“After presentism: time and the human condition?”

Dialogue between François Hartog and Roberto Balzani

Introduces
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FREE ONLINE EVENT

The event will be in French and simultaneously translated into English and Italian.
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Abstract The “presentist” condition marked the most recent phase of modernity: the compacting of temporal experience into a single dimension – the present – has had and continues to have considerable effects on personal relationships, on individual and public planning, on perception itself of tangible, movable and immovable assets.

Francois Hartog was the first who has reflected on this issue, highlighting the risks that the lack of a perspective reading produces in societies hitherto oriented towards the future. The great epidemic of 2020-2021 represented another recent turning point. On the one hand, in fact, natural time has returned for its part to interfere with the human condition, revealing its fragility. On the other hand, forced isolation has increased virtual contacts, relaunching the “presentist” experience on a mass level.

At the end of the crisis, it will be possible to recover a “historical time” capable of reconciling the natural lesson, which refers to the irrepressible essentiality of the biological and environmental data, with an individual and collective projectuality inscribed within a responsible expectation, sterilized by anxious urgency of “presentism”?