

# ALBERTO QUADRIO CURZIO

## CURRENT POSITION

Alberto Quadrio Curzio is Professor Emeritus of Political Economy at Università Cattolica, Milan, where he was a full professor of Political Economy from 1976 to 2010 and Dean of the Faculty of Political Science from 1989 to 2010.

He is the Chairman of the Academic Board of the Catholic University of Milan's Research Centre of Economic Analysis and International Economic Development (CRANEC), which he founded in 1977 and was its director up to 2010.

He is President Emeritus of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei of which he has been a Fellow since 1996. He was President of the Class of Moral, Historical and Philological Sciences and then President of the Academy from 2009 to 2018. Since 2019, he has chaired the History of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei Committee. In 1984 he became the founding Director of *Economia Politica. Journal of Analytical and Institutional Economics*, currently co-published by Il Mulino and Springer.

He holds various positions within scientific and cultural organizations, including Il Mulino publishing, Aspen Institute Italia and the Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani.

He is a member of various Italian scientific academies (the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti; the Accademia Pontaniana; and the Accademia delle Scienze dell'Istituto di Bologna) as well as of the Academia Europæa - The Academy of Europe - in the Economics Business and Management Sciences section.

He is the Ambassador, since 2019, of The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), a UNESCO Programme Unit based at the offices of TWAS (Academy of Sciences for the Developing World). He is a member of the TWAS steering committee.

## ACADEMIC, SCHOLARLY AND INSTITUTIONAL CAREER

After earning his undergraduate degree at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, and pursuing further studies at St. John's College, Cambridge, he began his academic career at the University of Cagliari (1965). Subsequently, he went to the University of Bologna (1968), where he became a tenured track professor (1972) and Dean of the Faculty of Political Science up to 1975.

He was the Italian representative for economists at the National Research Council (CNR), co-founder of IDSE - *Istituto di Ricerca sulla Dinamica dei Sistemi Economici* (the CNR's Economic Systems Dynamics Research Institute) and Chairman of its Scientific Committee from 1988 to 2000.

He was the President of the Istituto Lombardo, Milan and the Chairman of the Scientific Board of Fondazione Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice and of Nomisma. At Nomisma he was also the founding director of the journal *Materie Prime*.

He was the President of the Italian Association of Economists (SIE, Società Italiana degli Economisti) from 1995 to 1998, the Vice President from 1989 to 1992 and has been a member since 1972. During his presidency, he represented SIE at the International Economic Association (IEA).

He was President of the International Balzan Prize Foundation from 2020 to 2024, and its Vice President from 2014. He has been a member of the Executive Board since 2006.

He was a member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Financial History, Cambridge University (UK) in 2013. He was appointed Distinguished Academic Visitor at Queens' College, Cambridge and Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Financial Analysis & Policy of the Judge Business School for the academic year 2010-2011.

He represented the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei at the G7 Science Conferences in Germany (Berlin 2015) and Japan (Tokyo 2016). As acting President of the Lincei Academy, he hosted the G7 Science Conference in Italy (Rome 2017) and coordinated the Working Group which issued the "Joint Statement on New economic

growth: the role of science, technology, innovation and infrastructure"; the topics covered clearly reflect the interplay of two of his lines primary research areas (see below).

He was a member of the "European Investment Bank Prize" Committee (1995-2000) and Chairman of the Bank of Italy's revolving selection committee for the "Paolo Baffi Lectures on Money and Finance" (2003).

He was a member of the Reflection Group on the "Spiritual and Cultural Dimension of Europe" initiated in 2002 by Romano Prodi when he was President of the European Commission.

### SCHOLARLY WORK AND PUBLICATIONS IN POLITICAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

His research has focused on three main streams of analysis: structural economic theory, institutional economics, and history of economic thought.

He posits that the three mentioned streams can be seen as complementary, since structural economic dynamics is conditioned by institutional frameworks, and both trace their roots in the history of economic thought.

