



Machiavelli and Contemporary Politics

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Plenary Session I Abstracts

Democracy and Conflict: A Machiavellian Perspective

Filippo Del Lucchese

Brunel University London (UK)

Contact: Filippo.Dellucchese@brunel.ac.uk

ABSTRACT TBA

Plenary Session I Abstracts***The Development of Machiavelli's Althusserian Reading and its Political Significance*****Vittorio Morfino**

Università di Milano Bicocca (Italy)

In my lecture, I intend to consider the fundamental features of Machiavelli's Althusserian reading in its historical development, starting from the course of 1962, passing through the courses of 1972-76 published under the title *Machiavelli and Us* and through the writings of 1977-78, ending with the group of writings of the 1980s. The primary aim of my lecture is twofold. Firstly, it rejects any teleological reading that sees in the final writings the truth finally revealed of the path, or, for that matter, as its inversion, that is the path itself as the corruption of an original truth. Secondly, to develop the thesis that Althusser, through the figure of Machiavelli, theoretically reworks his relationship with the Party.