

Engineering Philosophy and Engineer Philosopher: How Philosophy and Engineering may enrich each other

Wednesday, 11 December 2024

15.30 – 17.00 (CET)

The **IEEE Education Society - Italy Section Chapter** invites you to join our speakers! Through their speeches, we aim to investigate how much **philosophy** and **engineering** are intertwined and to highlight the importance of exploiting this relationship to foster a balanced development of modern society. This connection can significantly impact the **education of future engineers**, especially in the presence of a reality that is becoming more and more complex and complicated (and for which a “simple” technical approach may not be sufficient).

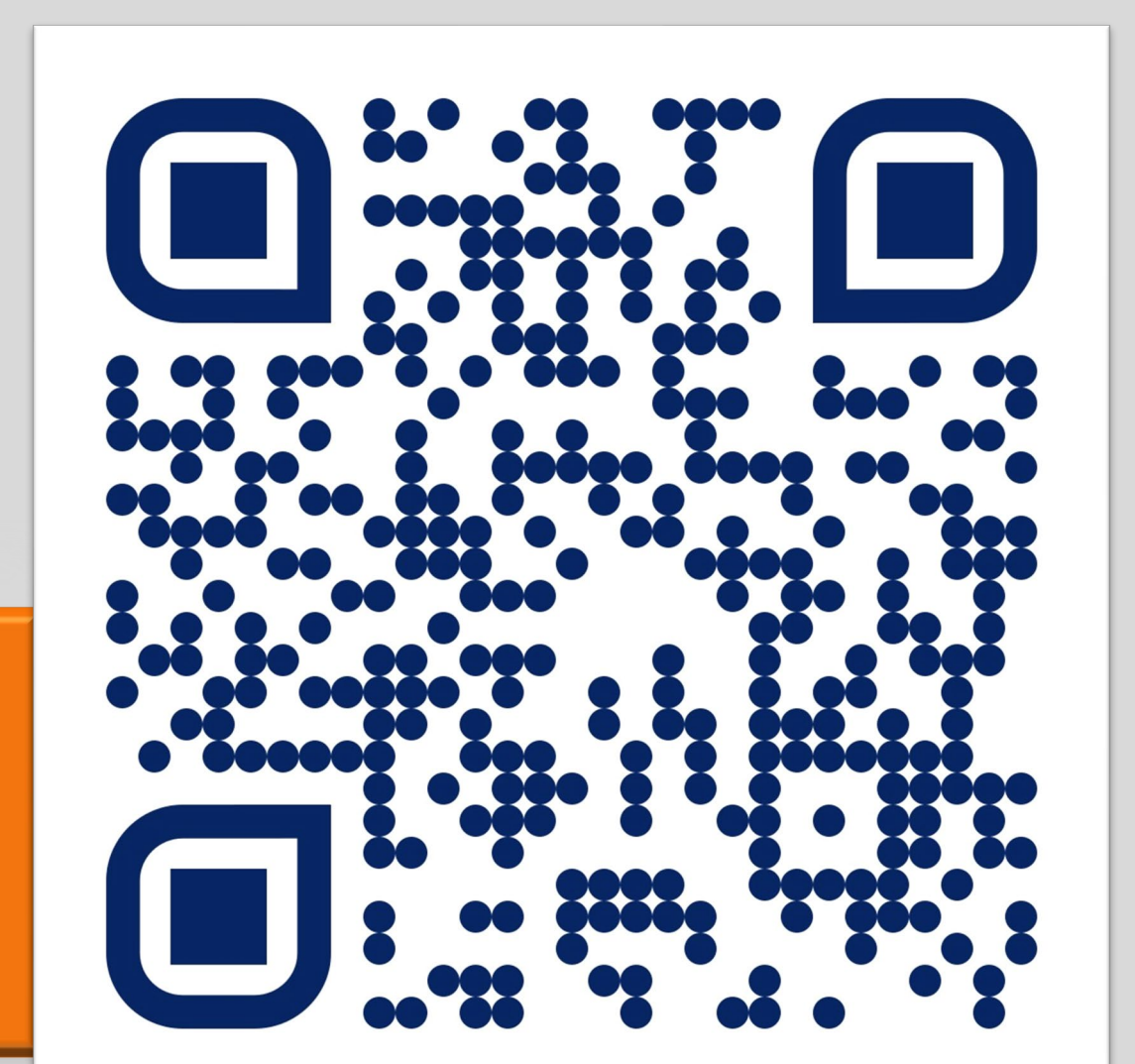
Date and Time: 11 December 2024, 15:30 – 17:00 (CET)

Platform: Google Meet

Agenda:

- 15:30 Introduction - Andrea Mazza (Politecnico di Torino – Chapter Chair)
- 15:40 Speech I - Enrico Terrone (Università di Genova):
Engineering, Philosophy and Artifacts
- 16:10 Speech II - Paulo Ribeiro (Federal University of Itajubá): :
Philosophical Insights in Engineering: Fostering Deeper Understanding of Technology and Innovation
- 16:40 Q&A and Discussion
- 16:55 Wrap-up and Conclusions

[Register here or by QR code!](#)



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Speech I: Engineering, Philosophy, and Artifacts

Engineering, Philosophy, and Artifacts The notion of artifact connects philosophy to engineering. Philosophy investigates the nature of artifacts while engineering is the science that aims to create them and take care of them. The notion of artifact that I propose casts them as created entities that perform their function in virtue of their structure. This notion leads us to a fruitful comparison between engineering and politics, broadly understood as the sciences of artifacts and institutions respectively.

Enrico Terrone



Enrico Terrone is Professor of Aesthetics at the University of Genoa and Principal Investigator of the ERC project “The Philosophy of Experiential Artifacts”. His inquiry focuses on art and technology. He published papers in journals such as *Analysis* and *The Philosophical Quarterly*. Among his books, *I valori al cinema. Una prospettiva etico estetica* (with Mario De Caro, 2023), *Concept TV: An Aesthetics of Television Series* (with Luca Bandirali, 2021) and *Filosofia dell’ingegneria* (2019).

Speech II: Philosophical Insights in Engineering: Fostering Deeper Understanding of Technology and Innovation

Engineering is often viewed as a field dominated by technical expertise, problem-solving, and invention. However, at its core, engineering is deeply intertwined with philosophy, ethics, and broader societal questions.

By exploring the philosophical dimensions of engineering, we can gain a deeper understanding of the nature of technology and innovation. This presentation will explore how engineers not only shape the physical world but also influence human experiences, values, and the future of society.

From addressing ethical dilemmas to examining the limits of human knowledge in technology, philosophical insights provide a lens through which engineers can encourage more responsible and sustainable technological innovations.

Paulo Ribeiro



Paulo Ribeiro (IEEE Life Fellow) got his B.S.E.E. from the Federal University (FU) of Pernambuco, Brazil, and his PhD degree from the University of Manchester. He was a Research Fellow at the NASA and EPRI (USA), and Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. He is a Full Professor of electrical engineering at the FU of Itajubá. He (co-)authored more than 350 papers, and 8 books. His research focus on power systems, energy storage, smart grids, and philosophy of technology.