- a) *Theory of scarce resources and structural dynamics with references to rent and technical progress.* As early as the late 1960s, he demonstrated with multi-sectoral analytical approaches how the depletion of certain resources can influence structural change, technical progress, and income distribution by introducing rents. In the early 1960s, the question of raw material scarcity and its implications for structural change and technical progress was largely overlooked, despite the well-established contributions of classical economists. Nowadays, it is widely used even in the context of developing a green economy. Through the use of other analytical methodologies, he has also examined the well-known, yet still fruitful, topic of the relationship between investing in education and economic growth.
- b) *Institutional and applied economics* with special reference to Europe and Italy as well as to the Global South. Two types of factors are highlighted for development: relations between institutions, society and the economy on the one hand and on the other the interactions between the various levels of subsidiarity (vertical and horizontal) as pillars of social liberalism and creative solidarity.
- c) *The history of economic-political thought* as a lens for reflecting on leading international and Italian economists (defined in one work as "leading figures in economic thought"), beginning from the Enlightenment in the second half of the 1700s, and subsequent extensions, to more recent times. A stream of thought is identified that unites civil progress (institutional economists) with techno-scientific progress («engineer-economists») in supporting creative and sustainable development. While with regard to interpretive principles, he has frequently made reference to solidarity and institutional, economic, and social subsidiarity.

His research work has been collaborative, with contributions from co-authors whose names can be found in his bibliography. Notable co-authors include Marco Fortis, Fausta Pellizzari, Claudia Rotondi, Roberto Scazzieri and Roberto Zoboli.

### SUMMARY OF HIS SCHOLARLY WORKS

His scholarly works are mostly collected in a key bibliography ([http://docenti.unicatt.it/eng/alberto\\_quadrio\\_curzio/](http://docenti.unicatt.it/eng/alberto_quadrio_curzio/)), and have been thoroughly examined in the Festschrift edited by Gilberto Antonelli, Mario Maggioni, Giovanni Pegoretti, Fausta Pellizzari, Roberto Scazzieri, and Roberto Zoboli titled «Economia come scienza sociale. Teoria, istituzioni, storia. Studi in onore di Alberto Quadrio Curzio» - published by Il Mulino in 2012 with contributions from 32 of his colleagues (many of whom were once his students). His work has been also assessed in a volume dedicated to him that was edited by Mauro L. Baranzini, Claudia Rotondi, Roberto Scazzieri titled «Resources, Production and Structural Dynamics» - published by Cambridge University Press in 2015. This book contains contributions by Mauro

L. Baranzini, Claudia Rotondi, Roberto Scazzieri, Luigi L. Pasinetti, D'Maris Dalton Coffman, Heinz D. Kurz, Neri Salvadori, Piercarlo Nicola, Albert E. Steenge, Carlo D'Adda, Faye Duchin, Heinrich Bortis, Kumaraswamy Vela Velupillai, Michael A. Landesmann, Ivano Cardinale, Lilia Costabile, Constanze Dobler, Harald Hagemann, Alessandro Roncaglia, Stefano Zamagni, Pier Luigi Porta, Moshe Syrquin, Marco Fortis, Sunanda Sen, Andrea Goldstein, Keun Lee, and Antonio Andreoni. Lastly, other scholarly contributions were assessed in «A compendium of Italian economists at Oxbridge» edited by Mauro L. Baranzini and Amalia Mirante (Palgrave MacMillan, 2016). It offers a particularly insightful evaluation of his research in the first (a) stream of analysis.

He has published more than 400 works, many in English – one book was translated into Chinese – with some of the most important publishers (Il Mulino, Oxford University Press, North Holland, Elsevier, Macmillan, Basil Blackwell, Springer-Verlag, Harriman House).

The Econlit data base contains more than 132 records of articles, chapters in books, and books either written or edited by him. His publications are present in many online bibliographical data bases, including RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), Elsevier's Scopus, Web of Science by Thomson Reuters, Google Scholar, Publish or Perish (PoP) and Microsoft Academic.

### HONORIFICS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

He has been the recipient of many scholarly and cultural awards. Among his honours are the Gold Medal for Accomplishments in Science and Culture, awarded by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Italian Republic (2000), the Gold "Ambrogino d'Oro" Medal from the City of Milan (2011), and Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, awarded by Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic (2019).

He has also been honoured by the Vatican. He was bestowed with title of Knights Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (February 1994) by Pope Saint John Paul II, First Class Knight of the Grand Cross of the of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (2014) and Knight of the Order of Pope Pius XI (2017) by Pope Francis, and conferred by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See.

Additional profiles of Alberto Quadrio Curzio can be found online in Wikipedia, and some editions of Who's Who (The World, The Finance and Industry, The International).

Milan, September 2024