

Chiedere scusa: un atto sociale

FRANCESCA DE VECCHI

Apologizing: a Social Act

Abstract: In my paper I dwell on “apologizing” as a social act and analyze its structure using the tools offered by Adolf Reinach’s (1913/1989) phenomenology of social acts – I therefore share the research perspective on apologizing as a social act launched by Riccardo Mazzola (2023; 2024). I focus on the sense of ‘act’ as intentional and positional lived experience and on *spontaneous acts*, among which apologizing, as personal position-takings that are deeply individuating and characterized by authorship. I point out that spontaneous acts can be both *social and non-social acts* (Reinach, 1911a). I highlight the irreducibility of social acts, included the act of apologizing, to internal spontaneous or non-social acts, and focus on the specific sociality of social acts: the *social* quality of their *intentionality and positionality*. Indeed, social acts are persons’ position-takings that open their intentional horizon to other persons: they are acts that address other persons by manifesting themselves to them, and call them to enter into a social interaction, assuming the role of counterpart of the act. Finally, I distinguish between performance and success conditions of social acts and act of apologizing.

Keywords: Apologizing, Intentional lived experiences, Spontaneous acts, Social acts, Social intentionality and positionality, Performance and felicity conditions.

notizie di POLITEIA, XLII, 161, 2026. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 166-174