

PREFACE

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The premature death of Carlo Dell’Aringa is an invaluable loss for the whole Università Cattolica and, in particular, for the large community of scholars in the social science fields.

He was an active member of the Università Cattolica’s school of economic policy established by Francesco Vito – former Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, then Rector of the University – and later strengthened by Giancarlo Mazzocchi.

The school’s approach has always emphasised the fundamental relationship between economics and ethics and the need for economic modelling to suggest a viable solution to economic and social issues. This attitude led him to accept the presidency of ARAN in the early 1990s, a public agency aiming to favour cooperative wage bargaining in the public sector. Later, in the early 2000s, he became president of the Workforce Training Institute (ISFOL), focusing on human capital accumulation and wage determination. His view has always been grounded on the idea that industrial relations should be based on reciprocal respect and concentrate on achieving societal wellbeing. His contributions in the debate on the central controversies of the Italian labour market have been significant and always directed to reach shared goals regarding inflation control, labour mobility, employment contracts, and unemployment reduction.

As Editor of the *Rivista internazionale di scienze sociali*, I am proud to recall that the outcome of his research activity was first published in this journal and that his articles represented path-breaking contributions to the understanding of labour market dynamics in Italy. His investigation into the dynamics of output, productivity, and employment in the late 60s and later, his analysis of inflation and income distribution shed light on the most controversial issues in the Italian labour market. His methodological approach was innovative and aligned with the international standard, in that he contributed significantly to the use of econometric techniques in the study of labour market issues. His interest in the evolution of new frontiers of applied research convinced him to strengthen collaboration with public and private bodies to gain access to administrative micro-data, which contributed to an even deeper understanding of the functioning of the labour market, in particular with regard to wage determinations. This choice revealed his forward-looking and international mindset, thereby allowing for international co-operation, comparisons, and unified suggestions of policy prescription. Indeed, policy implications were always at the centre of his analysis, and thus the use of advanced empirical modelling techniques was aimed at reaching sound policy prescriptions.

We remember Carlo Dell’Aringa not only for his research activity, but also for

his contribution to the improvement of the teaching of Economics and Labour Economics, and for the development of new curricula at the Bachelor and Master levels which have contributed significantly to the development of the Università Cattolica at the national and international levels. Everyone will remember and miss his warmth and generosity with his time, even when he was engaged in public duties. The contributions in this volume testify how his teaching is now firmly rooted, and that his scholars will therefore have to continue in the spirit of an invaluable legacy.