

Francesco Garofalo, known as Franco, was born in Naples in 1952 and graduated with honors in Electronic Engineering from the University of Naples in 1976. Since 2024, he is Professor Emeritus at the University of Naples Federico II after serving for many years as Professor of Automatic Control at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies.

His academic career began as a research fellow at the Center of Systems Theory at the Polytechnic University of Milan and continued as a lecturer in Systems Theory at the University of Calabria and at the University Institute of Naval Sciences in Naples (now University Parthenope). In 1983, he was appointed university researcher and later, in 1987, became Associate Professor. In 1994 he was appointed full professor, first at the University of Sannio and, from 1998, at the University Federico II.

Throughout his career, Garofalo spent periods of study and research abroad at prestigious institutions, including the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, the laboratories of the Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik in Germany, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Mexico.

He held significant institutional roles: Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sannio, President of the National Group of Automatic Control Researchers, Director of the Department of Computer Science and Systems at Federico II, and Coordinator of the Doctoral School in Information Engineering at the same university. He managed and directed numerous scientific and industrial research projects, establishing partnerships with major entities and industries including CNR, Tecnomare, Ansaldo, ENEA, and Magnaghi Aeronautica.

He was a promoter of the creation of university laboratories and spin-offs, one of them recognized among the best Italian high-tech projects. Professor Garofalo has held numerous positions outside the university as a member of scientific committees, president of research consortia, and competence centers for the promotion of innovative companies and productive technologies.

During his research activity, Professor Garofalo has addressed both applied topics like industrial process control, ship positioning, robot control and theoretical and methodological ones, like theoretical control theory, Lyapunov stability, complex systems dynamics, complex networks analysis and control. The results of his research are presented in numerous international publications, and his scientific output can be found on Google Scholar and IRIS.

Throughout his scientific career, Garofalo has contributed to the training of over 20 doctoral students, who now hold academic positions in Italian and foreign universities.