.R. Popper. Th. S. Kuhn, Epistemological and methodological status of psychoanalysis and human sciences, Science and technique, Experiment and thought experiment in the natural sciences (the latter was published by a publisher of Würzburg).

How do you see yourself in your role as a citizen of the EU?

Being a citizen of the EU is not a fact, but a process and a task to which any citizen should contribute within the limits of her/his capacity. I would be very content if my discipline, philosophy of science, could make its own distinctive contribution to what I think to be one of the most important challenges that Europe must face: How can Europe reconcile cultural diversity – which is not only an unavoidable fact, but also a practical value – with its championing of universal human rights, which is a very important part of its cultural identity? Thus I have already anticipated the answer to the following question.

What is your personal opinion regarding the most important challenges and reasons regarding a participation in the European Union as a nation?

This above mentioned challenge is already implicitly contained in the formulations of the general objectives of the “Europe for citizens Programme”: on the one hand, there is the purpose of developing a sense of European identity, based on common values, history and culture, but on the other hand this should not prevent enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding not only as towards people of different cultural areas, but also between national cultures and national languages within Europe.

Europe is rightly proud of its universal values, but the claim of this universality runs the well-known risk of ethnocentrism, namely asserting the coincidence of the particular Western civilisation with humanity in general. In philosophical terms, the problem arises through the fact that the achievement of universality seems to require the overcoming of all particularities and diversities. Now, I think that philosophy of science can have a role in answering this question because – as pointed out by many important authors, such as Husserl and Derrida – the Galilean science had a decisive part in shaping the ‘European identity’.

What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academic and economical exchange?

Alumni are a potentially very important means of bringing together European scholars from different countries, in order to enhance intercultural “dialogue and research”. In order to do that more effectively, general meetings should perhaps be followed by the constitution of small research units,

in which scholars from different countries and of different disciplines cooperate in order to put forward more particular and concrete cultural proposals.