

Call for papers - SINAPPSI¹

'The relationship between scientific research and political choices' n. 1/2022

SINAPPSI, the scientific journal of INAPP, is launching a Call for papers for the monographic section. Deadline for submissions 31th January 2022

The questions that we intend to explore in the monographic section of the number 1/2022 of *SINAPPSI* concern the relationship between scientific research and political choices.

1. The problematic aspects of the **relationship between the two terms date back to the origins of philosophical reflection**, ever since Plato wrote in the Republic that: *"Unless philosophers reign in the states, or those who today are called kings and lords, do not act genuine and valid philosophy, and do not combine political power and philosophy in the same person, there can be no truce of evils for states or even for mankind"*. Apart from the implications for the form of government, if we assume that by philosophy we mean a superior form of knowledge, we can deduce that "knowledge" must constitute the basis on which politics, good politics, rests. An absolutization of this principle can be seen in the conceptualization of "technocracy". Moreover, statements such as "knowing in order to decide", highlight a distinction between the function of accumulating knowledge (scientific research) and the function of adopting political choices. A clear manifestation of the dialectical relationship between these two functions has become visible in our days of pandemia, but also the area of climate change plastically represents the complexity of the relationship between science and political decisions. The recent "evidence based policy" approach represents an attempt to positively link these two worlds, especially as regards the field of economic policy choices.
2. If the problems of philosophical and methodological nature are complex, certainly equally complex are the problems of **operational nature**. The interconnection between the institutions where the accumulation of knowledge takes place and the institutions where political decisions are taken deserve a serious study. Sometimes the activity of scientific research is not adequately supported by the Public Authority, particularly in our country; but, even when it is, its results generally have little chance of "filtering" into the sphere of political decisions, where choices are often made by ignoring the data of reality collected by scientific research. Thus, it happens that the institutions where you have the knowledge are devoid of decision-making powers and the institutions where the decision-making powers reside lack the knowledge necessary to make the best decisions. The causes of this lack of connection (and possible solutions) are complex and must be considered in relation to both directions of the relationship.
3. A third order of problems concerns **the impact of scientific research on public opinion**. The results of scientific research are bound to fail in our social system to reach all strata of society. Clearly, not all the results are susceptible to dissemination so vast as to reach all the different corners of the social structure, characterized by

¹ SINAPPSI is the quarterly scientific journal of INAPP. The most recent issues can be accessed online: <https://inapp.org/it/sinappsi>

different levels of “literacy” or cultural formation capable of receiving them. But it is necessary to reach a threshold of diffusion of knowledge below which the very function of democratic participation inherent in this form of government risks being nullified. Democracy, in fact, even if provided with appropriate institutional mechanisms, loses most of its positive potential if it is not based on adequate and correct information on the part of individuals. Which factors are relevant to this problem and which adjustments and which tools can be used in this regard constitute a third order of problems.

4. Finally, a fourth order of problems is not negligible, and is connected **to the relationship between scientific research and didactic contents** at all levels of the educational process. On the one hand, this problem concerns the relationship between research and teaching activity for staff engaged in all stages of education, particularly relevant for the university level, less so for upper secondary school and perhaps limited to simple updating for lower levels. On the other hand, the problem concerns the content of materials to support teaching, at all levels. It is a question of considering not only the content of traditional materials, but also the use of new technological tools for education that ICT makes available for all learning processes.

On this, though not exhaustive, list of problems, articles **between 5,000 and 8,000 words** must be received by **January 31th, 2022**, for publication in issue 1/2022.

Authors are invited **to communicate in advance** to sinappsi@inapp.org the interest in submitting an article, indicating the title, the authors, the language (Italian or English) in which it will be written, and the preferred theme.

The usual *peer-reviewed double-blind process* will apply after a pre-screening done by the editors.

Accepted papers which will arrive later or will not fit in this issue will be considered for publication in a subsequent issue of the Journal.

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