During the twentieth century, the view that assertions and norms are valid insofar as they respond to principles independent of all local and temporal contexts came under attack from two perspectives: the partiality of translation and the intersubjective constitution of the self, understood as responsive to recognition. Defenses of universalism have by and large taken the form of a thinning out of substantive universalism into various forms of proceduralism.

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Alessandro Ferrara, professor of philosophy at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” and member of the advisory board for the series New Directions in Critical Theory, is the author of *Modernity and Authenticity: A Study of the Social and Ethical Thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Reflective Authenticity: Rethinking the Project of Modernity; and Justice and Judgment: The Rise and the Prospect of the Judgment Model in Contemporary Political Philosophy*.

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