

Curriculum Lucia Urbani Ulivi

Prof. Lucia Urbani Ulivi studied themes and authors of different periods, from Abelard and Descartes to contemporary analytical philosophy, focusing on theoretical problems such as the relationship between reason and logic, the issue of universals, the reliability of introspection, how should we think the human person, what personal identity is.

Fully convinced that the main task of philosophy is to understand and explain the contemporary world, she has kept a close contact with the sciences, both natural and human, with the aim of gathering information and fine descriptions otherwise unattainable to philosophers. As a consequence, she opened interdisciplinary tables and organized more than eighty seminars and conferences with the participation of both philosophers and scientists.

She's theoretically convinced that philosophy should introduce tailor-made concepts to understand and explain different objects and domains; on that grounds, she introduced a "systemic approach" in philosophy, recognizing that the concept of "system" is a very suitable cognitive instrument to explain objects without reducing them to their parts, as it focuses on their features and properties (the so-called second level, or emergent, or systemic level properties).

On that basis, many otherwise unmanageable problems – *e.g.* the mind-body problem, or the question of what an object is – became philosophically understandable.

She's the editor of *The Systemic Turn in Human and Natural Sciences. A Rock in the Pond* (Springer, 2019, xviii-205), as the best witness of this research attitude.

In recent works she argued in favor of pluralism in both ontology (L. Urbani Ulivi, *Toward a Systemic Ontology*, in "International Journal of Systems and Society", 6, 1 (2019), pp. 17-26) and epistemology (L. Urbani Ulivi & P. Fisogni, *Reasoning About Reason. Why Philosophy Should Now Abandon Monism in Favor of Pluralism*, in "Multiplicity and Interdisciplinarity - Essays in Honor of Eliano Pessa", G. Minati (ed.), Springer Nature, 2021, pp. 189-206).

Following the introduction of her "systemic approach" in philosophy of mind, she suggested to direct research to human being as a unity opening to a systemic-emergentistic solution of the body-mind problem (*Mind and Body. Whose? Philosophy of Mind and the Systemic Approach*, in "The Systemic Turn in Human and Natural

Sciences. A Rock in the Pond”, L. Urbani Ulivi (ed.), Springer, 2019, pp. 185-205).

She further focused on the domains of logic and reason, sustaining that reason, compared to logic, has a broader extension and that it makes use of inferences that are *strictu sensu* not logical, such as creative abduction, which is perfectly fit to discoveries in many fields. She maintained that personal identity is to be regarded as a process taking place within constraints of many kinds, such as culture, moral, species, social environment (L. Urbani Ulivi & P. Fisogni, *Identity Within Constraints. Processes of Systemic Anthropology*, in “Systemist”, 41, 1 (2020), pp. 10-30).

She also suggested to impose boundaries to the concept of “possible” when referred to an entity, limiting it to “realizable possible” for the considered entity (L. Urbani Ulivi & P. Fisogni, *Metamorfosi di sistema. Il cambiamento come processo nella prospettiva del pensiero sistemico*, in “Atque”, 24 (2019), pp. 117-137).

Systemic thinking is the mainstream of her research, conducted both as personal work and in strict contact with *systems-oriented* researchers in human and natural sciences.