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Press release

***Dialogues on Man* turns ten Pistoia, May 24-26 2019, 10th edition**

Pistoia – *Dialogues on Man* is preparing to celebrate an important birthday: the **tenth edition** of this festival of contemporary anthropology - promoted by the **Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia** and the **Municipality of Pistoia**, created and directed by **Giulia Cogoli** since the very first edition – is taking place from **May 24 to 26, 2019** (www.dialoghisulluomo.it).

The festival began in 2010 as a project to share and investigate issues from an anthropological standpoint, with last year's edition seeing more than 30,000 people participating. Right from the start, *Dialogues* has been driven by a strong cultural and civil commitment and the desire to offer a new way to conduct cultural analysis, with fresh content and new perspectives on human society. It has been an intense journey so far, recording ever increasing interest: over the first nine editions, there were 167,000 participants (attendance has more than tripled since the first edition); 250 Italian and international speakers; 249 events, more than 3,000 volunteers and roughly 43,000 followers on social media.

Over the years, other important cultural and documentation initiatives have developed alongside the festival: the 13 books in the *Dialogues on Man* series published by UTET, with 19 editions and a circulation of 65,000 copies; a huge archive of 252 audio and video recordings available on the festival's website; a dedicated YouTube channel with more than one million views; an anthropology project for schools involving roughly 25,000 young students; the *Dialogues on Man International Award*, this year marking its third edition; and five exhibitions by master photographers, which complete the festival's offer every year.

What's more, in 2018, the festival ventured beyond Italy's borders to organise a series of encounters at the Italian Cultural Institute in London and taking the exhibition of photos by Gianni Berengo Gardin, created especially for *Dialogues* to the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris.

The theme chosen for this tenth anniversary edition is **Coexistence: The work of intertwining lives, stories and fates**. Coexistence means "living with", "living together", respecting ourselves and respecting the Earth where we live. Coexisting is an "art" in the sense that society is where things are created. In a world rapidly accelerating every day, where relationships are increasingly played out in the digital sphere and bonds become looser because of the falloff in storytelling that is the cornerstone of every community, it is becoming much more difficult to establish relationships that are reciprocal, deep and egalitarian. So, thanks to the input of some of the most important intellectuals of modern life, these subjects dovetail to create a huge cultural mosaic, comprising many thoughts and ideas to create a strong vision and a unified value. This is the strength of *Dialogues*, producing culture, a culture of coexistence, and doing so in structured way created especially for the purpose, both in the individual programmes every year, and in the wider ten-year vision.

"Ten years ago, creating a festival of contemporary anthropology seemed extremely innovative", recalled Giulia Cogoli, "But the world is changing before our very eyes and as such, trying to understand the reality surrounding us today from the anthropological perspective is perhaps one of the most useful things to propose. Because it means rekindling interest in other people, in other cultures, where the connection is not merely in terms of respect and dialogue but also the awareness that we are all in the same boat, on a journey through humanity, freed from the dead wood of racism and indifference that weigh so heavily on daily life".

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Pistoia Dialoghi sull'uomo

The third *Dialogues on Man International Award*, given to a figure in the cultural world who embodies the centrality of dialogue for the development of human relations, will be conferred on Indian physicist and economist **Vandana Shiva**, one of the world's top experts in social ecology. She follows the prize's previous recipients David Grossman and Wole Soyinka. A few years ago Shiva was given the *Right Livelihood Award*, an alternative Nobel Prize for peace for her battles to save the environment. On Saturday 25 May at 9.15 pm, Vandana Shiva will give a talk in Piazza del Duomo entitled *Learning to share our planet: it is everyone's!* Dialogue allows us to learn to recognise each other as members of the community on earth, which has an extraordinary capacity to regenerate, even though we are on the edge of the precipice. To do so, Shiva believes we must nourish hope, based on the philosophy of the earth, intended as a single family. We will only be able to do this by believing that we can overcome divisions, think, act and live as a united humanity, and commit to participating in the defence and regeneration of the natural and social fabric of life at every possible moment.

