

Raffaele Ruggiero  
Università di Bari (Italia)

via Picca 1/e, I-70123 Bari  
[r.ruggiero@lingue.uniba.it](mailto:r.ruggiero@lingue.uniba.it)

tel. +39-080-5215938  
univ. +39-080-5717432  
portable +39-333-5255083

#### Ancient Law and Philology as Historical Science in Giambattista Vico (1688-1744)

The Italian philosopher Giambattista Vico was known as predecessor of Hegelian philosophy and modern linguistic science. His masterpiece – *Principles of a New Science* – edited in Naples in 1725, 1730 and 1744, was read throughout Europe during the XIX century in despite of its difficult prose. Vico focused the ancient world as foundation in his historical hermeneutics: his searching fields were the ancient myths, the etymological studies, and especially a peculiar science of ancient Roman law. Vico's aim was a redefinition of philological studies on the grounds of encyclopaedic movement, and he firstly suggested his new definition of philology in the chapter *Nova scientia tentatur*, in his 1721-22 treatise *De Constantia philologiae*.

Our aim is to underline the common basis of Vico's cultural association between the concept of *interpretaatio* in Roman ancient law and his conception of philology as historical science.