

Opening of the international workshop

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Good morning to everyone.

Firstly, I would like to thank Professor Fabien Schang for the invitation to participate in the opening of this Workshop and, secondly, I would like to congratulate him for this initiative.

Needless to say, the great importance of the theme that will be debated here over these two days. Everyone knows how blurred the boundaries that distinguish what political theory has traditionally called 'right' and 'left' have become. If thought from where they arose and found their roots, that is, the parliament, therefore, in reference to political parties or projects, these categories would not be today just pretexts for a reflection that should take into account elements by no way immaterial? Such elements are, for example, the structure of the contemporary state, national borders, the political economy of globalized capitalism and, perhaps above all, certain emergencies issues that would even allow us to identify some significant intersection between those two large groups: the ecological question, and migratory problems. In this complex perspective, the questions become meaningful: What is left? What is right?

Furthermore, it is also on the basis of these elements that we have seen the emergence of extreme right-wing movements around the world that threaten, not only what makes possible a peaceful and productive coexistence between 'right' and 'left', that is, democracy; but they also threaten all the civilizing conquests that should allow us to overcome, with the greatest possible justice, problems inherent to our societies.

The reflection that Professor Fabien Schang has been developing, particularly in his study group, but also in his teaching and research, certainly does not seek to elaborate solutions, but to problematize what, in a no more than superficial way, we could call 'measures' or 'policy decisions'. Showing impasses, warning of risks, detecting excesses and denouncing inaccuracies in the use of these two terms that are perhaps the most elementary in our political vocabulary is, it seems to me, the main value of this debate.

Therefore, I would like to wish, on behalf of the Faculty of Philosophy and the Graduate Program in Philosophy at UFG, that the discussion days we are opening now will be fruitful and productive, and I would like to invite everyone to learn about the other activities that are developed by the professors and students of our Faculty.

All have an excellent workshop and thank you very much.