

Preface

While colleagues and friends were surprised by the news of Ernesto's retirement, he acted as if nothing was to change in his life. He maintained its busy schedule and impressive working pace, arguing that the retirement would have spared him some of the most boring parts of his job. Once more, this tireless but calm attitude shows the importance of Ernesto Savona's example to future generations of scholars.

This book was born from a paradox. We started this project with the goal of celebrating Ernesto's retirement, which is planned for November 2013. One year earlier, we invited friends and colleagues, with an email which started with "We know it may sound strange but, believe it or not, Ernesto will retire next November . . .". In a few hours, dozens of replies showed everyone's surprise to the news. It was hard to believe that one of today's most hard-working, frequent-travelling and innovative-thinking scholars may retire.

The paradox was that, while everybody was getting acquainted to his forthcoming retirement, Ernesto acted as if he just could not care less about it. Indeed, unmindful of the upcoming retirement, he kept on with his impressive working pace, lecturing and writing, researching and participating in international conferences and meetings; a pace that would have exhausted us, barely half his age. When asked about his future plans, he used to smile and answer that he still had plenty of time and plans for the future and that his retirement would have finally reduced the boring part of every academic's job: administrative work and faculty meetings ("... and teaching", he usually added after a few seconds!).

In the meanwhile, the project of the book had advanced and a number of contributors had adhered with enthusiasm. Also the publisher had immediately supported the project and agreed to finalise the book by November 2013, with a remarkable performance compared to the current standards in the academic publishing industry.

This book testifies the importance of Ernesto's work in different areas of Criminology and crime studies in general. Arranging the book and collecting the forty contributions from a total of fifty-two authors showed us once more the importance of Ernesto Savona's influence on many scholars and policymakers. It has been a very interesting journey over decades of development in criminology and crime policies.

Working every day with Ernesto in Transcrime is an exceptional experience which offers a young scholar a dynamic, fast-paced and stimulating environment. Considering the budgetary and bureaucratic difficulties of the Italian academy, Ernesto's

capacity to create a young, dynamic and constantly evolving research centre is astonishing. He dedicates particular attention to younger colleagues and researchers, devoting a significant part of his very busy agenda to mentor and guide the staff of the centre. Mentoring is not always pleasant and successful, possibly incurring in failures and dissatisfaction. Ernesto has never refrained from this, taking this task as seriously as doing research, discussing with policymakers and participating in conferences. We think that his commitment to mentor us and many others stems not only (if ever) from sympathy, but also from his deep awareness that science advances through generations of scholars and that it is a duty for any of us to pass the little we know to others.

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