THE 2019 PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 24 MAY

The festival opens with the inaugural lecture by **Enzo Bianchi**, the founder of the ecumenical Bose monastic community, entitled *Together...* There is no human without other human beings: when faced with the disheartening image of a society dominated by self-worship and barbaric behaviour only capable of spouting hate-filled words and gestures, we see the urgent need to identify a spirituality – understood as a commitment to human affairs, research into truly serving others, careful to create beauty in human relations – which shows us there is only one humanity.

Words to divide, words to share. A dialogue between linguistics and anthropology is the title of an encounter with **Federico Faloppa**, a linguist from Reading University and consultant for Amnesty International on hate speech and counter-attacking the language of hate, and the anthropologist **Adriano Favole**. Today, in public and private communication, we are surrounded by words that offend, wound and express hate, all amplified by social networks. Divisiveness has become a business for many people, a product that can change our habits. It ranges from explicit hate with insults directed again women, children, migrants, coloured people, homosexuals, people with disabilities and students, to a more subtle kind of hate, made up of victimisation and rhetoric. But there are people who try to fight back with tools such as indignation, laws and the construction of a real dialogue.

"Community" is a word that seems to come from the past, evocating warmth, intimacy, knowledge and the ability to coexist. Anthropologist **Marco Aime** observes that building a community requires continual willingness to live together, daily negotiation with other people, keeping relationships alive. External influences or internal fractures can destabilise the connections between people; fear, rage and selfishness can also restrict the boundaries of Us to the point of excluding the Others, awakening new or old racisms.

SATURDAY 25 MAY

Living with illness brings us face to face with the fragility of our body and it is a continual challenge to our understanding and acceptance of pain. The psychiatrist **Eugenio Borgna** explains how only a dialogue between the inner world of the sick person and that of someone who is not, enables them to welcome and coexist with the illness, in its psychological and human dimension.

Nothing seems more natural than thinking of ourselves as individuals, yet biologists and anthropologists have travelled two very different paths to reconsider the idea of personal identity. And they have discovered that what we normally call "individuals" are actually "co-dividuals". Philosopher of Science, **Elena Gagliasso** and anthropologist **Francesco Remotti** describe how they reached this definition. Imperfections are the real sign of evolution and the possible, as Charles Darwin surmised. But what are the consequences of human imperfection on our way of conceiving and organising social relations and our relationship with the environment and the world around us? Recent scientific research shows the

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Pistoia Dialoghi sull'uomo

human mind is extremely ambivalent when distinguishing between a protective “us” and the extraneous, potentially threatening “other”. Philosopher of Science, **Telmo Pievani** says this aptitude made sense in the past, whereas today it makes racism attractive and recurrent.

Photographer **Paolo Pellegrin**, famous worldwide for his photo reports from wars, explores the topic of borders and conflict with **Roberto Koch**, reflecting on the walls we build, starting from those within ourselves. Pellegrin’s photography is always an emotional evocation of a state of mind. When recounting the other he plunges into human conflicts, which generate tragedies that are widely echoed in the huge amount of images we are exposed to every day. This can be clearly seen in the exhibition **Paolo Pellegrin – Humanity’s borders**, created especially for the festival, and on display in the Sale Affrescate of Pistoia’s Palazzo Comunale until June 30, 2019.

The theoretical philosopher **Donatella Di Cesare** discusses *Exile, hospitality, cohabitation*. In post-Nazi times, the idea that people could decide who to live with held steadfast: this is where populist xenophobia and racism have found their springboard. Whereas recognising the precedence of the other in the place they live means opening up not only to an ethics of proximity, but also to a policy of cohabitation.

The difficulty of living together, hate and revenge have always been central themes in literature since the art began. Spanish writer **Fernando Aramburu**, author of the cult novel *Homeland*, reflects on writing as a form of memory against the oblivion, in a conversation with journalist and essayist **Wlodek Goldkorn**. The shadows of life, the grey areas between good and evil, which only literature can recount, can also help us to avoid repeating the same mistakes and to learn the rules of coexistence.

