

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

9.30

Welcome Address

Pierluigi Barrotta, President of the Scientific Board
Giovanni Scarafile, IASC Vice President

10.00 - 12.30

SESSION I

CHAIR:

PIERLUIGI
BARROTTA

INVITED GUEST LECTURE

Janet A. Kourany, The University of Notre Dame
Manuela Fernández Pinto, Universidad de los Andes
A Role For Science in Public Policy? The Obstacle, Illustrated by the Case of Breast Cancer

Han-Liang Chang, National Taiwan University
Semiology and Democracy: On The Perennial Controversy of soma/sema

Rodica Amel, Bucharest University
Theoretical vulnerabilities

Gábor Á. Zemplén, Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Disunity and the Scientific World-View

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 17.00

SESSION II

CHAIR:

GIOVANNI
SCARAFILE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Olga Pombo, University of Lisbon
Science and Democracy: a complex relationship

Oded Balaban, University of Haifa
Science and the Source of Authority in Democracy

Antonino Drago - formerly al Naples University "Federico II"
Salvatore Esposito - I.N.F.N. Naples, Complesso Universitario di Monte S. Angelo
1942-1967: Nuclear Scientists and the Democratic Decision on Nuclear Politics

Michael Yechiel Barilan, Tel Aviv University
Information, Big Data and the Transformation of Violent Struggles into Rational Controversies

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

9.30 - 13.30

SESSION III

CHAIR:

JOSEPH
LEHMANN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mauro Dorato, University of Rome III
Do Science and Democracy Share Common Values?

Bernard Reber, CNRS, Paris
The Precautionary Principle as a Link to Avoid Dangerous Liaisons between Sciences and Democracy

Flavio D'Abramo, Freie Universität Berlin
Wrapping Candies and Exploding Ideologies. Genetic Determinism, Post-genomics and Epigenetics at a Crossroads

11.30 - 12.00

Coffee Break

Yekutiel Shoham, Tel Aviv University
Science and the Political Dispute over the Democratic Nature of the Jewish State - A Lockean Answer

Tommaso Bertolotti, Lorenzo Magnani, University Of Pavia
Selene Arfini, University of Chieti and Pescara
The expert you are (not). Citizens, experts and the limits of scientific information

Roberto Gronda, University of Pisa
Rethinking the Notion of Public: Toward a Pragmatist Theory of Expertise

13.30 - 15.00

Lunch

Afternoon - Guided tour of Pisa
Meeting Point: Polo Piagge Pisa
(duration: 3 hrs)

9.30 - 12.30

SESSION IV

CHAIR:

HAN-LIANG
CHANG

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Steve Fuller, The University of Warwick
The problem of democratizing science as the latest phase in the troubled history of the double truth doctrine

Giovanni Scarafile, Maria Elena Latino, University of Salento
Communication, science, democracy. The case of the Terra Terra Project

Mauro Stenico, Former doctoral student
The political use of science: the historical case of Soviet cosmology during the Stalinian era (1928-1953)

Aviram Sariel, Tel Aviv University
Save the planet, win the election: Science, Democracy and Meridor's Perpetuum Mobile in the Israeli elections of 1981

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 16.30

SESSION V

CHAIR:

GIOVANNI
SCARAFILE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mariachiara Tallachini, Università Cattolica di Piacenza
Is Science Learning from Democracy? The Case of Citizen Science and Collaborative Knowledge

Pier Luigi Barrotta, University of Pisa
Eleonora Montuschi, Venezia Ca' Foscari / LSE
The dam project. Who are the experts?

Istvan Danka, Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Rational Public Decisions in a Disagreement with Experts

Anna Petschner, Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Decisions without scientists – Two case studies about GM-plants and invasive acacia in Hungary

PROGRAMME

Commonsense dictates that science and democracy should not conflict. Science would only deal with the explanation and (possibly) the prediction of facts, while the scope of democracy would consist in the use of knowledge acquired by science. However, it is clear that science and democracy do not often respect this clear-cut division of labor. First, scientific community is not always unanimous and components of scientific community make alliance with components of society. In debates on global warming, biotechnology, nuclear power plants, homeopathy, GMOs, to name just a few examples, democratic procedures and scientific research are intertwined to such an extent that scientific controversies turn into political and social conflicts.

It is clear the interdisciplinary nature of these problems, which directly affect not only scientists and public opinion in general, but also philosophers of science, political philosophers, sociologists of science and technology, not forgetting philosophers of law, historians of science and political scientists. The aim of the conference is to provide a forum where the interaction of the approaches typical of each discipline takes place. The goal is not, it is hardly necessary to point out, to come to a "synthesis", but it is our belief that the debates, when not confined within specific disciplines are perhaps the most difficult but potentially the most fruitful.



CONGRESS VENUE

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SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY

Controversies and Conflicts

