

## TEN YEARS OF ITALIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY: A Field in Progress

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This article briefly outlines a picture of the activities and research conducted in Italy on the history of psychology during the last 10 years, focusing its attention on institutions, scholars, conferences, archives, journals, and so forth. At the dawn of the 21st century, the tradition of historical-psychological studies that developed in the last quarter of the 20th century has led to a renewed situation in teaching organization and research, with the emergence of several groups, especially at the universities of Rome “Sapienza,” Bari, Milan-Bicocca, and Urbino, and of a second generation of young historians increasingly engaged on an international level. After a general survey conducted with historiometric method on the principal areas of research cultivated and on the themes dealt with, we mention a change that has occurred in the historiographical approach, a transition from a historiography addressed prevalently to the “history of ideas” to one that, pursuing the approach of a new and critical “multifactorial” history, proves to be more attentive to the social and institutional history, in correspondence with established international trends.

*Keywords:* Italian historiography of psychology, historiometry, old history, new history, multifactorial history

An article published in this same journal in 2003 traced the itinerary of the historiography of psychology in Italy from the 1970s up to the threshold of the 21st century (Cimino & Dazzi, 2003). In that essay the authors demonstrated how the Italian studies on the history of psychology had in the 1970s acquired a definite consistency along with a certain autonomy and continuity, impelled by the incipient degree courses in psychology activated in the universities of Rome and Padua, and thanks to the initiatives of the Domus Galilaeana of Pisa and to the contributions of several “pioneers” such as Paolo Bozzi (1930–2003), Vincenzo Cappelletti, Nino Dazzi, Paolo Legrenzi, and Dario Romano.

In the 1980s then—as the authors reconstruct—the historical research increased and became particularly prominent at the University of Bologna through the activity of Giuseppe Mucciarelli (1939–2001), who organized various conferences, published volumes on the history of psychology, and founded the

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This text has been translated in collaboration with Barbara A. Olson. The authors are listed in alphabetical order. We list in the References only some of the more significant works on the history of psychology written in the last ten years.

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journal *Teorie & Modelli* [Theories and Models], which appeared alongside the discontinuous periodical *Storia e critica della psicologia* [History and criticism of psychology] directed by Luciano Mecacci. Other significant conferences were, moreover, held in various Italian universities (Milan, Palermo, Florence) and at the Domus Galilaeana, where in its School of History of Science coordinated by Guido Cimino, the first specialists—we might say “doctors of research”—were also trained in the history of psychology. In this decade, some of the first handbooks and historical profiles of the discipline were published, among which in particular that of Sadi Marhaba (1981) from the University of Padua on the history of Italian psychology stands out.

In the 1990s historical studies underwent further development, thanks also to the birth of new psychology degree courses in many universities, in addition to the already operative ones of Rome and Padua. There was a consequent increase also in the teaching of the history of psychology, which fostered the publication of new handbooks on the discipline (among which that of Mecacci in 1992); but above all some very active research centers were created, especially at the University of Rome “Sapienza” (with Cimino, Dazzi, and Giovanni Pietro Lombardo), of Florence (with Simonetta Gori-Savellini, Patrizia Guarnieri, Riccardo Luccio, and Mecacci), of Bologna (with Mauro Antonelli and Valeria Babini), of Bari (with Maria Sinatra), and of Trento (with Liliana Albertazzi), to which were added the contributions of various scholars from other universities (among others, Glauco Ceccarelli, Mauro Fornaro, Mario Quaranta, and Gabriella Sava). In those years, therefore, in addition to the organization of new conferences (we can mention those on Brentano, Meinong, Musatti, De Sarlo, and De Sanctis, along with others on the experimental psychology laboratories), and of several exhibits of psychotechnic instruments at the University of Bari, at this same University a Doctoral Degree in the History of Science—coordinated by Mauro Di Giandomenico—was established and developed, in collaboration with the universities of Bologna, Genoa, and Rome. It was then within the sphere of this doctorate, which specifies a curriculum in the history of psychology, that the historians of the discipline belonging to the younger generation (among whom Carmela Morabito, Vincenzo Bongiorno, Antonio M. Ferreri, Marco Innamorati, Renato Foschi, Roberta Passione, Luigi Traetta, Elisabetta Cicciola, Silvia Degni, Antonino Trizzino, and Lucia Monacis) received their training.

On the level of historical-psychological research, the numerous areas cultivated and themes dealt with in the course of 30 years were various and regarded principally aspects such as the birth and developments of the contemporaneous Italian “scientific” psychology (with works on individual authors as on schools and tendencies); the laboratories of experimental and applied psychology that had arisen in Italy; the work and thought of international scientists such as Brentano, James, and Wundt; the history of Russian and French psychology, as of cognitivism, psychoanalysis, clinical and personality psychology, psychiatry, and the neurosciences. The results of all this research were generally appreciable and partially innovative, although published almost entirely in the Italian language.

In the 2003 article, the authors had also mentioned some trends of the Italian historiography of psychology and had maintained that little by little there had been a change from a kind of historical research defined as “positivistic,” to one characterized by the so-called history of ideas. The Italian historians, for the most

part with a philosophical background and attentive to the new tendencies of the post-Popper epistemology, had become aware that in the historical reconstruction and interpretation, one had to consider all the components of the scientific endeavor, both the strictly scientific “internal” ones and the “external” ones tied to the cultural and social context; and that it was thus necessary to incline—so to speak—toward a “multifactorial history” or a “history of complexity.” Then, however, they had for the most part concentrated their attention on the basic epistemological and methodological ideas of the scientists, ideas connected with the philosophical-cultural background marked by tendencies that were positivist, pragmatist, phenomenological, neo-idealist, neo-Thomistic, and so forth. Later on in the 1990s, thanks also to the emerging historians trained in the degree courses in psychology, the research began to extend to more planes and dimensions of the historical fabric, in particular to the sociopolitical and institutional ones, and there was an opening to the contemporary trends of the “new” and “critical” history of psychology.

### **The Historiography of Psychology Between the Two Centuries**

During the last decade, the historiography of psychology in Italy has undergone profound changes, due on the one hand to a twofold university reform that revolutionized, but also disrupted, the traditional degree courses in psychology; and on the other hand to the activity of young researchers, who have increasingly learned to compete on an international level.

At the end of the 1990s, the Italian universities were granted considerable autonomy in their teaching, together with the consequent possibility of instituting new degree courses and disciplines at their discretion. Furthermore, a law of 1999 (Legislative Decree 509), applied as of the academic year 2002–2003, subdivided university education into basic 3-year degree courses (equivalent to a bachelor’s degree) followed by specialized 2-year courses (equivalent to a master’s degree). All of this has in general involved, particularly for the degree courses in psychology, a great increase of the disciplines taught and of the number of exams to be taken, with a variability depending upon the universities. This increase has benefited also the history of psychology that has usually been inserted, albeit with few “training credits,” in the 3-year *curricula*, although in some local situations—given the decisional autonomy of the faculties—it has been penalized.

In 2004, however, a further reform (Legislative Decree 270), applied as of the academic year 2008–2009, has forced the universities—for reasons of public finances—to diminish the number of exams for both basic and specialized training. On this background, then, the degree courses in psychology have preferred to maintain the lessons that most closely correspond to the mainstream of basic scientific research and of its practical applications (the areas of general psychology, psychophysiology, clinical psychology, and applied psychology), typically to the detriment of the history of psychology teaching, a discipline most often considered a part of the examination program of general psychology. At this point, one can only hope that this situation can become further modified with the application of the EuroPsy curriculum, developed by the European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations (EFPA), for the common training of psychologists in the countries of the European Union. This curriculum, in fact, specifies a knowl-

edge of the history of psychology among the basic requirements for the B.A. Among other things, Italy is one of the pilot countries for the accreditation of the EuroPsy in the universities, and this could in principle lead to the reintegration of the history of psychology on stable normative grounds as a required course for basic training in all the European countries (European Federation of Psychologists' Associations, 2008).

However the case may be, as far as regards the historical-psychological research, the first years of the new century have proved to be quite fruitful: conferences have been organized that have hosted studies and analyses concerning Italian psychology between the 19th and 20th centuries, and some international meetings have also been organized; books and essays have been published on the most representative authors of scientific research in psychology; and studies on the history of psychology have appeared in accredited international journals, such that James Capshew, the former editor of *History of Psychology*, in the ranking of the international universities that in the period between 1998 and 2007 had published the greatest number of contributions in the journal, classified the researchers of the Faculty of Psychology 1 of the "Sapienza" University of Rome in second place—on the same level as the University of California—after York University of Toronto (Dunn & Capshew, 2007).