Criminology has been defined as the “science of evil”. But how can you coexist with wickedness? How can entire populations conduct massacres and then return to their lives as if nothing has happened? Criminologist **Isabella Merzagora** tries to answer these questions, in particular analysing Nazism, interpreted as the matrix of all “other-isms”, in other words prejudices against people seen as “different”. And here lies the cause of the crime: the criminology of the diverse studies the crimes of “normal people”.

Are we social beings? A dialogue between neuroscience and philosophy is an appointment with the internationally renowned neuroscientist **Giacomo Rizzolatti** and philosopher of science, **Corrado Sinigaglia**. Almost 30 years after the discovery of mirror neurons, today we know they actually form the basis of our ability to understand the actions and emotions of other people. This is a specific kind of understanding that comes from within. In some ways, the experience we have when watching other people act or feel an emotion is no different to when we ourselves act or feel an emotion first hand.

SUNDAY 26 MAY

The psychologist and psychotherapist **Matteo Lancini** explores one of the hot topics about teenagers: why do they share but not coexist? To understand the significance and risks of youngsters’ digital experiences, one has to examine emotional family and social myths. From these one can begin to understand the forms of profound teenage angst today, starting from social withdrawal, which is becoming increasingly common.

Stefano Allievi, a sociologist of religion and migration, proposes a very topical reflection on the characteristics that a truly plural society should have, with specific focus on religious pluralism and the relationship with European Islamism. Indeed, religions can be a reference for a form of identity in society and politics, becoming a tool to generate cultural conflicts, or, the reverse, to help resolve these clashes. In a world of loneliness and antagonism, packed with solitary heroes and victories against everyone, maybe it is time to consider how history is made up of the collective, of shared ideals that lead small groups or entire nations to join forces and unite around a common goal. Authors **Michela Murgia** and **Ritanna Armeni** recount stories, often of women, and the motivations powering the great engine of life: union.

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Unexpected climate changes, global warming, famines, wars and epic migratory movements are indicators of an ever more imminent environmental collapse. Human beings have forgotten to look after the world given to them to live in, warns diplomat and writer **Grammenos Mastrojeni**, Co-ordinator for the Environment for Development Cooperation, who has been researching the links between safeguarding the environment, development and peace for thirty years. Every single gesture to protect the environment, whether big or small, is crucial for our common future.

While everyone is focusing on the migrants crossing, the asylum seekers and the ports people want to close, according to the sociologist of migration **Maurizio Ambrosini**, the main challenge for a long term vision of migration in Italy is actually the integration of the second generation. Integration requires three dimensions: being able to find a decent job; establishing a network of friendships; and developing the necessary skills to be part of society. We must ask whether the public institutions and society as a whole are promoting the actions needed to stimulate the integration of this second generation.

In the discussion *The origins of the present world: when cultures met and clashed in the "first globalisation" age*, historian **Adriano Prosperi** looks back at the start of the modern age, when it was Europe leading a revolutionary phase in world history. There were two attempts to unify the known world: the first was the conquest and political and religious subjugation of the American continent to the point of its assimilation with European culture. While the second was the search for an "arrangement" between European culture and those from the east, brought closer together thanks to Portuguese sailors reaching Chinese and Japanese ports.

The anthropologist of Iranian origin, **Shahram Khosravi**, from the University of Stockholm, considers the nature of physical and political borders, and the rituals and practicalities of the migrant's crossing, also basing his talk on his personal experience as an illegal migrant, which took him to Sweden thirty years ago. Khosravi intertwines ethnographical methodology with stories packed with sensations and emotions, recalling the thinking of intellectuals who belonged to several different historic minorities, such as Kafka and Benjamin. He also uses testimonies from the protagonists themselves, like the people from Central America pushing at the USA's southern border, or those thronging at the gates of "Fortress Europe".

