

Letter from the Editor

At the end of January 2017 the Director of the Centro Interdisciplinare “Scienze per la Pace” (CISP), Enza Pellecchia (to whom my gratitude goes), appointed me as Editor of *Scienza e Pace*, the online journal of the Research Centre. I warned her that, in spite of the fact that I had been a member of the CISP since its creation and in spite of the fact that I had been teaching over many years for the BA and MA degrees in Scienze per la Pace at the University of Pisa, I had always studied, taught and done research in the field of Economics, rather than in that of Peace Studies. Once she confirmed her choice, though, I could only assure her that I would accept this position with humbleness, but also with the highest commitment to do all of my best to improve the standard achieved by the journal thanks to the excellent work done by my predecessors, starting with the last Editor, Daria Coppola.

Over the years, the Journal, that was created in 2005 thanks to the initiative, among others, of Giorgio Gallo and Fabio Tarini, has been increasing its publications and visibility. It has been representing a lively space for discussion on the themes of conflicts and peace. Every year, about 30 contributions have been published, including research papers and articles on various topics of current debate, with a growing presence of articles written in English. Some of those articles have been viewed more than 15,000 times, showing the added value of an open access and online journal, compared to traditional journals on paper or to be paid for.

Building on this heritage, I thought that the new direction had to be characterized not only by the maintenance of the original spirit of the Journal, but also by the introduction of some changes. This is why I suggested to the Editorial Committee (that has also been integrated with the inclusion of new members), first of all to remove the part containing news and comments on current issues or problems, not based on a scientific approach.

I also thought to endow the Journal with a Scientific Committee, composed by prestigious scholars of different disciplines. I am very grateful to them for having accepted to be part of it.

In addition to that, I felt that the Journal had to be more internationally opened and that this objective could be expressed - with not too much fantasy, I am well aware of this - by adding to the original Italian name, *Scienza e Pace*, the English subtitle, Science and Peace, so as to further encourage the submission of articles in English by foreign scholars.

These changes have been accompanied by the necessary updates of the online platform of the Journal - which is now in line with the latest technological and security standards - and by a new design and organization of the website.

All of this has been possible also thanks to the discussions, suggestions and contributions of the Editorial Committee.

For the technical aspects, the graphical design and the structure of the website I am very grateful to Giuseppe Maccioni and Mauro Pezzini, without whose help the transition to the new online platform would not have been possible.

My deepest gratitude, however, has to go to Federico Oliveri, the 'historical' Secretary of the Editorial Committee. He represents the past and the future of the Journal, and sums up in himself the role of the rigorous researcher, that of the technician (ready to learn and apply the mechanisms necessary for the daily management of the Journal) and that of the graphic designer (since he gave a fundamental contribution on these aspects too). I will never thank him enough for the commitment and passion with which he takes care of the Journal.

The changes mentioned above are all relative to the technical, graphical and formal aspects, namely to the 'container' of the Journal. This is not sufficient, however, to reach the objective of a high quality journal, being at the level of the best Italian and international scientific journals in the fields of Peace Studies and Conflicts Resolution. A high quality 'content' is the first requirement for this.

In order to pursue such an objective, I can assure my firm commitment to make the Journal attractive to good scholars and to filter the submissions through an accurate and rigorous double blind refereeing process. This is the only recipe for the publication of articles addressing the many relevant issues arising in the fields of Peace Studies in a way that will help interpreting and understanding

conflicts at different levels (for example micro and macro, national and international, within and between communities of all different sorts), and suggesting the steps to be taken towards their prevention and resolution.

Calci, July 2017

Pompeo Della Posta