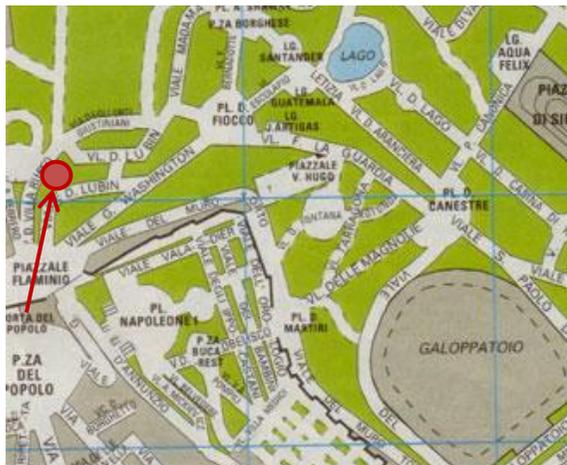


Venue of the conference

Villa Lubin is located at number 2 of the same avenue, inside Villa Borghese, at the entrance of Piazzale Flaminio. It can be reached by public transport via the Metro – line «A», stop «Flaminio», exit «Borghese»; Or with the following Bus lines: 495, 490, 95 (Stop: Viale Washington) 225, 591, 204, 88, 55N (Stop: Piazzale Flaminio).



After scanning this QR-code you will get detailed information of how to get there:



Semantic Traps: Politics with Loaded Terms

A Seminar for Scholars, Journalists and Entrepreneurs



*«If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought»
George Orwell*

Date Thursday, June 15, 2017

Venue Villa Lubin CNEL – Rome

Registration Free of cost at the following link:
<https://info.unitelmasapienza.it/SemanticTraps>

An academic Co-operation between
Unitelma Sapienza (Rome, I) and the
Liechtenstein Academy Foundation (Vaduz, LI)

About the conference

*«When words lose their meaning, people will lose their liberty»
Confucius*

The Social Sciences, more than other academic disciplines are regrettably exposed to the fads and superstitions of the fast moving popular Zeitgeist and are thus liable to the periodic introduction of appealing yet empty slogans that undermine well defined terms. As a result, many of them have assumed quite different meanings or, maybe deliberately, have even taken on undertones that suggest something detrimental to what we want to get across.

Have you ever wondered whether the pervasive catchword 'public interest' indeed serves the public's interest? Or did you realize that time and the term 'justice' is substituted with the phrase 'social justice' that not only renders it utterly meaningless. This narcotic phrase also assumed a meaning close to revenge which gravely denigrates the 'rule of law'. The frequent placing of the simple yet hollow word social in front of commonly used terms produces an almost endless list of corrupting phrases.

The persistent confusion of reality and fiction thus creates politically risky «semantic traps» that not only seriously hamper any political discussion. It has grave implications for democracy, the proper role of government, or for the preservation of our civil rights and individual freedom.

The goal of this one-day conference is not only to explore a wide range of issues where semantics condition policy debates, to examine how terms evolve in ways that completely undermine, and at times even alter the very foundations of a free and democratic society, and to discuss how «semantic traps» might be avoided. Put differently, we aim at a better understanding of hollow yet catchy words, trendy slogans and appealing phrases in public policy debates.

Seminar Program

- 08:30 a.m. Registration at the seminar site
09:00 a.m. Welcome
Francesco Avallone, Rector, Unitelma Sapienza
Hans R. Maag, Director, Liechtenstein Academy
Piergiuseppe Morone, Professor, Unitelma Sapienza
Kurt R. Leube, Fellow, Liechtenstein Academy, Stanford University
- Session I: On the *public interest*, the so-called *newspeak* and the meaning of *green*»**
Chair: Piergiuseppe Morone
- 09:30 a.m. «Is the public Interest really in the public's interest?»
Carlos Gebauer
- 10:10 a.m. «Values and rights: The semantic traps in worn-out European newspeak»
Karl Peter Schwarz
- 10:50 a.m. «What is the meaning of green? The new standardization trap in the bioeconomy»
Knut Blind
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee break
- Session II: Immigration and political rhetoric**
Chair: Luana Ladu
- 11:40 a.m. «Being at risk from migration". The framing contest on migration in the news»
Maria Grazia Galantino
- 12:20 p.m. «Making populism mainstream: Political rhetoric during campaigns»
Nicolò Conti
- 13:00 p.m. Buffet luncheon for all participants at the seminar site
14:00 p.m. Panel discussion with speakers
(Blind, Conti, Galantino, Schwarz)
Discussion leader: Carlos Gebauer