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## Editorial

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Professor Antonio Papisca passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017. He was a member of the International Editorial Board and Founder and Director of the first two series of the University of Padova Human Rights Centre's Journal entitled, respectively, *Pace, diritti dell'uomo, diritti dei popoli* (1987-1994) and *Pace diritti umani – Peace human rights* (2004-2013).

The first series of the Journal emerged as a follow up to the United Nations 'International Year of Peace' of 1986. It was an expression of the commitment of the University of Padova, and in particular of its Human Rights Centre, to the development of a scientific culture that observes the values and human roles in social and political life. In the editorial of that first issue, Papisca wrote 'Fundamental human rights, besides challenging institutions, also preliminarily challenge scientific institutions: they cannot continue to constitute merely the title of a paragraph or chapter within some disciplines that are traditionally considered closer to this field (...). The growing popular attention and sensitivity around this subject, bound above all to the commitment of non-governmental movements and associations and to the progressive development of international law, must find wider and more robust support within the scientific community. What does making science on human rights mean? It means, first of all, mobilizing all disciplines with a view to focusing the theme of human rights from their point of view and with their analytical tools, proceeding, therefore, towards rigorous conceptualisations and conferring more substance to the popular culture of human rights. Among the risks – to be avoided – to which such culture is subjected, there are generality, approximation, repetitiveness and, again, of rhetoric and of moralism as an end to itself'.

Papisca underlined how the transversality of human rights implied a practice of interdisciplinarity within the scientific community and, at the same time, an internationalistic approach since human rights pertain to the person as a human being, before pertaining to the person as a citizen of one State or another, and in this sense today they are recognised by international law.

Moving from these premises, the Human Rights Centre, directed by professor Antonio Papisca experimented the usefulness of the two approaches with great success, also in the field of teaching. The Centre, in particular, succeeded in delivering (annual) post-graduate courses on the rights of the person and of the peoples, the (three-year) School of Specialisation in Institutions and Techniques for the Protection of Human Rights, the European Master's

Degree Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation, the three-year Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, International Relations and Human Rights, the Master's Degree Programme in Institutions and Policies of Human Rights and Peace, later transformed into the Master's Degree Programme in Human Rights and Multi-level Governance, taught entirely in English.

At the same time, the Centre's Journal contributed to the spread of a new political culture among associations and volunteers – the functional pole of subsidiarity – and among local and regional authorities – the primary territorial pole of the dynamics of subsidiarity. This was the new culture of the institutional path to peace, of interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights, of multilateralism and international democracy, of active citizenship from the City to the UN, and of people and city diplomacy.

Papisca's thesis was that if the interest of the scientific community benefits the growth of popular culture and of civil society organisations, it must also have fruitful consequences on the orientation and operative programmes of those same political and administrative institutions, including those beyond the specific field of fundamental human rights protection. Human rights, Papisca wrote, question the agenda of politics since they are the name bestowed upon the vital needs of each person and therefore, their fulfilment must be achieved above all through adequate positive actions and social policies locally, nationally and internationally, that is, within a multi-level governance architecture.

Papisca's vision was that of an integral humanism, to be realised in the dilated space of internationally recognised human rights, in the constant tension to build the social and international order in which all human rights can be fully realised, as set forth in article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The landmark adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Peace by the UN General Assembly in December 2016, subject of the policy paper that closes this issue, has been a step towards this goal; a goal towards which Papisca contributed through his tireless scientific commitment and dedicated advocacy all over his life.

The continuity of this editorial path is therefore guaranteed through the new series of the Journal "Peace Human Rights Governance", which continues to address the increasingly more complex challenges of making science on human rights through further exploring its multi-level and multi and inter-disciplinary dimensions in a critical perspective.