Aware of the difficulties of providing a sufficiently representative summary of the historiography of psychology in Italy during the last 10 years (inasmuch as it is possible, or rather probable, to have forgotten some event or author), we will first provide a survey of the universities, research centers, and scholars; national and international conferences; journals; archives and text collections in libraries or online; real and virtual museums; websites dedicated to the history and teaching of psychology; doctoral research; original publications; and so forth (we apologize for whatever inevitable oversight there might be, and for the fact that, for reasons of space, we have been obliged to dedicate to each author only a few lines and bibliographical references, undoubtedly insufficient in order to convey the meaning and dimensions of his or her historiographical work). We will then attempt to indicate the principal areas and research themes dealt with by the historians, by applying—for the first time in this specific field, thanks to the work of Ceccarelli—a simple historiometric method to works published in the period 2000–2009 by a group of researchers who with a certain continuity have concerned themselves with the history of psychology. Naturally the contributions of a historical kind made in Italy in this period are far greater in number than those taken into consideration, and there are also many additional authors who have written some historical article; we believe, however, that the sample considered is sufficiently significant and representative—even though limited—in order to offer an idea of the principal areas of research undertaken by the Italian historians of psychology. Lastly, we will confront the difficult problem of identifying possible common historiographical tendencies, also in relation to the prevailing trends and approaches in the historical studies of the last century.

### **Institutions, Authors, Conferences, Archives**

In the last 10 years, the increase in the number of history of psychology courses has fostered the emergence and affirmation of several new research

groups, which have in part enriched the situation described by Cimino and Dazzi (2003). Especially at the “Sapienza” University of Rome, the University of Bari, the University of Milan-Bicocca, and the University of Urbino, these groups have undertaken interesting initiatives (among which the realization of electronic archives of published and unpublished texts of Italian psychology, as well as the organization of national and international conferences) and have developed research whose results have been published in international journals. Also other universities, however, have contributed to the historical research with their promotion of conferences or with the personal commitment of some scholars who have dedicated to the history of psychology a part of their own research activity.

In Rome, at the Faculty of Psychology 1, there is an active group of researchers who have systematically concerned themselves with the history of psychology. We should mention in particular Guido Cimino (Full Professor of History of Science and History of Psychology), Giovanni Pietro Lombardo (Full Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology), Renato Foschi (PhD and Assistant Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology), and other younger pupils all of whom are Doctors of Research with a curriculum in the history of psychology (Elisabetta Cicciola, Silvia Degni, and Antonino Trizzino). We would also like to mention Antonio M. Ferreri, who in 2006, shortly before being named Assistant Professor at the “Sapienza,” died of a serious illness after having made significant contributions related to the work of James and of De Sanctis (Ferreri, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008).

Guido Cimino—editor of the international journal of the history of science *Physis*, which publishes articles also on the history of psychology; and elected member of the Académie Internationale d’Histoire des Sciences—in 2005, in collaboration with Régine Plas, organized the first history of psychology symposium within the framework of a congress of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, on the theme “The Foundation of ‘Scientific’ Psychology within the Cultural, Social, and Institutional Contexts of European and Extra-European Countries between the 19th and 20th Centuries” (XXII International Congress of History of Science, Beijing, 24–30 July 2005). This symposium gathered together, in addition to several young historians of Italian psychology, also various scholars of international importance, such as Fernando Vidal, Horst Gundlach, Mitchell G. Ash, Jacqueline Carroy, Enrique Lafuente, Michael M. Sokal, Regina Helena de Freitas Campos, Miki Takasuna, and Heyong Shen (see the Proceedings of the symposium, Cimino & Plas, 2006). Cimino also organized at the Italian Institute of German Studies in Rome—presided over by Vincenzo Cappelletti, one of the pioneers of the history of science and of psychology in Italy—several conferences on the following themes: “The Developments of Knowledge of the Brain” (15 March 2006) for the centennial recurrence of the 1906 Nobel Prize conferred upon Camillo Golgi and Santiago Ramón y Cajal; “The ‘New’ Science of the Mind” (4 October 2007), together with Régine Plas, on the occasion of the publication of the Beijing Symposium Proceedings; “The Historical Relations between German and Italian Psychology in an International Framework” (15–17 October 2009), with the participation of foreign scholars, among whom Horst Gundlach, Wilhelm Büttemeyer, Wade Pickren, and Wilhelm Baumgartner. Cimino also obtained from the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) financing for Research Projects of

National Interest (PRIN) related to the history of psychology and of the neurosciences. In studying these disciplines, he attempts to retrace and highlight the epistemological, methodological, and theoretical “assumptions” that lie behind and beneath the specific laboratory practice, that is, he tries to identify and clarify the web of “ideas” that guides, conditions, influences, and suggests the activity of research and in part determines the results obtained (Cimino, 1999, 2002; Cimino & Dazzi, 1998, 2003; Cimino & Ferreri, 2002; Cimino & Lombardo, 2004; Cimino & Foschi, 2010, in press).

At the “Sapienza” in Rome, Giovanni Pietro Lombardo organized in the Department of Dynamic and Clinical Psychology, an “Archive of History of Psychology” ([www.archiviodistoria.psicologia1.uniroma1.it](http://www.archiviodistoria.psicologia1.uniroma1.it)), which contains on-line classical texts of Italian psychology, links to digitalized volumes, and inventories of unpublished works of Roman scholars. The “Archive” proposes to represent, through monographs, articles, and various documents of illustrious scholars, the different voices and movements that have characterized Italian psychological science from its origins up to our own time. Lombardo has in these years devoted himself in particular to recovering materials related to Sante De Sanctis (1862–1935)—to whose memory a park adjoining the Rome Faculties of Psychology 1 and 2, as well as the Aula Magna of the same Faculties, has been dedicated—and to investigating the history of clinical and personality psychology, as also the history of Italian psychology with special regard to the work of De Sanctis (Cimino & Lombardo, 2004; Lombardo & Foschi, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008; Lombardo & Cicciola, 2005).

Also at the University of Rome “Sapienza,” Renato Foschi, within the area of his studies in collaboration with Lombardo on the history of Italian psychology and of clinical psychology, has dealt with themes regarding personality, dreams, and the relations between liberal politics and applied psychology in Rome and Paris at the beginning of the 1900s; more recently, then, he conducted in collaboration an interdisciplinary study on the “prehistory” of reaction times (Cimino & Foschi, in press; Foschi, 2008; Foschi & Cicciola, 2006, 2007; Foschi & Leone, 2009; Foschi & Lombardo, 2006; Lombardo & Foschi, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008). In the group of historians at the Faculty of Psychology 1, there are also other Doctors of Research who have made interesting contributions: Elisabetta Cicciola has developed a study on French psychology, with particular attention to Alfred Binet (1857–1911), and has recently compiled an inventory both of De Sanctis’s considerable correspondence and of the vast Florentine library of Francesco De Sarlo (1864–1937) (Cicciola, 2008, 2009; Foschi & Cicciola, 2006, 2007; Lombardo & Cicciola, 2005); Silvia Degni has concerned herself with the history of Italian research on the experience of time, and with the work of Gabriele Buccola (1854–1885) (Degni, 2006; Degni, Foschi, & Lombardo, 2007; Cimino & Degni, 2009); and Antonino Trizzino has studied the history of the hypnosuggestive investigations conducted by Vittorio Benussi (1878–1927) (Trizzino, 2008).

At the Rome “Sapienza,” moreover, Nino Dazzi (Full Professor of Dynamic Psychology and pioneer of the historical-psychological studies in Italy), in collaboration with Carmela Morabito (PhD and Associate Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”), edited in 2004 the Italian publication of M. G. Ash’s volume, *Gestalt Psychology*

in *German Culture, 1890–1967* (Ash, 1998/2004); and in 2009, in collaboration with Lombardo, for the journal *Rassegna di Psicologia*, published by the psychology departments of the University of Rome “Sapienza,” edited a monographic issue dedicated to the history of psychology (Dazzi & Lombardo, 2009). Dazzi, in addition, with Marcello Cesa-Bianchi and Erminio Gius, directs a series on the history of psychology for the publisher Franco Angeli of Milan, and continues his research activity with articles on William James (1842–1910) and on Italian psychologists. Morabito, on her part, has published original essays on the history of psychology and of the neurosciences; her research focuses principally on interdisciplinary themes tied to the study of the relations between the mind and the brain, between behavior and the nervous system, in a basically historical-epistemological perspective. Recently she has also published a handbook on the history of psychology and an essay on the development of cognitive neuropsychology in the 20th century (Morabito, 2000, 2004, 2007). Another historian trained primarily at the “Sapienza” University of Rome is Marco Innamorati (PhD and Assistant Professor at the University of Bari), to whom we owe a systematic work of research whose aim is to reconstruct the philosophical sources of the psychology of Théodule Ribot (1839–1916) (Innamorati, 2005).

