



100° anniversario della nascita del Prof. Eraldo De Grada

Giovedì 11 dicembre 2025

ore 14.30 - 17.30

AULA 11

Dipartimento di Psicologia dei Processi di Sviluppo e Socializzazione
Facoltà di Medicina e Psicologia - Via dei Marsi 78, Roma

Lezione magistrale “On the Psychology of Extremism and Moderation”

ore 15.00 – 15.45

Arie W. Kruglanski

Distinguished Professor of Psychology - University of Maryland, College Park, USA



The term ‘extreme’ and its semantic permutations (e.g. ‘extremism’, ‘extremists’) are widely applied to behavioral phenomena that, on the surface at least, appear quite distinct from each other. For instance, “violent extremism” seems a far cry from ‘extreme diets’, ‘extreme sports,’ or ‘religious extremism’. Despite this heterogeneity, the varied forms of ‘extremism’ share a fundamental psychology in common. In today’s talk, *dedicated to my friend “Lillo” De Grada*, I describe that psychology in elaborating a general model of extreme behavior. I identify the psychological antecedents of extremism and locate them in the phenomenon of *motivational imbalance*, wherein a given need overrides other common concerns. I then consider pro and anti-social examples of extremism and consider the question whether extremism necessarily facilitates goal attainment.