Cities and Universities

• The liaison between a City and a University:
  
  o Depends on how the university was born (historical element);

  o Evolves together with the historical context (evolutionary element);

  o Can be symbiotic.
The historical link between Cities and Universities

- Universities are one of the very few millenary institutions created by mankind. This means that:
  - They are not a transitory phenomenon;
  - They can be seen, nowadays, as fundamental part of cities’ DNA.
The Europe of Universities in the Middle Age

Medieval Universities
Universities
founded in the 12th century thus: Paris
11th
12th
13th
14th

The political divisions on the map are those of about 1300; although some of the universities had become extinct by that time. The figures indicate the date of founding. In Portugal the site of the university alternated between Lisbon and Coimbra till 1387, when it was fixed at the latter place.

Fr. Paris, 1209

Scale: 1:22 500 000

100 200 300 500 1000 2000 5000 Miles

Atlantic

Oceans

Spain

France

Italy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of foundation</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Contemporaneous location</th>
<th>Current Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1088</td>
<td>University of Bologna</td>
<td>Kingdom of Italy, Holy Roman Empire</td>
<td>Bologna, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1096-1167</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>Kingdom of England</td>
<td>Oxford, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1170</td>
<td>Université de Paris (Sorbonne)</td>
<td>Kingdom of France</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1209</td>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>Kingdom of England</td>
<td>Cambridge, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1218</td>
<td>University of Salamanca</td>
<td>Kingdom of León</td>
<td>Salamanca, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1222</td>
<td>University of Padua</td>
<td>Lombard League</td>
<td>Padua, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1224</td>
<td>University of Naples Federico II</td>
<td>Kingdom of Sicily</td>
<td>Naples, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1240</td>
<td>University of Siena</td>
<td>Republic of Siena</td>
<td>Siena, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1241</td>
<td>University of Valladolid</td>
<td>Kingdom of Castile, Crown of Castile</td>
<td>Valladolid, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1290</td>
<td>University of Macerata</td>
<td>Papal States</td>
<td>Macerata, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1290</td>
<td>University of Coimbra</td>
<td>Kingdom of Portugal, Lisbon</td>
<td>Coimbra, Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1293</td>
<td>University of Alcalá</td>
<td>Crown of Castile</td>
<td>Alcalá de Henares, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1303</td>
<td>Sapienza University of Rome</td>
<td>Papal States</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1308</td>
<td>University of Perugia</td>
<td>Papal States</td>
<td>Perugia, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1321</td>
<td>University of Florence</td>
<td>Republic of Florence</td>
<td>Florence, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1336</td>
<td>University of Camerino</td>
<td>Papal States</td>
<td>Camerino, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1343</td>
<td>University of Pisa</td>
<td>Republic of Pisa</td>
<td>Pisa, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1348</td>
<td>Charles University of Prague</td>
<td>Kingdom of Bohemia</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1361</td>
<td>University of Pavia</td>
<td>Domain of the House of Visconti</td>
<td>Pavia, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1364</td>
<td>Jagiellonian University</td>
<td>Kingdom of Poland</td>
<td>Kraków, Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1365</td>
<td>University of Vienna</td>
<td>Holy Roman Empire</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1386</td>
<td>Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg</td>
<td>Holy Roman Empire</td>
<td>Heidelberg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1391</td>
<td>University of Ferrara</td>
<td>House of Este</td>
<td>Ferrara, Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The role of universities: an evolutionary approach

• The history of university is characterized by crucial evolutionary steps:
  o From pure sciences to applied sciences;
  o From knowledge diffusion to knowledge creation;
  o From elitarian to massified institutions.

• Together with the inner characteristics of universities, the relationship with the city has evolved:
  o The evolution of the city transforms its universities;
  o The evolution of the universities transforms its city.
City and University: From separated to overlapping entities

• The word «city» comes from the Latin «civitas», with a common root to words equivalent to «to lie, bed, couch»
  o A city is therefore a place where one can be;
  o There is an inside and an outside;
  o Often there are gates;
  o But there is always a door!

• The concepts of university and city may overlap in a university city, although there might be a tension due to the idea that university and city are separated entities.

• The «campus» might alter this relationship, because a «campus» might have an entrance, but not a door!
Historical and evolutionary relationship

- Both the birth and the evolution of universities depend on the social and economical issues that model a community
- Universities were born also to help the re-birth of cities, to create a new future, following difficulties or dramatic periods, to renew hope for the community
  - The black plague (the case of Pavia...)
  - War
  - Famine
- In these cases, universities were born as bet on the future, projections of a new hope
- How can a city be re-born without a university?
Today’s dramatic period: The demographic war

Birth

Death

Source: ISTAT
Universities and the new hope

• Today we are living new historical phenomena, that we do not know yet how to face
• Universities can be the light towards a new future, if they are recognized as active players for a re-birth of the cities
  o Not only as an economic agent (spin-off, patenting, technology transfer)
  o But also in terms of cultural development
The role of the CRUI

• With this event, the CRUI helps the beginning of a new path, a new way to be community, not only in academic terms

• Through universities, CRUI aims at being a political subject supporting the development of university cities and other cities

• CRUI and Italian universities aim at identifying the paths to take on responsibility, self-consciousness and a critical approach, to face the challenges of our times