

Local Report (Italy)

Plato studies in Italy have offered over the last years a large contribution to international research. In Italy almost every current leading approach to Plato is represented: the esoteric approach, the evolutionist interpretation, the positive approach, the theory of dialogue and the literary interpretation.

In the 1980s-1990s, the "paradigm" of Tübingen provoked a strong debate which involved the scholars of the "Università Cattolica" in Milan on the one hand, where Giovanni Reale played a central role, and on the other hand Margherita Isnardi Parente, Mario Vegetti and Giuseppe Cambiano. In the last ten years Plato's studies have been focused on the ideas, trying to define the ontological status, the knowability, the causal role, the hierarchy between them and the type of their generation. A clear example of this trend is the volume 26 of *Elenchos* (2006), which is dedicated to the "metaphor of the line" in the *Republic* (509d-511e): the papers of Francesco Aronadio, Franco Ferrari, Francesco Fronterotta, Maurizio Migliori show the whole spectrum of the different positions on the propositionality of knowledge in Plato's epistemology. Roberto Radice has recently published in Milan a Platonic lexicon. Taking as his starting point the findings of the school of Milan, Maurizio Migliori has worked on the *Parmenides*, the *Philebus*, the *Politicus* and recently on the *Sophist*. In Macerata, Maurizio Migliori started a cycle of *Lecturae Platonicae*, which over the years has included lectures from Giovanni R. F. Ferrari, Christopher Rowe, Thomas A. Szlezák and Samuel Scolnicov. In 2003 in Piacenza and in 2006 in Como he also organized the mid-term meeting of the IPS. Elisabetta Cattanei (Cagliari) works on the role of mathematics in Plato. Salvatore Lavecchia (Udine) has recently published a monograph on the assimilation to god in the dialogues: his approach is very near to Thomas Alexander Szlezák's research.

Since 1998, Mario Vegetti, active in Pavia, has been publishing a commentary on the *Republic*. The last volume, related to Book X, appeared in 2007. The main research field of Vegetti and his group is the ethical and political side of Plato. His school is near to the dialogical approach but doesn't accept the radical version of it which refuses to derive any positive thinking from the dialogues. Since the 1970s, Mario Vegetti has been open to the findings of social sciences in order to situate Plato in his cultural context, a context that much influenced Plato's lexicon and his forms of thinking.

The Roman school of Gabriele Giannantoni has strong connections with the historical approach. The monograph of Gabriele Giannantoni about the origins of Plato's dialectic, edited by Bruno Centrone, has recently appeared posthumously. His main research field is the Socratic question, which he interprets as an enquiry into the origins of philosophy, in line with the historical-evolutive approach of Guido Calogero, who inherited at the beginning of the twentieth century the findings of Hans Raeder and Constantin Ritter. In 1990 Gabriele Giannantoni published the *Socratis et Socraticorum Reliquiae*, which contains a collection of fragments and ancient testimonia about Socrates and the schools that derive from him. Bruno Centrone has recently published a book on the *Sophist* with a new translation, an introduction and a commentary.

In Milan at the "Università Statale" the school of Fernanda Caizzi is active with Franco Trabattoni. He wrote the monographs *Platone* (1998), and *La verità nascosta* (2005), regarding the problem of writing in the *Phaedrus*. The approach is near to the so-

called dialogical approach. Andrea Capra and Stefano Martinelli Tempesta collaborate with Franco Trabattoni, within the "Dipartimento di Filologia": a new edition of the *Lysis* came out in 2004, with a critical text by Stefano Martinelli Tempesta, a philosophical commentary by Franco Trabattoni and a literary one by Andrea Capra. The enquiry of Franco Trabattoni on the theory of ideas opened a debate, contained in *Methexis* from 2003 to 2007, between him and Francesco Fronterotta, which is a representative example both of the positive approach of Francesco Fronterotta, near to the approach of Luc Brisson, and of the so-called *Third Way*.

Between 1998 and 2004 Giovanni Casertano organized four meetings in Naples: on dialogue form, *Theaetetus*, *Protagoras* and *Cratylus*. Near to the dialogical approach, the production of Giovanni Casertano is dedicated in particular to the *Philebus*, the *Symposium* and to the question of language in the late Plato.

In his studies on the early Aristotle, Enrico Berti (Padua) accepts partially the Tübingen paradigm, since he attributes the theory of principles only to the late Plato. Beside the research on Aristotle, he has worked over the last years on Plato's dialectics: he believes in the continuity between Socrates' elenchus and Plato's dialectics. Recently, he has studied the *agathon* in the *Republic*, which he considers to be connected to the *hypotheseis* in the *Parmenides*. In the second edition of his book about the first Aristotle, Berti confirms, after a recognition of the recent bibliography, the results achieved in the Sixties: Aristotle is far from Plato's conception already in his early production as regards both the theory of ideas and the theory of principles. Linda Napolitano has studied the role of mathematics and the visual metaphors used for gnoseological or ethical purpose. She has recently organized a meeting on *Timaeus* whose proceedings have appeared in 2007.

In Pisa are active Graziano Arrighetti, Antonio Carlini and Mauro Tulli. Graziano Arrighetti and Mauro Tulli represent the philological and historical approach and are interested in literary aspects of Plato's dialogues. Their main research field is the reflection on literature in the *Republic*, the *Laws*, the *Menexenus*, the *Charmides*, the *Gorgias*, the *Politicus* and in the *Timaeus*. Their papers are dedicated in particular to the role of myth, to the reception of other literary genres, like tragedy, comedy and *epos*, in the dialogue form and to the great presence of poetry in the dialogues. An approach which is very close to Michael Erler's papers on Plato's implicit poetics. In his very large research field, Antonio Carlini works especially on the history of Plato's text.

Since its foundation, Italian scholars have made an essential contribution to the institutional life of the IPS. In 1989 Livio Rossetti organized in Perugia the second meeting. On that occasion, the IPS was officially founded. Giuseppe Cambiano was a member of the Executive Committee from 1992 to 1998 and Maurizio Migliori from 2001 to 2004. Since 2007 Franco Ferrari has been a member of the Editorial Board. Mauro Tulli was a member of the Editorial Board from 2001 to 2007 and since 2007 has been a member of the Executive Committee as the next President of the IPS for the Symposium of 2013 in Pisa.

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