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# Presentation of the "Thesis" web site

www.dsems.unile.it/mosca/thesis/index.htm

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I thank Cristina, Heinz and the Executive Committee for the opportunity they give me to present the Thesis web site during this General Assembly.

As it is usual in a conference, what I present here is a work in progress.

The idea to create this web site first came to me during the 2006 HES conference in Grinnell. After a very long flight, I spent a couple of hours in a car with some colleagues coming from different countries in Europe, and we talked about our teaching experiences. We realized that we had the same main problem: how to teach students the best way to start and organize a thesis in history of economic thought, how to teach them the difference between quotation and plagiarism, how to explain to them the use of internet for their research, and so on.

From that conversation I learned three things:

1. History of economic thought has very specific characteristics that have to be taught to students before they start their thesis.
2. The specific problems of our discipline are the same all over the world.
3. A guide to write a thesis in history of thought was not available. There are many guides about economics, but not about our discipline.

I believed it was a good idea to write such a guide in many languages and to put it in the same web page.

So, the goal of this guide is to help students to give us a "readable" first draft of their thesis. Or, better, it is a resource to help *us* to give our students the basic guidelines to write their thesis.

As you see, there is not a prevailing language in this web page. The title is in Latin and there are no other words. Every flag has its own language. The last flag is only temporary.

You can see that there are many flags still missing from the web site. I hope to eventually have as many flags as there are languages. The flags will become smaller as they multiply.

Chronologically speaking, the first version was the Italian one. The quotation is taken by Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors". The story goes like this: On receiving his love letter back, Woody Allen says: "I plagiarized most of it from James Joyce. You probably wondered why all the references to Dublin". This is something that can happen in reading our student's thesis. The Italian version is intended for undergraduate students, which are the majority of the students interested in writing a thesis in our discipline.

The second version was the American one. At that time Maria Pia Paganelli was already working on this topic and very soon she attached her file here. This is intended for undergraduates and graduates students.

We have temporarily linked this version also to the English flag. We wish and invite an English colleague to write a version of it fit for the UK university system.

Then the Japanese version came, thanks to our colleague Naohito Mori; it is an adaptation from the American one.

The Spanish version comes from a literal translation of the Italian one, revised by Alfonso Sánchez Hormigo. It needs to be adapted to the Spanish system, where a thesis is not required at the undergraduate level, and I invite our Spanish colleagues to modify it in the way they think it is required.

There is also a French version, whose title is *Lire & écrire*, by Gilbert Faccarello, who asked me not to link it to the web site because it is not yet ready.

José Luís Cardoso is working on the Portuguese version, which will be an adaptation from the French and the Italian ones.

This is all we have for the moment. The project has been realized thanks to the collaboration of all the mentioned colleagues. In particular I want to underline the fundamental role played by my co-author Daniela Parisi and by Maria Pia Paganelli in the creation of this web site.

I told you at the beginning that this is a work in progress. Actually, it will always be in progress. The colleagues from the countries already represented in this web site are warmly asked to use it, and to change, add and cut whatever they think will improve it. Colleagues from other countries are invited to put on this web site the guidelines they use with their students, or are encouraged to translate, adapt, revise, rewrite the present versions.

I think that the ESHET community is the best for this web site. We are a sort of "wiki" community, a network in which learning, knowledge, experience are shared, and in which everybody can contribute to a common outcome. I hope that this web site will simplify our work as supervisors.

Thanks again for this opportunity.