

'Machiavelli and Aristotle: the Anatomies of the City'

Pasquale Pasquino

Short biography

Born in Naples in 1948, Pasquale Pasquino is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre de Théorie du Droit of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris and a Global Distinguished Professor of Politics at New York University. His first degree was in classics at the University of Naples and subsequently he completed his higher degrees in political and social theory at the University of Paris I - Sorbonne. Pasquino taught at various universities in several countries, at Turin, Milan, Chicago, and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris (Sciences Po) and had various visiting positions in Germany. Notably, in the 1970s he was a research assistant of Michel Foucault for his lectures on the history of political economy and the theory of the state at the Collège de France and became a source and authority on interpreting Foucault's concept of 'governmentality'. Subsequently his attention turned to the constitutional theories of the abbé Sieyès in the French Revolution and became one of the world's leading experts on Sieyès.

In the United States he continued working with Bernard Manin at both Chicago and the NYU on issues related to representative government. He became interested in constitutional theory, in the notions of emergency power and the separation of powers, and co-authored a number of important articles with the Stanford political scientist John Ferejohn. In the last decade he was also co-ordinator of the law and politics related activities of the Adriano Olivetti Foundation in Rome and became interested in Italian constitutional reform and the formation of Italy's new constitutional court. Most recently he works on voting systems and on issues related to the re-conceptualisation of majority rule.

Throughout his academic career, from the early encounter with Foucault onwards, Pasquino maintained a keen interest in the history of political thought and he is now widely regarded as a leading practitioner of the subject in the USA, France and Italy. Pasquino's fields of interest in the history of political thought are in the study of Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, German *Staatslehre* in the 17th and 18th centuries, the political and constitutional theory of the French Revolution, the political and legal thought of the Weimar Republic, Carl Schmitt, Michel Foucault and ideas concerning

constitutional adjudication. He is currently writing a book entitled *Divided Power* on the role of courts in Athenian democracy and in contemporary constitutional systems.

Brief summary of the paper

A shorter version of the paper which is discussed in Cambridge (without the section concerning Polybios in the 'Appendix') was first published in Italian as 'Machiavelli e Aristotele. Le anatomie della città', *Filosofia Politica* 11 (2007), 199-212, and in English as 'Machiavelli and Aristotle: The Anatomies of the City', *History of European Ideas*, 35 (2009), 397-407.

The paper tries to identify the common conceptual core of the two most famous texts by Niccolò Machiavelli: *The Prince* and the *Discourses on Livy*. It comes to the conclusion that this common core lies in the Aristotelian 'anatomy of the city' and allows qualifying Machiavelli's republicanism as a revival of the Aristotelian-Polybian doctrine of mixed government.

Select Bibliography of the Writings of Pasquale Pasquino

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