In the Faculty of Psychology 2 at the “Sapienza,” Gilda Sensales (Associate Professor of Social Psychology) has ever since the end of the 1990s dealt with the historiographical and theoretical-critical debate on social psychology and its birth in Italy. She has studied the sources of social psychology and the interconnections with the preceding traditions regarding crowd psychology and collective psychology, utilizing the historiometric method to analyze the contributions on the subject present in the Italian scientific literature between the 19th and 20th century. The history of Italian social psychology has moreover been a theme that the historians have amply dealt with ever since the 1980s (see Cornacchioli & Spadafora, 2000; De Rosa, 2008; Mucchi Faina, 1998, 2002; Sensales, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008; Volpato, 2000, 2001). Also in the Faculty of Psychology 2, Paolo Bonaiuto (Full Professor of General Psychology and doyen of general Italian psychology) has in the course of his long career repeatedly interested himself in the history of the psychological research carried out in various fields (perception, motivation, illusion, sensory deprivation, cognitive styles, aesthetic experience and the psychology of art etc.), and with his collaborators has recently published a handbook of the history of psychology (Bonaiuto, Giannini, & Biasi, 2008).

In the Faculty of Philosophy at the Rome “Sapienza,” Serena Veggetti (Full Professor of General Psychology) is an expert on the history and events of the historical-cultural Soviet school, a member of the Russian Academy of Education (R.A.O., Rossiiskaja Akademija Obrazovanija), and a pupil of Alexei Nikolaevich Leont’ev (1903–1979). She is presently conducting research aimed at evaluating the influence exerted on Italian psychological investigations by the scientific relations between Italy and Russia, initially during the czarist period and then in the first decades of the Stalinist era (Veggetti, 2006a, 2006b).

In addition to the “Sapienza” of Rome, other poles of historical research in the last decade have been—in alphabetical order—those of the universities of Bari, of Milan-Bicocca, and of Urbino. Maria Sinatra (Full Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology), in the Department of Psychology at the University of Bari, has with the support of several young researchers (Flavio Ceglie,

Lucia Monacis, Luigi Traetta) conducted studies especially on the relations between Italian and German psychology, and on the international history of psychotechnics (Ceglie, 2008; Monacis, 2007, 2008, 2009; Sinatra, 2005, 2006, 2009; Traetta, 2007). The group of Bari has organized exhibits on psychology laboratory instruments (“How we used to measure the mind,” 29 January – 4 May 2006; “The right man at the right place,” 27 November – 15 December 1997) and also edited the publication, by the publisher Progedit of Bari, of the series “The Times and Ideas of the Sciences” (directed by Cimino, Di Giandomenico, Maccagni, and Sinatra). The latter included monographs dedicated to the history of psychology. In recent years, Sinatra has organized several conferences that have had a substantial participation of international scholars; in particular, the conference “Psychotechnics: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow” (14–16 March 2007) and the 27th Annual Conference of the European Society for the History of the Human Sciences, 2–5 July 2008 (see their Proceedings: Gundlach, Lafuente, Sinatra, Sokal, & Tanucci, 2009; Bos & Sinatra, in press).

In Bari there is also an active History of Psychology Laboratory with an Internet site, (<http://www.laboratoriodistoriadellapsicologia.com>), whose activities propose to gather, recuperate, and restore the psychological instrumentation of the southern Italian laboratories; and to organize exhibits, conferences, and training courses in the history of psychology and in museology. At the University of Bari, the Doctorate in the History of Science (coordinated by Mauro Di Giandomenico, Full Professor of the History of Science) remains active and is ordained in such a way as to provide a curriculum specifically addressed to the history of psychology. Another scholar working in Bari is Liborio Dibattista (PhD and Assistant Professor of the History of Science), an expert on computational linguistics who has analyzed the works of Jean Martin Charcot (1825–1893), beginning with the frequencies of headwords present in his complete works, for the purpose of distinguishing the French psychopathologist’s various fields of investigation. Dibattista has also concerned himself with the history of the frontier areas between medicine, neurology, and psychology (Dibattista, 2002, 2003, 2007).

In northern Italy, the University of Milan-Bicocca has attained a certain prominence, especially owing to the presence there of the *Archivio storico della psicologia italiana (Aspi)* [Historical Archives of Italian Psychology] (<http://www.archiviapsicologica.org>). Created in 2005 following the initial acquisition of the archival and library material of Vittorio Benussi and Cesare Musatti (1897–1989), the *Aspi* is an interdepartmental research center directed toward the conservation and valorization of the primary sources related to the history of Italian psychology. It later acquired the important material of Giulio Cesare Ferrari (1867–1932), that of the anthropologist and psychologist Tito Vignoli (1824–1914), and that of the sociologist Giancarlo Arnao (1926–2000). The Director of the *Aspi* is Mauro Antonelli (Full Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology), trained in the school of Bologna, and a specialist on the work of Brentano and Benussi. Antonelli is also the editor of the only Italian journal presently dedicated to the history and theory of psychology, *Teoria & Modelli* [*Theory & Models*]. A characteristic of this journal, as of much of Antonelli’s research, is that of proposing a reflection on the interconnections between the historical and methodological investigation in psychological fields. In

his contributions, Antonelli carefully reconstructs the basic ideas underlying the research of selected scientists, while concerning himself above all with the phenomenological tradition and with the comparison between it and the structuralist approach (Antonelli, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006; Antonelli & Manotta, 2009; Antonelli, Masin, & Zudini, 2009). At the University of Milan-Bicocca, there is also Roberta Passione (PhD and Assistant Professor of History of Psychology), who has focused on the developments of applied psychological research in Italy, and on the figure of the psychiatrist Ugo Cerletti (1877–1963), the inventor of the therapies based on electroshock (Passione, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007).

In the last 10 years another interesting research center for the history of psychology has arisen at the Institute of Psychology “Luigi Meschieri” of the University of Urbino, thanks especially to the work of Glauco Ceccarelli (Associate Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology), who has published numerous contributions, in particular on the history of Italian psychology, regarding the themes of psychological testing, the first steps and developments of psychoanalysis, the journals and congresses, and the studies on personality; themes often chosen with the intention of comparing the Italian results and events with the international ones, sometimes with the use of historiometric methodologies (Ceccarelli, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2010). Ceccarelli has in addition organized in Urbino both national and international conferences, with the participation of foreign scholars (among whom Elisabeth Chapuis, Régine Plas, Annick Oyahon, and Annette Mülberger), such as the conference on “Historical Itineraries of Psychology in Italy: Areas and Relations” (25–26 October 2002), or that on “One Hundred Years since 1905 – A Century of Psychology in Italy” (11–12 November 2005), as well as the congress “Psychoanalysis in Italy. Scholars in the first half of 20th Century” (11 December 2006) and the international congress on “Alfred Binet and the Measurement of Intelligence” (8–9 May 2009).

Among other conferences on the history of psychology held during these years in Italy, we would like to mention also two meetings of a commemorative kind: the one on “Creativity and Method: the Dawning of the New Psychology,” organized by the Department of General Psychology of the University of Padua on the occasion of the 80th anniversary since the death of Vittorio Benussi (26–27 November 2007); and the meeting in Milan on the theme “In the Heart of Reality. Agostino Gemelli and his Time,” promoted by the Catholic University of Milan and held (28–30 April 2009) to celebrate the 50 years since the death of Gemelli (1878–1959) (see Esposito, Fenaroli, & Vannetti, 2009). Lastly, we should also mention the Inaugural International Conference organized by the Italian American Psychology Assembly (IAPA) and held in Palermo, 3–4 June 2009, with the participation of several Italian historians, who also took part in other international meetings (Cheiron, ESSHS, and SHP).

In addition to the authors, initiatives, and research discussed thus far, we must mention also other scholars who have investigated the history of psychology and produced works of an excellent kind. In particular, Luciano Mecacci (Full Professor of General Psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Florence) has published, with a perspective that seems to us akin to the “history of ideas,” perhaps the best handbooks written in Italy on the history of psychology (Mecacci, 1992, 1998, 2008); furthermore, in collaboration with Elisabetta Cicciola, he is presently working on the archives of Francesco De

Sarlo, the founder of the Florentine Laboratory of Psychology (Cicciola, 2010). Mecacci is one of the senior members of the history of psychology in Italy, who ever since the beginning of the 1990s has been engaged in describing the principal traditions of national and international psychological research, depicting their distinctive foundational nucleus within the large philosophical-ideological trends of the 20th century. He has recently published the small volume *Freudian Slips: The Casualties of Psychoanalysis from the Wolf Man to Marilyn Monroe*, in which he utilizes the story of Marilyn's case and the private facts of life of important psychoanalysts to denounce the controversial ways in which the psychoanalytic theory has been historically constructed, thus arousing protests and the accusation of "sensationalism" on the part of the psychoanalytic milieu (Mecacci, 2000/2009).

In the same Department of Psychology at the University of Florence, Patrizia Guarnieri (Associate Professor of Contemporary History) has concerned herself with the history of psychiatry and of medico-psychological assistance for children. Within the general framework of the relations between science and society, and between theory and practice as regards mental illness, she has in particular studied the problems of the assistance and protection of infancy and motherhood in the late 19th century after the unification of Italy. Among other positions, Guarnieri is an elected member of the Executive Committee (from 2009 to 2013) of the Society for the History of Children and Youth (SHCY) and is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the History of Children and Youth* (Guarnieri, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009).

