

IRENE KAJON

Irene Kajon (Rome, 1950) is professor for Moral Philosophy in the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the Rome University "La Sapienza". She graduated in Philosophy 110/110 cum laude at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of Rome University "La Sapienza" in 1972. Her dissertation in History of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy was devoted to the moral and political philosophy of Rousseau e Kant. After teaching literature and history at the Professional School ORT-Italia in 1972-73, she lived in Mexico City, where in 1973-75 she taught Methodology of Social Sciences at the National Schools of Economics of the Universidad nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) and Political Philosophy at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the same University. From 1976 to 1980, she had a fellowship for research in the scientific field History of Philosophy at the faculty of Letters and Philosophy of Rome University "La Sapienza".

Her first activity of research concerned the French, German, and German-Jewish Enlightenment, particularly Rousseau, Kant, Moses Mendelssohn, and Ernst Cassirer's interpretation of Kant. She has given seminars in the History of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy and in History of Ethics on Rousseau, Kant, Cassirer, Heidegger, and Sartre. In 1979-80 she was visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York and Yale University, New Haven. From 1981 to 1999 she was researcher at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of Rome University "La Sapienza", where she gave seminars in Philosophy of Religion, particularly on Kant, Lessing, Jacobi, Hegel, Feuerbach, Kiekegaard. She devoted her scientific activity to Cassirer, Hermann Cohen, some other Jewish figures of German Neo-Kantianism (Jonas Cohn, Richard Höningwald), Buber, Rosenzweig, Levinas, and thinkers of Italian Judaism of the XIX and XX century (Samuel David Luzzatto, Elia Benamozegh, Umberto Cassuto, Dante Lattes), to American, German, French thought on Shoah (Horkheimer and Adorno, Arendt, Hans Jonas, Arthur Cohen, Berkovits, Fackenheim, Neher, Irving Greenberg). In 1984-85 and 1994-95 she was visiting scholar at the Université de Montréal and McGill University (Montreal). In 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, she taught History of Jewish Philosophy at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, Rome University "La Sapienza". In 1998-99 she taught Jewish Philosophy at the Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres and the Institut d'Etudes et Culture Juives of Aix-en-Provence University. As teacher of this subject, she gave courses on Philo of Alexandria, Maimonides, Jehuda Ha-Levi, figures and trends in Jewish thought in Middle Age and in modern and contemporary age.

In 2000 she was appointed full professor for Moral Philosophy in the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the Rome University "La Sapienza". Since then she has taught Philosophical Anthropology as an answer to the problems of man and humanism, through the reading of philosophical, literary, and religious (especially Jewish and Christian) sources.

For full biography see: <http://w3.uniroma1.it/drsfp/sito-dip/eng/index.php> (Academic Staff and Fellows/Irene Kajon)