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Project “Departments of Excellence 2018-22”**

**The Peirce Manuscripts: A Survey of the Mid-1890s Papers Transitioning  
Toward a Mature Rhematic Relational Logic**

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES 2019-2022**

- 1) Selection of Peirce’s Manuscripts on the ‘Rhematic’ Logic.
- 2) Reconstruction, ordering and dating them.
- 3) Publication following the standards adopted by the Peirce Edition Project, in collaboration with the PEP staff (contribution to the editing of a volume of Writings of Charles Sanders Peirce. A Chronological Edition)
- 4) Writing a text on the impact of this part of Peirce’s logical research.

**RESEARCH REPORT**

From April 2019 to October 2019 and from April 2020 to May 2020 (from November 2019 to March 2020 interruption for the leave pursuant to law n. 53, 8.3.2000, and art. 16, D.Lgs. 26.3.2001, n. 151) the research has led to significant progresses, such that the scope of the project has been redefined in accordance with new materials collected and other ongoing studies. The results obtained so far can be analyzed according to four lines of research – archival, editorial, historical and philosophical.

From an archival perspective, first of all I undertook a preliminary survey of the manuscripts included in the initial project, located in between 1893 and 1897, apart from a few exceptions with no indication of date nor cross-references. I ordered them chronologically in a database, where I specified for each archival information, and main contents. At a later stage, I created tags inherent to the topics of research, and added them to manuscripts, providing in such a way a research tool more specific and updated than Robin’s Catalogue, apt for an easy and quick management of manuscripts within the scope of the project. This tool will be soon sustained by the new Peirce’s research group’s website (edited by Claudia Cristalli, PhD.; supervisor Prof. Fabbrichesi), that includes an updated catalogue of correspondences between manuscripts and published works (W, CP, NEM, EP et. al.), indication of contents and more editorial information, in addition to an extensive bibliography.

During the past months, the list of manuscripts contemplated has considerably enlarged. It now includes on the one hand new materials examined at the Peirce Edition Project (PEP, Indianapolis, IN), such as galleys of Peirce’s articles, manuscripts rearranged through decades by the PEP staff, letters, etc.; and on the other manuscripts not previously considered, most of them from the period 1895-1898, but also to 1903, related to the philosophical implications of Peirce’s study of the logic of relatives, where the concept of *rhema* is predominant. Besides Peirce’s manuscripts, the research has been enriched by the archival material scrutinized among the Max Fisch papers, located in PEP as well.

From an editorial perspective, I studied in detail the editorial theory and method adopted in the Writings of Charles S. Peirce, which follow the general guidelines of the

Modern Language Association's Committee on Scholarly Editions. Due to reasons of time and scope, the guidelines have been contemplated but not fully adopted in the transcriptional process, although the main emendations and alterations are listed as well. I have been also introduced and trained by Prof. De Tienne in STEP (Scholarly Text-Editing Platform), a software complying with the standards of the TEI Consortium (Text Encoding Initiative). I have especially practiced one of its tools, STEP transcriptor, essential for a future collaboration, even at distance, with PEP for the next volumes of Peirce's *Writings*. On the whole, apart from some manuscripts already under the process of publication, and with the exception of passages irrelevant to the topic investigated, a large part of manuscripts underwent a process of initial transcription. The so-called 'perfected transcription' – that is the result obtained after the subsequent phases of proofing, review and correction – is still to come.

During my research as visiting scholar at PEP I also had the opportunity to learn and rearrange a manuscript with the Editor-in-Chief André De Tienne and the past-Editor-in-Chief Nathan Houser. We collated a multi-layered manuscript composed of four different drafts, by finding correspondences and putting in order the pages of the manuscript, that is those with the same MS number, stamped in 1974 on the copy of the microfilm edition; other pages coming from different manuscripts, already moved to the one examined; and fragments extracted from the folders of "discarded" pages of coeval manuscripts (or their rearrangements). Thereafter I filled a Manuscript Reconstruction Report of the changes made, helpful for both the present research project, and the next volumes of Peirce's *Writings*, edited by PEP.

The historical research has evolved in two directions, the first inherent to a critical and historical investigation into the evolution of Peirce's thought, with special reference to the 1890s, and the second dedicated to exploring secondary sources. The first line of research is based on the results of the archival research, i.e. the dating of manuscripts and their cross-references, and is mainly focused on the relationship between Schröder and Peirce, culminating in Peirce's reviews of Schröder's *Vorlesungen*, published in the *Monist* in 1896 and 1897. With regard to the second line of research, after delving into secondary literature, both classical and recent, I started considering the hypothesis of an in-depth study of the philosophical implications of Peirce's logic of relatives, that led the author to his well-known Existential Graphs (EG), and his own phenomenology. This hypothesis gained support both from the research conducted at PEP, and from exchanges with the scholars who are currently editing Peirce's unpublished manuscripts.

In particular, in light of both the manuscripts already edited, but still in process of publication at PEP, and of the forthcoming volumes of Peirce's manuscripts on EG and semiotics, the period most interesting and less studied so far turned out to be that between 1895 and 1898 (after the so-called *Grand Logic* and before the *Cambridge Conferences Lectures*). This period can be indeed considered as transitional between Peirce's logic of relatives and the elaboration of phenomenology.

The philosophical research has been developed following the lines of research emerged from the historical analyses on primary and secondary sources. The results obtained have been tested to conferences in the past year and are now mainly included in two articles (one submitted in May 2019, the second it will be submitted in early June) to international and national journals. They especially highlight the relevance of the concept of *rhema* for Peirce's pragmatism, revealing how it lies at the crossroads of Peirce's semiotics, logic and philosophy of language. In particular, the research carried

out so far has especially investigated the pivotal role of *rhema* with respect to Peirce's theory of proposition and assertion.

## **FUTURE PERSPECTIVES AND GOALS**

In accordance with the foregoing, at the current stage of research the goals for future research are:

- *Archival and editorial.* Due to the complexity of the archival materials, and its increase in number, the analysis of the material collected needs to be completed. In addition, the research needs to be expanded, in order to catalogue and analyze the manuscripts between 1898 and 1903-04, where the concept of *rhema* is still fundamental for Peirce's thought, and see to what extent it is relevant to his elaboration of phenomenology. As a consequence, those new materials will need to undergo the editorial process, and especially an accurate transcription.
- *Historical and philosophical.* The lack of a detailed exploration on the implications of Peirce's logic of relatives upon the development of his phenomenology (1895-1903) suggests more investigation in this direction. A series of publications that reconstruct Peirce's thought during these years, is the easiest and most profitable way to introduce a selection of Peirce's unpublished writings, edited and commented, to a vast audience, not confined to scholarship on Peirce. This will reinvigorate the research on Peirce's thought, and bring new attention to his archive held in our Library.

6/5/2020

Maria Regina Brioschi