To close the festival, there is an encounter with actor and playwright **Ascanio Celestini**. He brings a story in the form of a show about those on the margins of society, the forgotten people, those denied coexistence, people who are not welcomed and at best tolerated. Celestini tells us about the very different characters who all nonetheless move through the same environment, a suburb. The narrator tells us what he sees, sometimes things he knows and other times things he imagines. Celestini will be supported on stage by musician Gianluca Casadei.

THE SHOWS

There will be a great theatrical debut to celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Dialogues*: **Michele Serra** will be in Pistoia for the national premiere of his new show **"The hammock of tomorrow"**. **Considerations in public, in the presence of a cow** (Friday 24 May, at 9.15 pm, Teatro Manzoni). Words - with their power of seduction and their traps - are the stars of this theatrical monologue. In this comic, romantic and improper piece Serra reveals all about his art of writing to the audience. Winding the mass of his writing into a ball, the author also lays bare traces of his own weaknesses and obsessions. Fortunately, the ending is still to be written. The show is directed by **Andrea Renzi** and is a SPAlive production in collaboration with Teatri Uniti and Feltrinelli.

On Saturday at 9.30 pm in the Teatro Manzoni, **Avion Travel** will give a concert charting a kind of biographical-musical path through their most famous and popular songs, which show how words play a central role for the group, appearing in the following lineup: Peppe Servillo, *singer*; Mimi Ciaramella, *drums*; Peppe D'Argenzio, *saxophone*; Flavio D'Ancona, *keyboard*; Duilio Galioto, *piano and keyboards*; Ferruccio Spinetti, *double base*. The art of singing is also the art of coexisting for Avion Travel.

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In the best *Dialogues* tradition, every day concludes with a film screening at the Teatro Bolognini: this year's mini showcase recounts Italian society through the films of the great director **Luchino Visconti**, introduced by the critic **Paola Jacobbi**. It begins with ***Rocco and his Brothers***, the definitive film on internal migration within Italy (Friday, at 10.30 pm), followed by ***The Leopard*** exploring social upheavals in Sicily after the unification of Italy (Saturday at 10.30 pm) and it concludes ***Conversation Piece***, revealing the torments being felt in Italy after 1968 (Sunday at 8 pm).

THE EXHIBITION

Once again, *Dialogues* is organising a photographic exhibition this year: **Paolo Pellegrin – Humanity's borders**, curated by Annalisa D'Angelo. It comprises 60 pictures, some hitherto unseen, taken by one of the best loved photographers on the world stage, whose anthropological approach puts human beings at the heart of his art. These photos were shot in Algeria, Egypt, Kurdistan, Palestine, Iraq and the United States, and they are accompanied by a video Paolo Pellegrin recorded in America, exploring the racial divisions still ravaging the country, borders that may be invisible but which are even more insurmountable than physical barriers. The pictures span almost 30 years, using a process of subtraction and opposition to trace the arduous path of coexistence, obstructed by walls, wars, stormy seas and harsh deserts. This is a journey along humanity's borders, to illustrate the continual yet necessary effort underpinning the foundations of living together. The exhibition (free entry) runs from May 24 to June 30 in the Sale Affrescate of the Palazzo Comunale di Pistoia (catalogue by Contrasto).

THE VOLUNTEERS

The young volunteers, coming mainly from secondary schools in Pistoia and the Province as well as from universities all over Italy, are the heart and soul of the festival. Over the years, their number has grown, to form a close-knit and passionate team that is the real protagonist of the event. Over the last ten years, including the volunteers in 2019, approximately 3,500 youngsters have chosen to participate in this unique educational and cultural experience.

Tickets go on sale from April 24 (€ 3.00 for the conversations and film screenings - € 7.00 for the shows) from La Torre, Via Tomba di Catilina 5/7, Pistoia, and via the website www.dialoghisulluomo.it.

Information and programme: www.dialoghisulluomo.it and on the festival's App.

Facebook: @festivaldialoghisulluomo

Twitter: @DialoghiPistoia

Instagram: pistoia_dialoghisulluomo

Youtube: Pistoia – Dialoghi sull'uomo

Official Hashtag: #Dialoghi2019

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