

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. **Giuseppe Zaccaria**, University of Padua, Italy

Giuseppe Zaccaria is Professor Emeritus of Jurisprudence Padova University, Former Rector of University of Padova, and Member of Accademia dei Lincei Rom. The path that led him to the “hermeneutic choice” starts from a reflection that on a general philosophical level aims at abandoning the dualism and separation between being and having to be in the name of the concreteness of existence and the practical world of men, joining in the broadest perspective of rehabilitation of practical reason. In the legal field, he considers the law *a parte subiecti*, in the experience observed every day at the moment of the action of the common man. Therefore from the practical point of view, that is, from the point of view of the citizens for whom in the end the law is produced and without whose contribution law would not live.

Since the 1980s, he has introduced and spread the hermeneutic orientation in Italian legal culture, contributing to enriching a philosophical-legal panorama that at the time was still firmly linked to the doctrine of Hans Kelsen, which separated law from society and theory from practice. Zaccaria contributed essentially to the recognition of legal hermeneutics as one of the main currents of contemporary philosophy of law.

In 1996, he founded the journal “Ars Interpretandi” to root the hermeneutic perspective within the philosophy of law. Thus, he opened up a dialogue between legal hermeneutics, philosophy, other regional hermeneutics, and positive law. In the last 25 years, the journal enjoyed international recognition and collaborated intensively with illustrious philosophers, from Apel to Hans Albert, from Derrida to Gadamer, from Davidson to Searle, from Ricoeur to Amartya Sen to Michael Walzer, and illustrious jurists, such as Robert Alexy, Arthur Kaufmann, Winfried Hassemer, Duncan Kennedy, and Jerzy Wroblewski.