



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO
DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMIA "S. COGNETTI DE MARTIIS"



**CENTRO DI STUDI SULLA STORIA E I METODI DELL'ECONOMIA
POLITICA "CLAUDIO NAPOLEONI" (CESMEP)**

MERCOLEDÌ 7 NOVEMBRE 2012, ore 15.00

Dipartimento di Economia "S. Cognetti de Martiis" - Via Po 53, Torino

Paolo Silvestri (Università di Torino)

The Economist in the Mirror of Economics: Between the «Ivory Tower of Pure Science» and the «Tumultuous Arena of Passions»

Reflections on the unpublished version of

L. Einaudi,

***On Abstract and Historical Hypotheses
and on Value-Judgments in Economic Sciences***

Edited, with an Introduction and an Afterword, by Paolo Silvestri (Routledge, forthcoming: 2013)

The seminar is meant as an introduction to the unpublished version of Einaudi's most important epistemological essay. The issues faced by Einaudi lie at the core of the problem concerning the nature and scope of economic sciences and the role played by economists in the public sphere, with particular emphasis on the interaction between economists and the ruling class.

The earlier version of this essay has also been considered the "historical epilogue" of the Italian tradition in public finance. An extensive reappraisal of this newly discovered document will help to reconsider and cast light on that tradition, to better place Einaudi's essay in the context of his earlier and subsequent epistemological speculation, and to assess the unsettled questions he left as an enduring heritage for the current generation of social scientists.



PAOLO SILVESTRI has a Degree in Economics and a PhD in Philosophy of Law; he is Researcher with grant in the same discipline (University of Turin). Holder of the Luigi Einaudi Chair at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) in 2011 (spring term), he has been awarded the STOREP Young Scholar prize in 2012. Among his latest publications: *Il liberalismo di Luigi Einaudi o del Buongoverno* (Rubbettino, 2008); "Veritas, Auctoritas, Lex. Scienza economica e sfera pubblica: sulla normatività del Terzo", *Il pensiero economico italiano*, 1/2010: 37-65; *Good government, Governance and Human Complexity. Luigi Einaudi's Legacy and Contemporary Society* (Co-editor with P. Heritier, Leo Olschki, 2012); *Economia, diritto e politica nella filosofia di Croce: tra finzioni-istituzioni e libertà* (Giappichelli 2012).