In Bologna, at the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy, Valeria P. Babini (Associate Professor of History of Science) has dedicated her research to the history of psychiatry, of psychology, of anthropology, and to the history of women during the 19th and 20th centuries, with particular emphasis on the relations between science, culture, and society. The guideline in her historical research work is the theme of "diversity": women and those with mental illness, criminal behavior, or some disability, precisely as the human sciences have defined them and separated them from others in the course of the last two centuries, have been the preferred object of her investigations, which aim to reconstruct, by means of exemplary figures such as that of Maria Montessori (1870–1952), some of the important stages in the history of Italian psychology and psychiatry (Babini, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2010; Babini & Lama, 2000; Babini & Simili, 2007). Also in the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy at the University of Bologna, Nicoletta Caramelli (Full Professor of General Psychology) addresses, among other things, the history of cognitive science and the epistemology of psychology. In her historical analyses, she has on several occasions traced the itinerary of the studies on cognitive processes, identifying and reconstructing those research traditions that went beyond the limits posited by Wundt's structuralism and began to deal with the study of thought phenomena (Caramelli, 2001, 2002).

The history of cognitive science, with particular regard to its evolution, is also one of the fields studied by Merete Amann Gainotti (Full Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Rome Three), who has concerned herself particularly with Jean Piaget (1896–1980) and his relations with psychoanalysis and scientific pedagogy (Amann Gainotti, 2004; Amann Gainotti & Liberati,

2000; Geat & Amann Gainotti, 2008). At the University of Cagliari, Vincenzo Bongiorno (PhD and Assistant Professor of History of Science and History of Psychology) has developed a research program focused on the entwining of psychology and psychiatry during the years bridging the 19th and 20th centuries. He has studied in particular the figure and work of Augusto Tamburini (1848–1919), director of the Mental Hospital of Reggio Emilia, a key protagonist for the history of the renewed organicistic psychiatry and of the incipient Italian scientific psychology (Bongiorno, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2009). At the University of Palermo, a research group coordinated by Giovanni Sprini (Full Professor of General Psychology and one of the senior members of Italian psychology) and composed of, among others, Cristiano Inguglia and Salvatore Intorrella, has proposed to rediscover and thoroughly investigate the Sicilian psychological tradition, gathering in particular unpublished sources regarding the Palermo psychologist Gabriele Buccola, one of the pioneers of the “new” Italian experimental psychology in the second half of the 19th century (Sprini, 2008; Sprini, Inguglia, & Intorrella, 2003, 2006).

Among the scholars in Italy who have conducted research on the history of psychology, both Liliana Albertazzi and Gabriella Sava have attained a prominent position. Albertazzi (Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Trento, and President of the Mitteleuropa Foundation: <http://www.mittleuropafoundation.org/>) has for many years dedicated herself to studying the psychology of Franz Brentano (1838–1917) and his school, and has become a specialist in the history of phenomenology with particular regard to Brentano’s logical theories and to Benussi’s psychology of perception. These studies have led her also to direct her attention to the foundations of cognitivism (Albertazzi, 1999, 2001a, 2001b, 2006). Albertazzi is moreover one of the founders of the journal *Axiomathes*, dedicated to the philosophy and methodology of science, and at the present time directed by Roberto Poli. In recent years it has also published contributions regarding the relations between psychology and Central-European phenomenology, and in particular articles on Benussi, Brentano, the school of Graz, and Gestalt psychology (e.g., Cattaruzza, 1999).

The research of Gabriella Sava (Associate Professor of History of Science and History of Psychology at the University of Salento [Lecce]) is instead addressed to the analysis of the experimental and theoretical contributions made by the protagonists of the so-called philosophical psychology of the early 1900s. Her interests prove to be above all tied to the history of philosophical-scientific thought and of the human sciences of that period, as well as to the analysis of the theoretical-methodological debate on the foundation of a psychology with scientific claims in the years of transition from positivism to neo-idealism. Sava has also studied protagonists such as Antonio Aliotta (1881–1964), Francesco De Sarlo, Eugenio Rignano (1870–1930), and Guido Villa (1867–1948), who concerned themselves more with the theory and epistemology of psychology than with concrete empirical research (Sava, 2000, 2003a, 2003b, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2008; Cimino & Sava, 2008).

During the last 10 years, the University of Rome “Sapienza,” of Milan-Bicocca, of Bari, and of Urbino have thus been the institutions in which the Italian research on the history of psychology has had its greatest expression, whereas a certain stalemate has been observed in the other universities, in spite of their long

tradition of historical-psychological studies (Cimino & Dazzi, 2003). In some institutions, the reorganization of the degree courses has recently resulted in the exclusion of the history of psychology, which for the most part has been substituted by courses in the history of philosophy or in epistemology. Several scholars trained in these universities have however continued their own research in other places. Such is the case of Mauro Fornaro (Full Professor of History of Science and History of Psychology), previously at the Catholic University of Milan and presently teaching at the University of Chieti. Fornaro, codirector with Cimino of the Psychology section of the new edition of the *Enciclopedia Filosofica* [Philosophical Encyclopedia] (2006), has in these years concerned himself in particular with the history of the interrelations between the research traditions of psychoanalysis and those of experimental psychology. With an attentive analysis of unpublished sources, he has dealt with the history of psychotherapy and with the dynamic psychology of Kurt Lewin (1890–1947), and thoroughly examined the work of Gemelli, with particular attention to his conception of clinical psychology (Fornaro, 2004, 2005, 2009; Fornaro & Giacobbi, 2001).

Among the Italian pioneers of the history of psychology who are still fully active, we must also mention Sadi Marhaba, Paolo Legrenzi, Riccardo Luccio, and Mario Quaranta. Marhaba (Full Professor of General Psychology and of History of Psychology at the University of Padua) is one of the major scholars of the history of Italian psychology—we owe to him, in 1981, the first important work of bio-bibliographical reconstruction of scientific psychology in Italy—and has in these years directed his work toward the epistemology of psychology, and also reconstructed the activity and work of several Italian psychologists, among whom Fabio Metelli (1907–1987) (Marhaba, 1981, 1999, 2008). Paolo Legrenzi (Full Professor of General Psychology at the IUAV University of Venice), editor in 1980 of a widely circulated handbook of history of psychology, has in the last decade interested himself above all in the theory and epistemology of psychological and neuropsychological research (Legrenzi, 1980, 2008; Legrenzi & Umiltà, 2009). Riccardo Luccio (Full Professor of General Psychology at the University of Trieste) has in recent years concerned himself especially with the methodology and logic of measurement in psychology, and with the history of Gestalt psychology. We also recall that in 2000, in collaboration with Simonetta Gori-Savellini (Associate Professor of General Psychology in Florence and historian of Florentine psychology), he coauthored a handbook of the history of psychology, circumscribing the treatment to the experimental and laboratory traditions (Luccio, 2000, 2003, 2008, 2010). On his part, Mario Quaranta, a philosopher and historian of Italian psychology with great experience, has continued his research on the scientific biography of Giulio Cesare Ferrari, one of the pillars of Italian psychology at the time of its origin in the early 1900s (Quaranta, 2006).

Also at the University of Trieste and the University of Turin, the history of psychology counts efficacious professionals. On the one hand, we can mention the research activity of Tiziano Agostini (Full Professor of General Psychology and History of Psychology at the University of Trieste), who alternates investigations on both the history and epistemology of psychology; and on the other hand, the effort made by Felice Perussia (Full Professor of General Psychology in Turin) to reconstruct the history of the Turin laboratory (Agostini, 2006; Perussia, 2008). In

Turin we must remember the recent reopening of the Cesare Lombroso Museum of Criminal Anthropology, dedicated to the history of criminal anthropology and of the Italian tradition of criminological studies: <http://www.museounito.it/lombroso/storia/default.html> (Baima Bollone, 2009; Montaldo & Tappero, 2009a, 2009b).

Lastly, we can also mention several volumes of an autobiographical value, those of Leonardo Ancona (1922–2008) and of Marcello Cesa-Bianchi (senior members of Italian academic psychology and pupils of Agostino Gemelli), as well as the book of Adriano Ossicini, Professor Emeritus of General Psychology at the “Sapienza” of Rome, Senator and drafter of the law instituting the profession of psychologist. These volumes of autobiographical memories prove particularly interesting because they describe in an original and familiar way the most important protagonists tied to post-World War II psychology, along with the cultural and political context of the period (Ancona, 2003; Cesa-Bianchi, Porro, & Cristini, 2008; Ossicini, 2002).

