

## ***Section 12 – Politica e politiche dell'Unione europea***

**Panel 7. A multilevel attack to the EU: theory and practice of 'Eurosceptic', sovereigntist political actors in a national, transnational and pan-European perspective.**

**Chairs: Benedetta Carlotti, Stella Gianfreda**

The EU is facing a long-lasting crisis fuelled by exogenous shocks (the aftermath of the economic crisis and the more recent migration crisis) that undermines the stability of the European political system creating strong disintegration pushes. Brexit is just an example how the disruptive impact of the 'politicization' of the European Union creating unexpected results and uncertain scenarios.

Another evident consequence of the crises and of EU's inability to face them is given by the development of sovereigntist, eurosceptic parties, and by the parallel loss of consensus of the mainstream governing élite. The unprecedented results scored by the re-branded Salvini's League and the di Maio's Five Stars Movement alongside the poor performance of the Democratic party are just an example of this general tendency that is diffusing all around Europe.

Against this background, the panel is dedicated to contributions aiming at analysing Eurosceptic sovereigntist political actors' position toward the EU in a multilevel perspective welcoming works dealing with national, transnational and pan-European aspects of the phenomenon as well as analyses aimed at comparing them.

More into details, on the one hand, the panel refers to studies observing the institutionalization process of such forces, their formation, strategies and communication methods. On the other hand, it addresses original works questioning the effects that Eurosceptic sovereigntist parties exercise on the mainstream elite: has the position of the mainstream elite changed due to the presence of such actors? Which are the effects of such actors on mainstream elite's communication? How does the mainstream elite perceive and treat such actors?

The panel welcomes studies approaching the issue both from a theoretical and from an empirical perspective analysing Eurosceptic sovereigntist political actors using either quantitative or qualitative methods and proposing either a comparative or a case study approach. Furthermore, the panel welcomes works written both in Italian and in English.