

The gift of (self)subversion



Conference in honor of Albert Hirschman

Rome 12-13 September 2014

Organized by: Dipartimento di Economia e Diritto, Sapienza Università di Roma – Dipartimento di Diritto e Economia, Università di Cassino – Associazione “Etica e Economia” and Cream (Research Center Creativity and Motivation, University of Cassino)

FACOLTA' DI ECONOMIA, LA SAPIENZA

VIA DEL CASTRO LAURENZIANO 9

Albert Hirschman, one of the most original thinkers of the last century, died in December 2012.

Born in 1915 in Berlin, Hirschman was an economist by training but he did not hesitate to go beyond the confines of this and other disciplines, drawing on multiple sources from Dante to Jane Austen, from philosophy to political economy, as well as from close personal observation of social and political life.

Hirschman is principally known for his *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty* (1970), which explores the existence of continuing relationships between buyers and sellers that allowed the use of "voice" rather than "exit" to correct mutual dissatisfaction.

The *Passions and the Interests* (1977), the book he loved most, introduces us to the principle of countervailing passions and the emergence of the language of interest rather than that of injurious physical force.

Yet his mark was his propensity to doubt and to “prove Hamlet wrong.” As Jeremy Adelman shows in his beautiful biography, Hirschman always thought that Hamlet shouldn’t have been paralyzed by his doubts since doubts are the source of freedom and creativity.

This “gift of doubt” shows also in the titles of his books and essays: *Essays in Trespassing* 1981, *Shifting Involvements* 1982, *Crossing Boundaries* 1998. In *A Propensity to Self-Subversion*, one of his last books, Hirschman argues that learning that one had it wrong may be a source not only of insight but also of pleasure and joy.

The conference will bring together scholars of various disciplines -- especially those with a propensity to self-subvert.

PROGRAM

September 12 Sala del Consiglio, Palazzina della Presidenza II floor

15,15- Welcome address

Giuseppe Ciccarone, Dean of the Economics Faculty, Sapienza University of Rome

Silvia Fedeli, Head Department of Economics and Law, Sapienza University of Rome

Chair: Marina Bianchi

15,30 - Ruth Grant, Duke University

Homo Politicus: Reflections on The Passions and the Interests

Discussant: Bruna Ingrao, Sapienza University of Rome

16,10 - Neil De Marchi, Duke University

Development: Some Uncommon Insights and the Orthodoxies they challenged

Discussant: Steve Grant, Independent scholar

16,50 - Coffee Break

Chair: Maurizio Franzini

17,00 - Andrea Ginzburg, University of Modena

The actuality of a dissenter: the idea of development in Hirschman's writings

Discussant: Claudio Sardoni, Sapienza University of Rome

17,40 - Pier Giorgio Ardeni, University of Bologna

Being a consultant 'expert' in a developing country: the legacy and lessons of A. Hirschman

Discussant: Francesco Ferrante, Sapienza University of Rome

18,20 - General discussion

19,00 – End of the sessions

September 13 Sala del Consiglio, Palazzina della Presidenza II floor

Chair: Pier Giorgio Ardeni

9,00 - Shaun Hargreaves Heap, Kings College London

'Good and bad' (not 'good or bad'): Albert Hirschman as a behavioural economist

Discussant: Giovanni Di Bartolomeo, Sapienza University of Rome

9,40 – Marina Bianchi, University of Cassino

Three ways of complicating economic theory. De valoribus est disputandum

Discussant: Sergio Nistico', University of Cassino

10,30- Coffee Break

Chair: Neil De Marchi

11,00 - Peter John, University College London

Exit and voice in political science and public policy

Discussant: Mario Pianta, Carlo Bo University of Urbino

11,40 - Maurizio Franzini, Sapienza University of Rome

Efficient institutions: the role of exit and voice.

Discussant: Andrea Pezzoli, Antitrust Authority

12,20 -13,00 - General discussion

Organizers:

Marina Bianchi, Department of Economics and Law, University of Cassino and Maurizio Franzini, Department of Economics and Law, Sapienza, University of Rome.