The philosophy of scientific collaborations:
from co-authorship networks to shared practices
by Roberto Lalli & Luca Guzzardi

During the 20th century, working in scientific collaborations has become the dominant modus of production of new knowledge, especially in the natural sciences. To philosophers, historians, and sociologists, the dramatic shift toward the collaborative environment poses challenges as intriguing as they are diverse. What are the epistemic implications of this shift for the way scientists think about the world? What is actually shared in scientific collaboration? How does scientific cooperation affect the meaning and practices of authorship? What are the epistemic and non-epistemic values shaping scientific collaborative practices? How are analysts able to assess older practices of collaboration in the sciences? What counts, in fact, as collaborative research?

These and other questions have been addressed from a variety of perspectives strongly depending on the analysts’ disciplinary frameworks. In this workshop, we aim at providing a venue to discussing approaches belonging to different disciplinary focuses in order, first, to critically assess their limitations and potentialities, and, second, to bridge different approaches. In this way, the workshop represents a contribution toward the elaboration of an interdisciplinary analytical framework that explicitly addresses the interrelations between the social and epistemic aspects of the scientific enterprise.

The workshop will take place on February 12, 13, 17, and 19, at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Milan “La Statale” (Sala Paci, 16.30 -18.30). Participation is open to everyone. However, participants are expected to actively contribute to discussions, thus they are kindly requested to register for the event. If you would like to attend, please email luca.guzzardi@unimi.it (subject "collaboration workshop").