

Catholicism. At the same time, positivism's promise of a society based on scientific reason found supporters within the local branch of the Socialist party, where the "socialism of the professors" espoused by anticlerical, middle-class intellectuals still exercised a powerful influence.

By the 1880s, the science faculties at the University of Turin had already made the city a major center of positivism on the Italian peninsula. Filippo De Filippi, professor of Zoology, for instance, gave the first lecture in Italy on the theories of Charles Darwin in 1864; his successor and later rector of the university, Michele Lessona, was a pioneering translator and popularizer of Darwin's works. In a similar vein, Giulio Bizzozzero, founder of the General Pathology Laboratory at the university, spearheaded the development of the field of social medicine, especially in the areas of infectious diseases and infant mortality, while Luigi Pagliani founded the Hygiene Society that developed the basic strategies of public health for the entire country. Arguably, the most prominent exponent of Turinese positivism, Cesare Lombroso, was appointed professor of Forensic Medicine at the university in 1878. Still widely recognized the founding father of modern criminology, Lombroso transformed the field from the legalistic study of crime to the scientific study of criminals and, in the process, became a major exponent of the more humane treatment of the convicted. In the same period, the physicist and electrical engineer, Galileo Ferraris emerged as the "only great Italian applied scientist of the nineteenth century".

Turin's scientific community did not limit their activities to purely theoretical issues within the university. Leading academicians also applied their expertise to prepare the city for industrial development by pursuing technical solutions to the city's energy, water, and sanitation problems. Ferraris, for instance, established the School of Electrotechnology within the Italian Industrial Museum in order to combine the theoretical study of electricity with its practical application. Under his tutelage, the School served as the principal training center for a generation of Italian electrical engineers who served in the country's civilian and military bureaucracies. As a result of such initiatives, the Industrial Museum, which had been founded in 1862 by the government to promote the diffusion of technology, became a nationally renowned center of industrial culture by the end of the century. Moreover, Ferraris pioneered the development of electrical power for production and transport, both through his invention of alternating current electrical motors and through his involvement in the introduction of electrical street lighting to Turin. In a similar fashion, members of the scientific and medical faculties worked to ease the problems created by factory life