

A Lunch talk with ... Ilaria Campeggio Who is a Good Leader: difficulties, sacrifices and ambition

“Ilaria Campeggio wakes up at 6 a.m. for the flag-raising, while the students of Global Governance wake up to attend their courses at the university. What they both have in common is of course the tremendous ambition to sacrifice something to reach their goal in a specific field, never giving up”



On the 11th march 2015 the students met Ilaria Campeggio in the library Vilfredo Pareto.

Thanks to her tremendous passion for horse riding, from 2011 she headed “Platoon”, the 4th Regiment of Cavalry of the Carabinieri. Ilaria’s successful career reached its peak recently, in 2014, when she was appointed commander of Squadron on the 4th Regiment of the Carabinieri, becoming the first woman to achieve such a remarkable degree in the entire history of Carabinieri.

The meeting has been interesting from different points of view and the huge number of questions coming from every student are the proof that we were all very involved in the issue.

She started talking about her experience, moving forward the skills and capabilities a good Leader needs to achieve in order to capture respect.

What motivated Ilaria was, of course, the strong need to give a contribute to the welfare of our community, helping people in the ordinary business of life and fighting criminality when requested.

For this reason she decided to join the **Academy of Modena**, overcoming a severe application based on physical, psychological and cultural tests.

Here is the **first challenge**: she had to face the same physical tests as men. But she did it, becoming one of the few women studying in the Academy.

After this long experience, in which she had to face different and particular activities she decided to join the Officer school in Rome becoming the Commander of Platoon.



Many are the duties that an officer has to respect:

- Institutional duties (for what concerns green, urban and archaeological areas)
- Duties of honour in public offices
- Training duties (activities involving children and disables people, “Horse Therapy”)
- Military duties, different from army’s duties (peace keeping missions abroad, military police that controls and defends important people “VIPs”, enforcing peace in our country)
- Historic Carousel (an impressive battle with horses between the first and the second Squadron).

After a first approach to the officer’s duties she described the importance of the historic Carousel, an impressive battle with horses between the first and the second Squadron.

The historic Carousel has been presented as a fundamental hallmark and feature of Carabinieri's Army, and to clarify better this particular event we saw an outstanding video showing the two Squadron fighting and creating figures such as circles and lines that require many skills and risks that have to be prevented. Therefore it is necessary to train with a keen interest both horses and officers in order to avoid mistakes during the show.

In Ilaria's perspective the most exciting Carousel she organized and trained was the one performed in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee Pageant, during which she had the opportunity to meet the Queen Elizabeth.

Last but not least, the most important issue she took into consideration was the figure of the **good leader**.

Who is a good leader? How to reach respect? What is leadership? Which are the characteristics needed to build a strong relationship within a group of cadets?

In her opinion, this questions don't have just one answer.

The good leader has to learn to be a good leader, step by step, overcoming daily challenges, reaching goals and learning from failures.

Is it clear that natural skills and talent are requested, but the most important thing is, for sure, to bet on yourself continuously. She presented **leadership** as the delicate "art of motivating people", affirming that the last and main goal is the idea of respect. Respect as something that is not imposed, but as a conquest, as the result of a constructive dialogue between officers with different degrees.

The main aspect that captured our interest was that she is the first female Commander of Carabinieri's Regiment. Did this factor influence, during her experience in the Academy, her career? What about gender discrimination?

Her answer was clear: it doesn't matter if you are a man, or a woman. The only fundamental key is the way you approach things. Be professional, work hard, treat every ordinary duty with enthusiasm, be caring, respectful, focusing on your responsibilities, remembering to act seriously but never forgetting to smile and be positive.

And always try to **act right**.

Martina Compatangelo, Filippo Montanari