### **Principal Themes Investigated**

Resuming the approach adopted in the review edited by Cimino and Dazzi (2003), also with the purpose of encouraging a comparative approach among the various periods considered, we will in this section of the work attempt to identify the areas of research most frequently explored and the subjects most often studied. Since, in accordance with various scholars (Brožek & Pongratz, 1980; Simonton, 1990), we believe that quantitative historiography can be useful for providing an effective foundation for evaluation, we employed basic historiometric criteria to indicate the principal lines of historical research.

Overall, we have taken into consideration 486 publications of a historical nature, from the period 2000–2009, of 32 Italian scholars active in the historiographical field and for the most part mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. Of these publications, 25.5% consist of contributions of an international kind, while 74.5% are of works within the national sphere. Going into greater detail, the survey conducted has allowed us to ascertain that of the total number of works, 17.6% is represented by Italian encyclopedia or dictionary entries, 17.3% by essays published in Italian collective volumes, 16.2% by articles in national scientific journals, 13.8% by books in Italian, and 9.3% by papers at national conferences. There are then the works in foreign languages (prevalently in English) with essays included in international collective volumes (9.5%), articles in international journals (8.3%), papers at international conferences (4.3%), volumes of an international kind (2.3%), and foreign encyclopedia entries (1.4%). As can be seen, the scientific production is predominantly of a national character, but its presence on the international level appears in any case to be significant and growing.

A relevant initial aspect to consider concerns the disciplinary areas toward which the recent historical-psychological research in Italy is addressed. In this regard, it turns out that the area occupying the first place in the classification is that of the history of international psychology (45.3%), while in second place is found the history of Italian psychology (27.0%); the remaining 27.7% regards instead disciplinary areas bordering on the specifically psychological ones, as are

indicated further on in the text. With respect to the temporal period examined in the preceding survey (Cimino & Dazzi, 2003), there thus appears to be an inversion of tendency from which one can infer a greater interest in what happened outside of Italy and a greater awareness of the relations, influences, and exchanges—of varying intensity and relevancy in the different historical periods—that took place between “our” psychology and that of the other Western countries.

Within the perimeter that can on the whole be defined as psychological, the Italian historiographical work has explored numerous disciplinary branches that are more circumscribed, and connoted by certain peculiarities on the theoretical plane, on that of the object of investigation, and on that of the methodology. Among these branches we can point out (the percentage values do not refer to the general total of the contributions assessed, but to the total number of works in which the specific branch dealt with is explicitly present, or is anyway identifiable) the history of psychoanalysis, especially in its general aspects (13.5%), but also in those relative to the Italian context (6.4%). However, the most interesting fact to be derived from this profile is perhaps the one regarding the studies of the history of applied psychology (27.1%), which comprise works dedicated to various areas (see further ahead); whereas the other historically relevant “soul” of psychology, the experimental one, has received a minor, albeit consistent, quota of attention (14.4%), often directed specifically to the laboratories. Other branches that have constituted an object of investigation are then the history of social psychology (7.7%), in both the national and foreign aspects; and the history of the psychology of personality (7.7%). Additional works have moreover regarded the cognitive sciences (5.2%), epistemological matters (5.2%) and historiographical ones (4.6%), as well as psychophysiology (3.2%), philosophical and introspective psychology (1.3%), and psychophysics (1.3%). Lastly, a few rare contributions have been dedicated to historiometry (0.6%), differential psychology (0.6%), dynamic psychology (0.6%), and other areas that cannot be clearly distinguished (0.6%).

In the branch of applied psychology, moreover, out of a total of 42 works (on which the percentages have been calculated), it is possible to indicate contributions dedicated to psychometrics, understood primarily in the sense of testing (26.2%), clinical psychology (19.0%), psychotechnics (11.9%), psychotherapy (7.1%), emergency psychology (4.8%), psychosomatics (4.8%), work psychology (4.8%), military psychology (4.8%), guidance psychology (2.4%), and other areas not referable to a specific applied sector (14.2%). The attention directed to applied psychology on the whole thus seems to be increasing with respect to the past, and it reveals a course of studies previously less cultivated.

Regarding the bordering areas (27.7% of all the works considered, see the preceding), a conspicuous number of studies have examined the history of psychiatry, with a clear majority that focus on Italian psychiatry (8.6%) and with some contributions related to foreign psychiatry (1.8%). Also the history of the neurosciences has received a significant quota of attention (11.0%), and there are in addition records of several contributions regarding the relation between philosophy and psychology (0.4%), a question moreover very relevant in the history of Italian psychology; anthropometrics (0.2%); computational linguistics (0.2%); and the “history of ideas” (0.2%); to which must be added other contributions that

cannot be precisely classified in terms of the disciplinary area (5.3%). With regard to the bordering disciplinary areas, the picture outlined by Cimino and Dazzi (2003) thus seems to be substantially confirmed—even though it did not comprise a quantitative analysis—with the exception of the already mentioned greater interest for international psychological science with respect to the Italian one. It should further be kept in mind that in the present review we have not taken into consideration scholars who have interested themselves in the history of cybernetics or of artificial intelligence, as had been done previously.

Of particular interest then is the whole of the specific themes to be dealt with, whose list was compiled with reference only to the contributions in which the same themes are explicitly declared or clearly identifiable (the percentage values are calculated on a total of 278 works, relative to 102 different topics). Limiting the analysis to the topics most frequently explored (and without making any distinction between disciplinary areas), it is possible to observe that the first places in the classification are occupied by the birth of psychology, with reference both to Italy and abroad, which catalyzed the attention of a certain number of scholars (5.8%); and by the Gestalt perspective (5.4%). In the period considered there has emerged also an attention that was previously almost absent toward the history of the congresses of psychology, both Italian and international (4.7%), evidently considered “places” of privileged observation regarding the development and changes of the psychological disciplines, both internally and in their relations with the social contexts. A good number of contributions then concerned themselves with the question of cerebral localizations (and with mind-brain relations) (4.3%), while almost as much interest was addressed to psychological testing and to the problem of the measurement of intelligence (4.0%), as well as to the study of the experience of time (4.0%) and, with a slightly lower value (3.6%), to the psychiatric-medical assistance to childhood in the 1800s and 1900s.

Another relatively new theme in the area of Italian historiographical research is then made up of the university teaching of psychology (3.2%) and, more generally, of the academic events of the discipline; the latter being tied, as is well known, to the broader question of the scientific and social recognition of psychology itself, which in Italy took place along an itinerary that was neither brief nor straightforward. The topics that follow are the language of neurology (2.9%); phenomenology, also experimental (2.9%); and a so-to-speak transdisciplinary subject, such as the relation between science and feminism (2.9%).

Other themes that have furthermore been the object of historiographical investigation are those of dreams (2.5%); electroshock (2.5%); intentionality (2.2%); and the scientific journals in the psychological and philosophical field (2.5%), among which the *Rivista di Psicologia* [*Journal of Psychology*] founded by Ferrari, the *Rivista di Filosofia scientifica* [*Journal of Scientific Philosophy*], the *Année Psychologique* [*Psychological Year*], *Psiche* [*Psyche*], and the *Giornale Italiano di Psicologia* [*Italian Journal of Psychology*]. It is necessary, however, to specify that in addition to the topics mentioned so far, the Italian scholars have dealt with numerous other subjects (46.6%), albeit dedicating a very reduced number of contributions to each of them, such that they cannot be considered actual research “threads,” but in general only preliminary explorations.

Another aspect to point out is that which concerns the historical study of specific authors, considering that the survey conducted showed that almost 60%

of the works taken into consideration here are dedicated to the work, as a whole or in certain parts, of scholars of the past. In particular, of the 288 contributions dedicated to the authors, 57.6% refer to Italian scholars, and 42.4% to foreign scholars. In addition, the studies regarded 119 authors, of whom 43.7% were Italian, and 56.3% foreign.

Examining the list of these authors, arranged in the order of frequency of the works regarding them, one can observe that the first place, with 8.3%, is occupied by an Italian scholar, Sante De Sanctis, for some time now considered moreover one of the most significant authors in the national panorama up until the 1930s. The research concerning him has dwelt upon a multiplicity of themes, reflecting in this the plurality of his scientific interests, tied to research, theorization, university teaching, and, lastly, application. In particular, the works of De Sanctis that have been examined are those on scientific oneirology (study of dreams), and on the construction and use of “reactives” (test) for determining the degree of mental insufficiency; on his contributions concerning suggestion, investigated by means of an instrument called “suggestometer”; as well as on university teaching, the differential-clinical approach, and his relations with other well-known scholars of his time.

