

“ The story of this militant life, which stretches from the post-war period to the current day, is not just the existential journey of one of Italy’s most important anarchists, but a highly unusual story of dissent in Italy. ”

QUADERNI DEL CENTRO STUDI LIBERTARI

Amedeo Bertolo

## Pensiero e azione

L'anarchismo come *logos*,  
*praxis*, *ethos* e *pathos*

Un racconto di vita  
militante, dal secondo  
dopoguerra ai giorni  
nostri, che traccia  
un'inedita storia del  
dissenso in Italia

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**critical thought**  
**biographies,**  
**anarchism**

NOTEBOOK N.1

CENTER FOR LIBERTARIAN STUDIES

## Amedeo Bertolo Thought and Action

Anarchism as *logos*, *praxis*, *ethos* and *pathos*.

From the post-war first political kidnapping of a Francisco Franco’s diplomat and the effective counter-information during the bloody time of the fascist bombs (supported by some seditious sections of the Italian State), up to the patient construction of that composite mosaic that is the anti-authoritarian culture, this biographical interview transcends the singularity of who it recounts to become a collective story. Far from official accounts, this «grassroots» story follows an existential course always against the current, one made of encounters and confrontations, of joyous libertarian creativity and resistance to «the world as is.» Full of irony and self-criticism, free of rhetoric and self-justification, this choral story appreciates with passion and disenchantment the rushed advances and dead-ends that have characterized Italian dissent over the last six decades. The narrator, clearly aware of having «lost,» of having failed to bring about his utopia, nonetheless succeeded in living an intense and coherent life that was capable of creating— as the editorial project *elèuthera* shows — as much anarchy is possible to realize in the here and now.

**AMEDEO BERTOLO** Milanese-born with Friulian roots, Amedeo Bertolo (1941-2016) taught Economics for a living at Milan University’s Department of Agriculture. But anti-authoritarian social action was, no doubt, at the heart of his existential choices. During the decades he also founded a number of Italian and international publishing projects, as the monthly «A rivista anarchica», the quarterly «Interrogations» and «Volontà» at the publishing houses Edizioni Antistato and *elèuthera* editrice, an editorial activity that he would continue for the rest of his life.

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*elèuthera*



“ A critical, worried, doubtful gaze. If it has a goal, it is to introduce a minimum reserve of ethics into things with the intent, first of all, of activating a reflection instead of the complaint or the simple acknowledgment. ”



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critical thought,  
modernity,  
phenomenology

## Pier Aldo Rovatti

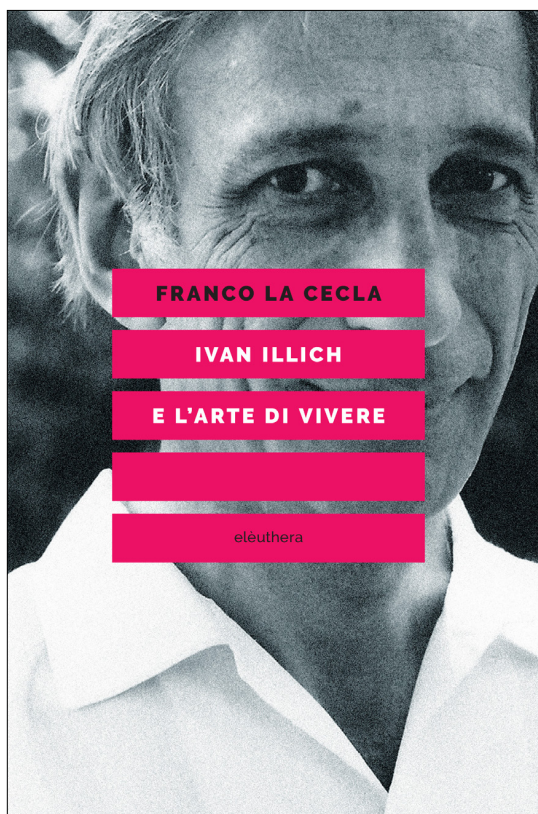
### The Reluctant Intellectual

Through rapid scenes, initially conceived as editorials, Rovatti elaborates **the chronicle of a year of Italian life, looking at it from the point of view of a minimum ethics**. What emerges is **a sharp reading of today's Italy, which nevertheless never situates itself above but inside things** and which in fact turns into **a denunciation of the undertaken cultural drift**. What emerges is also **the image of a "reluctant" intellectual**, who does not make a discount even to himself and who does not conform to the current situation, whether in the school or in the health care sector, to the actual ways of communication or political speech. Critical arrows that can produce in the reader pauses of authentic reflection, also thanks to the clarity and incisiveness of the adopted linguistic form.

