



DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI

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**The Future of Prediction
From Statistical Uncertainty to Algorithmic Forecast**

Venerdì 6 luglio 2018

12.00-13.30

Palazzo Hercolani, Strada Maggiore 45

Aula Farneti

Algorithmic prediction is very different from the idea of prediction that established itself in modern society since the 18th century referring to probability calculus and to an open and uncertain future. The spread of algorithmic predictions, that do not recognize and do not use uncertainty, promises greater predictive efficacy and a more efficient use of resources, but risks undermining the established ways of managing the future in various areas of society. The basic assumption of my project is that algorithmic prediction is not a variant or an evolution of current forecasting modalities, but a different way of managing the relationship with the future. I will study the practical consequences of the change in forecasting models in three areas: precision medicine, personalized insurance and predictive policing.

Elena Esposito is Professor of Sociology at the University Bielefeld and at the University of Modena-Reggio Emilia. Working in a systems theory framework, she studies problems of time in social systems, including memory and forgetting, fashion and transience, probability calculus, fiction, and the use the time in finance. Esposito's recent publications include *The Future of Futures; The Time of Money* (2011); *Die Fiktion der wahrscheinlichen Realität* (2007); *Die Verbindlichkeit des Vorübergehenden. Paradoxien der Mode* (2004); *Soziales Vergessen. Formen und Medien des Gedächtnisses der Gesellschaft* (2002); The structures of uncertainty. Performativity and unpredictability in economic operations. *Economy & Society*, 2013(42), and a debate with David Stark on Observation Theory in *Sociologica*, 2013(2).

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