

The workshop “The paradigm of vision: ethical and political uses” means to analyse the privilege ascribed to vision by Plato and Aristotle and its ethical/political implications. In particular, we will attempt to understand: (1) why vision is endowed with such a privilege, (2) whether some specific areas of human experience legitimate it, (3) whether Plato and Aristotle themselves have undermined the omnipotence of vision and how, (4) whether there are rival paradigms from the realm of our sense experience, for example, touch and hearing, (5) what are the resonances of this paradigm within the history of ethical and political philosophy.

The aim of the workshop is that you become aware of the different ways in which the paradigm/pattern of vision has been employed and exploited in painting and aesthetics, ethics, and politics. You will realize thereby how philosophical ideas which first appeared in Ancient Greek philosophy still are constituent parts of our culture.

I will provide you –in due time– with material to work on; it’s up to you to select the topic on which you will focus.