On an equivalent level with De Sanctis there is another Italian author, whose intense but brief academic-scientific “career” took place in various cultural areas, in which he acquired a large and solid reputation. This author was Vittorio Benussi (8.3%), presented especially in his dual capacity of rigorous and original experimental psychologist, and as a scholar interested in psychoanalysis. One specific direction of research on Benussi has in fact regarded precisely “experimental psychoanalysis,” a denomination that, for the contrastive elements that compose it, well expresses the difficulty of an undertaking such as that attempted by the Trieste scholar, of relating in depth two epistemologically and theoretically very different perspectives. His relations with the Graz school and the experimental phenomenological approach have also been analyzed, and the critical edition of many of his writings has been published. The third place on the same list can be attributed to another Italian author, Maria Montessori (4.9%), although her work cannot be placed entirely within the psychological disciplines. The main theme of the research on this scholar is that of the relation between science and feminism, and the role that she played historically in this sphere.

The first non-Italian scholar that one encounters in the list, with the same percentage of works as those regarding Montessori, is Alfred Binet (4.9%), of whom the investigations have concerned especially (obviously, one is tempted to say) his studies on the measurement of intelligence, with the construction together with Simon of the “metric Scale”; investigations in accordance with perspectives that have examined the relations between the construction of the scale itself and the sociopolitical context in which Binet found himself working, in France between the 19th and 20th century. Some attention has also been dedicated to the journal directed by Binet for a long time (in collaboration with Henri), the *Année Psychologique* [*Psychological Year*], and to the activity at the Laboratory of experimental psychology of the Sorbonne. Among the other foreign authors toward whose works the historical interest in Italy has been directed, we then find Franz Brentano (4.2%), whose studies on intentionality have received particular

consideration, and Jean Martin Charcot (3.1%), notably in reference to the birth of clinical neurology.

As we have already pointed out, the attention of the Italian scholars was directed, to a conspicuous degree, also toward disciplinary fields bordering with psychology. A further proof of this is the presence of Ugo Cerletti (2.8%), a prominent exponent of Italian psychiatry in the first half of the 20th century, who occupies the seventh position of the classification. The works of this scholar that have particularly been taken into consideration are those regarding electroshock, also in the attempt to confer upon this practice an adequate theoretical depth, with the formulation of the “theory of the acroagonines” (hypothetical “vitalizing substances” released in the blood following the convulsions caused by electroshock; Cerletti, 1940).

The interest directed to psychoanalysis is then attested, as far as concerns the authors studied, by the presence in the eighth position (2.1%) of Sigmund Freud (1856–1939), regarding whom the particular subjects of investigation have been the first steps of psychoanalysis, its impact on the organicistic psychiatric paradigm in France at the end of the 1800s, empathy (as part of a comparison with various other authors), and oneiric symbolism. Suspending the call to order of the classification, we must mention several Italian authors as a testimony of the attention dedicated by Italian historiography not only to the international vicissitudes of psychoanalysis, but also to the national ones. In particular, the research has prevalently dwelt upon several “pioneers” of the Italian psychoanalysis (with 1.0%, 0.3%, and 0.3% respectively), such as Marco Levi Bianchini (1875–1961), also as an example of a “difficult cohabitation” between a psychiatric perspective and the psychoanalytic one; Luigi Baroncini (1878–1939), and Gustavo Modena (1876–1958), to both of whom are owed the first writings, beginning from 1908, aimed at making known in Italy the Freudian doctrine.

With the same number of works as those dedicated to Freud (with 2.1% each), there then appear in the list three Italian scholars. Of these, Camillo Golgi (1843–1926) and Luigi Luciani (1840–1919) can be ascribed to the history of the neurosciences, that is, to an “external” branch of psychology: for both, the topic that the historiographical research addressed in particular was that of cerebral localizations, of which there had already been noteworthy developments internationally ever since the second half of the 1800s. The third author is Gabriele Buccola, remembered above all for his experimentalism, for his study on reaction time, and for his contribution to the birth of scientific psychology in Italy.

In the classification of the scholars who appear in the historiographical survey, there then follow those listed below in Table 1.

Glancing at the names of all these personalities and reading the works dedicated to them, it should be pointed out that while some research has been conducted on primary and unpublished sources, many essays have instead been of a compiled nature with the use of secondary sources. Furthermore, some of the principal protagonists of Italian psychology, such as for example Cesare Lombroso, have been the object of study also on the part of historians of medicine or of science, and not just on the part of the historians of psychology.

Lastly, in order to integrate this essential description of the contents and “products” of the Italian historiographical research (which then constitutes a sort of “map” of the principal interests), we should mention: (a) the *Funds and*

Table 1  
*Other Authors Studied*

Authors	Value for each %	Rank
Jean Piaget, Augusto Tamburini	1.7	IX
Giulio Cesare Ferrari, Gaetano Kanizsa, Kurt Lewin, Cesare Lombroso, Gina Lombroso, Alexius Meinong, Enrico Morselli, Giuseppe Sergi	1.4	X
Leonardo Bianchi, Francesco De Sarlo, Marco Levi Bianchini (already mentioned), Wilhelm Wundt	1.0	XI
Rudolf Arnheim, John Hughlings Jackson, Pierre Janet, Paola Lombroso, Fabio Metelli, Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Guido Seppilli, Charles S. Sherrington, Giovanni Vailati, Guido Villa, Max Wertheimer	0.7	XII
Other authors (82)	0.3	XIII

*Archives*, also online, and in particular the Benussi Fund, the Ferrari Fund, and the Musatti Fund (preserved at the Aspi Interdepartmental Center of Research, University of Milan-Bicocca); the Vignoli Fund (preserved in the Civic Museum of Natural History of Milan, and in part with the Vignoli heirs); and the History of Psychology Archive of the “Sapienza” University of Rome; (b) the bibliographical reviews, for ex., that on the history of psychology and of psychoanalysis in Italy (ed. by Cicciola & Foschi, 2004); that on the history of clinical psychology (ed. by Cicciola & Costanzo, 2003); those on Benussi and Mucciarelli (ed. by Antonelli, 2000, 2002, 2003; Antonelli & Chattat, 2003); and that on De Sanctis (ed. by Ferreri, 2001); (c) several collections of letters and correspondence, for ex., the letters of Benussi (ed. by Cicciola & Lombardo, 2008), and the correspondence Freud-Binswanger (ed. by Fornaro, 2003); (d) some handbooks and compendiums, such as those of the history of psychology (Bonaiuto, Giannini, & Biasi, 2008; Morabito, 2007; Mecacci, 2008); that of the history and epistemology of psychology (Marhaba, 2008), of the history of the neurosciences (Cimino, 2002), and of the history of cognitive neuropsychology (Morabito, 2004); (e) the reproposal of classical texts, also in critical edition, for ex., those of Benussi (ed. by Antonelli, 2002, 2006), of Cerletti (ed. by Passione, 2006), and of Vygotskii (ed. by Veggetti, 2006a); those on testing in Italy, and several articles of the *Rivista di Psicologia* [*Journal of Psychology*] (ed. by Ceccarelli, 2002, 2005); as well as those of American psychologists (ed. by Cimino & Ferreri, 2002); and (f) the editing of the section on psychology in a qualified philosophical encyclopedia (Cimino & Fornaro, 2006).

On the basis of the survey conducted, sustained also by data of a quantitative kind, it is first of all possible, in the closing of this section, to assert that in the area of historical-psychological work carried out in the last 10 years in Italy, a certain number of “research threads” can be identified, some of which are to be considered “emergent,” in the sense that they have begun to appear only now or a few years ago. The principal threads of this kind, together with a reference (where the data consent it) to the contemporary Italian scholars who have dedicated the most attention to them, can be categorized as indicated in Tables 2, 3, and 4.

A necessary observation at this point regards the absence—among the many authors of the past, including “minor” ones, who have been the subject of research

Table 2  
*Disciplinary Threads*

Threads	Scholars
Applied psychology	Ceccarelli, Sinatra
Experimental and laboratory psychology	Degni, Luccio, Sava, Trizzino
Psychoanalysis	Fornaro, Mecacci
Psychology of personality	Foschi, Lombardo
Cognitive sciences	Albertazzi
Social psychology	Mucchi Faina, Sensales
Neurosciences	Cimino, Dibattista, Morabito
Psychiatry	Babini, Guarnieri, Passione

in the period considered—of some of the best-known names of the past Italian psychology, such as Gemelli and Edoardo Weiss (1889–1948), and the reduced number of research studies dedicated to other illustrious protagonists, such as Antonio Aliotta, Cesare Colucci (1865–1942), and Federico Kiesow (1858–1940). It should however be recalled that the Italian historiography of psychology has in varying degrees concerned itself with many of these scholars in the three preceding decades, as attested by the previous appraisal of Cimino and Dazzi (2003). We must then highlight the fact that the quantitative classifications predisposed to conduct the present analysis permit not only to identify the above-mentioned threads, but also to perform a dual evaluation. On the one hand, an estimate of the relevance recognized by contemporary Italian historiography to the various thematic areas, as also of the interest that has been raised by these areas; on the other hand, as far as regards the authors, an assessment of the scientific value attributed to their work, considered in a historical perspective.

