



# VULNERABLE LIVES

Cohabitation, Violence and Difference

*International Conference*



## SPEAKERS

Silvia Benso  
Rita Fulco  
Dominic Harkin  
Annamaria Passaseo  
Martine Prange  
Aisling Reid  
Caterina Resta  
Elvira Roncalli  
Valentina Surace

## FLASH PRESENTATIONS

Pantaleone Condello  
Noele Di Nuzzo  
Giusy Mantarro

## Scientific and Organising Committee

Rita Fulco (UNIME)  
Annamaria Passaseo (UNIME)  
Aisling Reid (QUB)  
Valentina Surace (UNIME)

Vulnerability has emerged as one of the most pressing categories of contemporary thought: not only a marker of fragility, but also a condition of relationality and interdependence. To think vulnerability is to interrogate how lives are recognised or denied as lives, how violence shapes the limits of community, and how responsibility can be articulated in conditions of exposure. Moreover, in a present moment marked by war, migration, ecological destruction, and renewed struggles over gender and identity, the question of what it means to lead a vulnerable life is not only theoretical but urgently practical. This conference brings together international scholars to reflect on how contemporary philosophy engages with vulnerability as a condition of existence. Drawing on figures such as Simone Weil, Hannah Arendt, Judith Butler, Susan Sontag, and beyond, it explores how vulnerability reshapes our understanding of rights, violence, and difference.

On-line

**31 January 2026**

08:30-16:30 (London)

09:30-17:30 (Rome)

TO JOIN:



## MORNING SESSION

**8:30 (London) / 9.30 (Rome)**

**Opening remarks** Giuseppe Ucciardello (Head of DICAM - Messina)  
Rita Fulco (Head Messina research Unit - PRIN)

**8.45-10.00 (London) / 9.45-11.00 (Rome)**

**Panel 1** *Cohabitation, rights and obligations*

*Chair* Aisling Reid (Queen's University, Belfast)

**Rita Fulco** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Annamaria Passaseo** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Valentina Surace** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Discussion**

**Break**

**10.15-12.30 (London) / 11.15-13.30 (Rome)**

**Panel 2** *Critics of violence*

*Chair:* Valentina Surace (University of Messina)

**Dominic Harkin** (Queen's University, Belfast)

*Title*

**Aisling Reid** (Queen's University, Belfast)

*Title*

**Flash Presentation**

**Pantaleone Condello** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Noele Di Nuzzo** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Giusy Mantarro** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Discussion**

**12.30-14.30 (London)/13.30-15.30 (Rome)**

LunchBreak

## AFTERNOON SESSION

**14.30-16.15 (London)/15.30-17.15 (Rome)**

Panel 3 *Politics of difference*

*Chair* Rita Fulco (University of Messina)

**Caterina Resta** (University of Messina)

*Title*

**Silvia Benso** (Rochester Institute of Technology, NY)

*Title*

**Martine Prange** (Tilburg University)

*Title*

**Elvira Roncalli** (Carroll College, Montana)

*Title*

**Discussion**

**16:30 (London)/17.30 (Rome)**

**Closing remarks** Rita Fulco, Annamaria Passaseo, Aisling Reid and  
Valentina Surace