

Verdiglione Quality

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In the following lines I will briefly describe my experiences with Verdiglione as a person and as the entrepreneur of an intellectual project that proceeds from the space of quality. I have profited a lot from collaboration with the dispositif that he established, just like the mentioned space profited from my and many others' contributions. In last years though I miss the active presence of the intellectual climate that Armando established.

In the early seventies I obtained a French government grant and was accepted by Julia Kristeva at the Paris Jussieu University. She suggested that I should take a look at things that go on in several other places as well, and so I came to the just established department of Champ freudien at the University of Vincennes. There I stayed for entire days and after a while started the thesis of troisieme cycle with J.-A. Miller and Jacques Lacan, on the controversy of definite descriptions, the thesis that I later defended in Ljubljana Slovenia where I came from. At the time Paris was an interesting and abundant place, where I had occasion to listen to Barthes, Derrida, Pierre Legendre, Milner, Quine among others and where I encountered such people as Foucault. I bought and read many books, among which there were as well those of Armando Verdiglione, and also important series of collections that he edited and had a wide impact upon the scene.

As I returned to Ljubljana, Verdiglione came to town with many of his collaborators. Given that Slovene organizers did not invite me, I wrote directly to professor Verdiglione, who offered me the occasion to present my paper at the conference. In this manner of openness, our collaboration started. Many interesting presentations by the members of his association succeeded at the conference, so that psychoanalytic and poetic experiences (Milo de Angelis) delivered its quality to the event. One conceptual innovation in respect to Lacanian approach was that of semblant. Christina was there, with the rest of the intellectual collective.

In the aftermath of this event, I joined several congresses organized by Verdiglione collective in various towns, such as Paris, Venice and Rome. At all these occasions I presented my papers, written on the themes that were proposed, targeting psychoanalysis, but as well literature and culture in its broad sense. My contributions appeared in journals and books established around the publishing house Spirali. These were occasions to listen to many famous people from the mentioned areas.

After some years I left my psychoanalytic interests behind, dedicating myself to the study and teaching of analytic philosophy, in its relation to the continental, Brentanian tradition. I was elected professor in Zagreb Croatia and was teaching for some time in Zadar, then switching to the Ljubljana University, where I am now active as full professor of philosophy. In the meantime I had Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung German grant, so that I studied with Wolfgang Stegmüller in Munich. Later I established Phenomenology and cognitive science Tempus project at the Wuerzburg University Brentano institute. In nineties then I obtained Fulbright grant, which allowed me to study connectionism and philosophy of psychology in Memphis TN with Terry Horgan and John Tienson. I published hundreds of papers, many books in Slovene, Croatian and English languages, including a MIT book on Austere Realism. I established journal Acta analytica, now a Springer venue, and international Bled philosophy conferences. I am

member of several associations and served as the president of the union of Yugoslav philosophical societies. I took part in many philosophical international events and continue to do so.

Towards the end of eighties Verdiglione and Christina invited me to take part at a congress in Milano. This was an important step in my development, followed by several congress attendances at the Villa Borromeo in Milan that they started to renovate. It is important to know that Lacan towards the end of his teaching increasingly leant upon the topological structure of the Borromean knot. But villa has a great importance for Italian renaissance cultural heritage as well. The renovation took all the care and dedication of Christina. Along with this important reconstruction project, both congresses and exhibitions of art took place, with increasing volume of the works of art in the building. Artists had occasion to accomplish their projects, as well as writers of various provenances. Publishing house Spirali was partially located here, with its important editorial work involving hundreds of books and journals. I did not just listen to rich diversified congresses, involving psychoanalysts, medical doctors, writers and poets, politicians, artists, but as well to the way Verdiglione guided the deroulement of these events. Then I read his many books, profiting from his analyses and intellectual work that he provided. That was an inspiration for me, inviting me to turn back to my psychoanalytic Paris education that I have temporarily abandoned during my intensive analytic philosophy studies. Now this provided new insights how to approach philosophical themes, say with the inclusive disjunction methodology. Writers and poets, medical doctors and psychologists, dissidents and university teachers of various branches presented their work, which resulted in a unique cultural clima. Besides to several Italian (Chinaglia) and Swiss collaborators I encountered several people that were important for my further work, such as the beginner of artificial intelligence humanistic studies padre Busa, German psychiatrist Uwe Peters, David Rasnick and Fernando Arrabal. And of course there was the presence of Armando Verdiglione that enabled all of this.

Then I took part at some philosophical congress in Milan some years ago and visited professor Verdiglione at the centre of the town. Unfortunately he told me about the limitation of his activities due to the juridical entanglements. Since then I miss the intellectual productive environment that he established, and express my hope that it may soon enrich again Milan, Italian and the world cultural scene.