In the second place, there are other important characteristics of Italian psychological historiography that have emerged from this survey, such as the principal ones that follow:

Table 3  
*Thematic Threads*

Threads	Scholars
Birth of psychology	Ceccarelli, Cimino, Sinatra
Gestalt	Antonelli, Luccio
History of congresses of psychology	Ceccarelli, Sava
Testing	Ceccarelli, Ciccioia
Cerebral localizations	Morabito
Experience of time	Antonelli, Cimino, Degni
Medical-psychiatric child assistance	Guarnieri
University teaching of psychology	Ceccarelli
Science and feminism	Babini
Language of neurology	Dibattista
Phenomenology	Antonelli
Electroshock	Passione
Dreams	Ferreri, Foschi, Lombardo
Scientific journals	Bongiorno
Intentionality	Antonelli

Table 4  
*Threads for Authors*

Threads	Scholars
Sante De Sanctis	Cicciola, Cimino, Ferreri, Foschi, Lombardo
Vittorio Benussi	Albertazzi, Antonelli, Trizzino
Maria Montessori	Babini, Foschi
Alfred Binet	Cicciola, Foschi
Franz Brentano	Albertazzi, Antonelli
Ugo Cerletti	Passione
Jean-Martin Charcot	Dibattista
Sigmund Freud	Fornaro
William James	Dazzi, Ferreri
Camillo Golgi	Cimino
Luigi Luciani	Morabito
Gabriele Buccola	Degni

1. The increase of research on the specific areas of applied psychology, which contributes in a visible and scientifically substantial way to fill a gap in our historiography related to the question of the separation between “academics” and “professionals,” that is to say, between “research” and “application” in the field of psychology (see Luccio, 1991, 2000);
2. the inception of new research itineraries and the intensification of the work on some of the preceding ones;
3. the “dilation” of the temporal period investigated, such that not only scholars at the origin are studied or anyway remembered, but also contemporary authors, to the point that one could affirm, referring back to Kragh (1987), that in the last decade the “upper limit” of the history of psychology has considerably “risen,” almost to the point of blending into the present;
4. the compiling of a large number of biographical entries (concerning Italian and foreign authors) for dictionaries and encyclopedias; and
5. the continuation of interest in the history of bordering disciplines, such as psychiatry and the neurosciences.

The image that one derives from this variegated picture of activity is that of an Italian historiography of psychology that is extended and diversified, albeit in a contained way, and that proves to be significantly more present on the international scene, in terms of the disciplinary areas investigated, the topics addressed, the participation in congresses, and the publication of contributions in international journals and volumes. On the whole, one discovers both a certain dynamism, testified above all by the extension of the range of topics, and an appreciable scientific “tension” toward the thorough analysis of a certain number of relevant subjects. This leads one to substantially confirm the “fervor” that Cimino and Dazzi have referred to in the previous review, although there remain, in both the Italian and the international sphere, other authors and areas to be explored, including the “emergent” ones, some of which have been investigated only in a preliminary way. Wanting lastly to draw from the analysis undertaken some further indication for the development of studies in the historical area, it seems to us possible to indicate, among others, the fields of the methodology of historical-

psychological research, the teaching of history, and the historical training of the psychologist.

### Historiographical Trends

Summarizing the historical-psychological studies produced in Italy during the three decades between 1970 and 2000, Cimino and Dazzi (2003) identified a trend of the historiography of science and of psychology that, beginning from an approach of a “positivistic” kind and then stabilizing prevalently on the ground of the “history of ideas,” subsequently moved—pursuing a difficult approach to a “multifactorial history” or “history of complexity”—in the direction of a historiography mindful also of the sociopolitical and institutional dimension. In the “old” works written prior to the 1970s on the history of science and of psychology—of which moreover there are a limited number, compiled for the most part by the same scientists—the authors recognized a kind of historical reconstruction characterized by “internalism,” “presentism,” and “progressionism” (the latter, in the Anglo-Saxon world, termed also “Whiggishness” or “Whig conception of history”), that is to say, by a historiographical approach usually defined as positivistic. It generally concerns works that present, in a more or less accentuated way, some of the above-mentioned characteristics: that is, they tend to perform historical reconstructions based above all on strictly theoretical and experimental aspects of a scientific discipline (internalism); to attribute to the scientists of the past—the so-called precursors—the first drafts of concepts and results that were not within their reach, but which arrived only in subsequent times (presentism); and, lastly, to trace a constantly progressive, linear, and continuous historical itinerary devoid of turning points and interruptions, being composed of an uninterrupted succession of discoveries and precursors (progressionism).

In the 2003 article, the authors held that in the course of the last 30 years there had been a gradual change in the historiography of science and of psychology—practiced in Italy always less by scientists and always more by professional historians—which had become willing to consider the variety and multiplicity of the explanatory factors of the scientific process. Following the affirmation of the post-Popper philosophy of the “growth models of science,” which recognized the essential and pervasive role of cultural-philosophical, sociopolitical, and institutional components in the scientific undertaking, historians gradually gained the awareness that an adequate reconstruction and interpretation requires us to delve deeply into the science, culture, and society of an era (thus avoiding presentism). They understood that it was necessary to effect an accurate examination not only of the internal specialized-technical aspects of the scientific discipline being investigated, but also of all the factors that can be considered external to the research activity and can, a bit abstractly, be classified in the two historiographical categories of the “cultural conditions,” on the one hand, and of the “material conditions,” on the other. In one respect, in fact, the historian must bear in mind the cultural climate of an era marked by its philosophical, ideological, religious, artistic, literary, and other movements; that which Boring (1950) called in short *Zeitgeist* and which often finds expression in the researchers’ epistemological and methodological assumptions. In another regard, the historian must take into consideration the social dynamics of the community of scientists; the state of the

institutions responsible for the research (universities, academies, laboratories, etc.); the means of communication of the scientific results (publishing, journals, conferences, etc.); the economic, social, and political demands and pressures; the historical background events (such as political regimes, wars, invasions, epidemics, etc.), and other such factors (on the “material history of science,” see Beretta, 2002).

In accordance with this “new” historiographical perspective that explores the relations between science, culture, and society, by now amply present in today’s historical investigations, the reconstructions and interpretations of scientific events thus tend not to describe a single and uninterrupted string of discoveries, but if anything to recompose a quite complex “puzzle.” The historian does not ignore the mistaken theories, but on the contrary highlights their heuristic value for the growth of knowledge. In the light of this new approach, the historian is more inclusive, and takes into consideration not only the “great men,” but also the scientists belonging to underrepresented groups, while identifying—if and when they present themselves—moments of stagnation, regression, sudden accelerations, and real revolutions, thus eluding any sort of prejudicial and optimistic notion of progress that has the tendency to see in the research process a linear and continuous unveiling of the secrets of nature.

A historical-scientific research marked prevalently by “externalism,” by “historical contextualization,” and by the image of a not necessarily scientific progress is, therefore, that which tends to characterize also in Italy the historiography of science and of psychology beginning from the 1970s, and which—as far as regards our field of studies—has in the Anglo-Saxon world been synthetically indicated by the name of a “new history of psychology” (Furumoto, 1989) as opposed to an “old history of psychology” of a positivistic approach. The former, then, has been seen as a work carried out prevalently by historians for authentically cognitive purposes; the latter, as an activity practiced above all by psychologists for introductory, commemorative, or merely didactic purposes (Carroy, 1999).

Also in Italy, however, just as has occurred recently in the United States (see Lovett, 2006), the so-to-speak excesses of this new historiography have been questioned, together with—should it be openly manifested—its too radical criticism of internalism, presentism, and progressionism (Cimino, 1991). Attention has, in fact, been drawn to some antinomies that are only apparent and must be overcome: (a) to take into account the cultural and material aspects of the scientific endeavor, to relate the scientific events to their philosophical and social background (i.e., to engage in “external history”), does not imply ignoring the peculiar theories-facts dynamic of empirical and experimental research that leads to discoveries and new acquisitions; (b) to study the ideas, theories, and scientific questions within an era’s context of knowledge and therefore avoid attributing to the scientists of the past, making them always precursors, that which is instead accomplished only in subsequent times (that is, to effect a historical contextualization), does not imply the inability to perceive, in the light of what we know today, that which in the past was a step forward; nor does it, in the treatment and historical interpretation, imply not identifying and selecting the problems and research that in some way have then had positive solutions and turned out to be “winners” (i.e., not taking into account the “present,” either for the selection and

evaluation of the sources or for their interpretation; it instead, understood in this sense, becomes indispensable in the work of the historian); and, (c) to set aside the idea of the scientific process as being similar to a single ladder with a number of successive rungs, like a continuous and uninterrupted series of discoveries and precursors, does not blind one in the face of an advancement in any case of knowledge, even if achieved by means of tortuous paths, standstills, reversals, or revolutions.