PIER ALDO ROVATTI (Modena, 1942) was educated in Milan at the school of Enzo Paci, who also gave him the direction of the magazine «aut aut» that he still maintains. At the end of the Seventies he moved to Trieste, where he has taught Contemporary Philosophy until 2012. With Gianni Vattimo he theorized, in 1983, the so-called «weak thought». In Trieste he has also collaborated with the world of anti-institutional psychiatry, dedicating a book to Franco Basaglia (*Restituire la soggettività*, 2013). Author of numerous texts, he has carried out a considerable journalistic activity on «la Repubblica», «Il Piccolo» and «L'Espresso». Currently, still in Trieste, he directs a School of Philosophy with annual courses accessible to all.



“ A thinker who has questioned the very idea of progress, development and even modernity, anticipating the criticism of the total institutions that, only a few decades later, was launched by Foucault and, in Italy, by Basaglia. ”



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society & politics,  
critical thought,  
critique of total institutions

## Franco La Cecla Ivan Illich and The Art of Living

The heritage that Illich has left us is that of **a radical and totally actual critique of the existing** even if it has often been distorted, misrepresented and used by those who were potentially its enemies. This book represents **the only biography of Illich written by someone, like La Cecla, who knew it directly and intimately as a student and a friend**. Certainly, a difficult relationship, the one of a disobedient disciple, who has talked with him and discussed for twenty years, without ever becoming a follower. **Through the events of a life that is not at all banal, La Cecla proposes an essential reading of Illich's thought to highlight the extreme importance of systematic doubt and to understand the richness of his contribution** in the field of critique of total institutions, of ecological thought, of the new economy, sexuality ...

IVAN ILLICH, (1926-2002), Austrian by birth but American for acquisition, was a writer, educator, philosopher, linguist, theologian and historian of institutions. One of the most radical intellectuals of the second half of the twentieth century, he lived most of his life in Mexico, where he directed the Centro Intercultural de Documentación in Cuernavaca.

FRANCO LA CECLA, anthropologist and urban planner, has taught Cultural Anthropology in Berkeley, Paris, Venice, Bologna, and Milan. With elèuthera has already published: *The Ape car. The only pop way to traffic* (2009), *Savoir faire. Talking bodies* (2009), *Virility/Blunt Ways* (2010), *Objects' emotional lives* (2013), *A Moral for Everyday Life* (2012), *Breake up* (2014), *Local Mind* (2015) *A Eulogy of the West* (2016).

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elèuthera





“ Architecture is too important to be left only to architects. ”



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III° edition

**urban space,**  
architecture & society,  
**political thinking,**  
city & community

## Giancarlo De Carlo Franco Bunčuga Conversations on Architecture and Freedom

As one of the bigger protagonists of the Italian architectural and urbanistic scene, in these deep conversations **Giancarlo De Carlo (1919-2005) speaks with passion and competence about his non-hierarchical idea of space**, an idea he has put into practice through the projects he has realized inside and outside Italy. **Moreover, he gives shape to that «attempted» approach**, as he himself defines it, **that has allowed him to deconstruct all those dogmatic languages and bureaucratic regulations which often curb the urban planning**. A friend and a supporter of many of those intellectuals stranger to all the dogmatic approaches of the second half of the Nineties – Elio Vittorini, Italo Calvino, Vittorio Sereni, Cesare Pavese among others – **De Carlo has been the first one to experiment participation as a preminent element in urban planning**, that means the attention for the freedom of choice of citizens and, as a consequence, for the requests coming «from below», which has today become an important part of the more aware urban planning programs.

GIANCARLO DE CARLO (1919-2005) after having participated in the Resistance, in the post-war period he became one of the protagonists of the Modern Movement. In the Seventies he founded the International Architecture Laboratory (ILAUD) and the magazine «Spazio e società», which he directed until 2000.

FRANCO BUNČUGA (Brescia 1949) after having studied as an architect in Venice with Giancarlo De Carlo, in the Eighties he has been professor at the Ecole Polytechnique d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme of Algeri. Now back to Brescia, he currently teaches Art History in high school.

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