All in all, on the part of the most discerning historians, there has been an awareness also in Italy of what has been defined as the “critical history” of science and psychology (Lovett, 2006), that is, a historical research willing to examine critically all the explanatory factors, whether internal or external, contextual or selected in relation to the present and to the progress achieved. It is the sort of historical investigation that Cimino and Dazzi (2003) have called a historiography that is “multifactorial or one of complexity,” inasmuch as it represents an attempt to take into account the multiplicity and complexity of all the significant components that enter into play in the scientific endeavor; a historiography capable of considering and evaluating all the intricate entanglement of technical-scientific, cultural-philosophical, and sociopolitical elements that enter into action in the research process and are opportunely identified also according to adequate presentist and progressist perspectives.

The authors of the 2003 article have moreover observed that a historical investigation of this wide-ranging kind is difficult to accomplish, and that historians always tend to consider things from a “point of view,” to elaborate interpretations—as Gadamer affirmed in his hermeneutical doctrine—starting from their “preunderstandings” and favoring some components with respect to others. This awareness is important for the historical work and helps to distinguish the “good” from the “bad” history: a good history, in fact, is not one devoid of a point of view, but one that—whether old or new or critical history (there are excellent histories of psychology also of a positivistic kind)—(a) is based upon primary sources (published or unpublished) and not just on secondary literature; (b) tries to not be conditioned by prejudices and ideologies; (c) does not construct “artificial” histories just for a didactic purpose (it is also possible to formulate effective didactic simplifications without adjusting or distorting the events in order to support a thesis or to justify current research and problems); and (d) avoids the celebratory, commemorative, or introductory histories, the anecdotal and hagiographic portraits of great people and their genius (Carroy, 1999; Young, 1966). As far as regards the history of psychology, there have been in Italy in the last 30–40 years, and before as well, excellent historical studies; but also, we must add, many works based almost exclusively upon secondary literature and compiled hastily by professional psychologists for didactic or celebratory purposes, often as ornamental introductions to their handbooks.

In any case, in the passage from a positivistic sort of historiography to one that we could define basically as multifactorial (or also “constructivist,” as it is frequently termed in the Anglo-Saxon world, with nearly the same meaning), the sort of research that in Italy emerges more precociously and extensively than others—and that involves also the historians of psychology, who in those years were prevalently of a philosophical background—is that commonly referred to as the “history of ideas,” meaning by this term a history that is particularly attentive

to the external components of the scientific activity of a cultural-philosophical kind. We have in mind the historical research that, although moving from an examination of the theories, experiments, discoveries, and practical applications (internal history), then concentrates its attention above all on the "ideas" of a psychologist and/or of a psychological movement concerning questions of a general kind such as: the scientific status of the discipline; its object and methods; its relations and boundaries with philosophy, on the one hand, and with the natural sciences (physiology and psychiatry in particular) on the other; the classification of mental phenomena; and the distinction and relation between general and applied psychology, between experimental and clinical method, between explanation and interpretation, between mind and brain, between normal and pathological, and so forth.

More recently, however, and especially in the last 10 years, Italian scholars trained in the degree courses of psychology have elaborated historical interpretations focused more on the social and institutional external aspect of psychological research and practice, as is shown by the greater number of works dedicated to the areas of applied psychology, clinical psychology, social psychology, and psychiatry, with respect to those addressed to experimental psychology. In these studies the scholars have attempted to understand and highlight the choices of scholastic, assistance, and work policies; the sanitary requirements for the treatment of mental disturbances and mental illness; the organization of the educational, mental hospital, and prison facilities; the requests of industry and the world of work; the social problems, and so forth.

More generally, as indicated by the preceding review of authors and institutions as well as the historiometric analysis, historical-psychological research in Italy seems in recent years to have acquired a broader scope, in extension and diversification; furthermore, by distancing itself in part from the history of ideas, it seems able to undertake themes and methodologies characteristic of the best "new" history of psychology. In fact, it has proven capable of dealing with subjects regarding international psychology and its relations with Italian psychology; of extending its horizons to specialized areas and groups, as to the collateral and bordering ones (in short, of being more inclusive); of examining interrelations between the laboratory work, theoretical production, scientific-disciplinary community, and the sociopolitical reality, in which the psychologists found themselves doing research (to develop that which in France is called "histoire croisée"; see as an example of this kind of history, Carroy, 1991, 1993; Ohayon, 1999; Plas, 2000); and of shifting the focus of the historical interpretation forward to the second half of the 20th century, to the point of verging on the contemporary.

Thus, also in Italy there has arisen a commitment to establish and develop a new and critical history of psychology, practiced by professional historians who are emerging from the degree courses of psychology, and are unlike the psychological scientists who are interested in history primarily for celebratory purposes (Carroy, 1999; Rose, 1996). With respect to the situation depicted by Young (1966), who had accused the history written by psychologists of being a poor and coarse maidservant in the service of psychological research, a small nucleus of professional historians was created in Italy during the last decades of the 1900s; and the discipline cleared a path between the history of science and general psychology, carving out its own niche and directing itself toward a multifactorial

history, with a particularly attentive eye for the cultural-philosophical background and its reflection on the basic psychological “ideas” of the scientists. In the first 10 years of the new century, the horizon seems to have broadened further, as demonstrated by the fact that different historiographical perspectives, categories, and methodologies of the “new history” can be found in many Italian historical works.

We can in fact find in them a “constructivist” approach, largely influenced by Danziger (1990) and Hacking (1999), regarding in particular the historical studies on personality, testing, and psychoanalysis. We can indicate research on the reciprocal influences, according to a perspective of *histoire croisée* (Foschi, 2003; Werner & Zimmermann, 2006), between French and Italian psychology, in the attempt to reread some events and personalities—among whom Binet and Montessori stand out—in the light of the exchanges between bordering disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, pedagogy) and in the broader sociopolitical context in which the researchers operated, pursuing in this way also a neo-Foucaultian approach (see Rose, 1991, 1996). We can moreover observe the use, on the part of some scholars, of historiometric methodologies—quite new in the Italian panorama—in order to identify and, in a certain sense, “measure” the presence and importance, in specific time periods, of disciplinary areas and their relations, of the kinds of research and psychological applications enacted, of themes dealt with, and publications issued. We can also point out an increasing awareness and activity aimed at finding, preserving, and making available unpublished sources and documents. Lastly, we can mention also some emergent historical studies addressed to understanding the transmission and circulation from one country to another of psychological knowledge and practices, and their transformation when in contact with the local science, culture, and society typical of each nation; as also studies—referred to the Italian reality—of the historical-cultural phenomena that have been called “hybridization” and “indigenization” (see Danziger, 2006; Kapchan & Turner Strong, 1999; Pickren, 2009; Pickren & Rutherford, 2010).

In conclusion, one can perhaps in general affirm that within the sphere of a more or less explicit awareness of multifactorial historiography, there prevailed for the history of psychology in Italy during the last quarter of the 20th century a greater attention to the history of psychological ideas; whereas in the beginning of the new century, a broader opening to the themes, problems, and methods of the new history of psychology encouraged the growth of a renewed interest both for the internal dynamics of psychological research, and for the applied areas of the discipline that were not directly experimental, as for the sociopolitical and institutional components operative in the development of psychology.

This positive situation seems however to be threatened by some clouds that are gathering on the horizon, and historians have expressed the concern that there could be a return to the “old” histories of an introductory and celebrative kind written by psychologists-scientists. Such a concern seems justified by the elimination of many university courses on the history of psychology, the transferring to the chairs of general psychology the task of providing students with some historical rudiments, and the hesitation on the part of the *Associazione Italiana di Psicologia* (AIP) [Italian Association of Psychology] to create internally a historical section, alongside the other sections of Experimental Psychology, Clinical

and Dynamic Psychology, Developmental and Educational Psychology, Social Psychology, and Organizational Psychology.

A scientific association of historians of psychology could instead act as a propulsive center for the socialization and recognition of a category of professionals and contribute to the establishment of history in the universities in a stable and permanent way. Perhaps precisely due to the absence of such an association, there has not been in recent years sufficient opposition to the application, restrictive and penalizing for the history of psychology, of the university curricula reform that went into effect in the academic year 2008–2009 (D.M. 270 of 2004); a reform that has reduced the number of chairs and exams of a historical kind and that risks provoking a dangerous involution with the disappearance of the autonomous courses of history, and with the inclusion of the latter in the programs of general psychology, as though it were a simple introduction, learned and erudite but substantially superfluous, to contemporary research; with the final result of reproducing a situation overcome years ago by now, similar to that criticized by Young back in 1966. There is today a deep concern for this trend among Italian historians of psychology, who at the moment can see a glimmer of hope only in the possible application on a national scale of the model of psychology degree course (*EuroPsy*) endorsed by the European Community, which anticipates the history of psychology as a compulsory discipline for basic training, indispensable for guidance in studies, in research, and in the profession (European Federation of Psychologists' Association, 2008); an application that if actuated in all the countries of the European Union, could transform the concern into the confident expectation of a better future.

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