

Section 7 – Amministrazione e politiche pubbliche

Panel 1. Corruption and its impact on contemporary Italy.

Chairs: Alessia Damonte, Antonio La Spina, Alberto Vannucci

Despite Transparency International's suggestion that Italy in 2017 has slightly improved both its score and ranking, the perception of the country's corruption burden remains one of the worst in Europe. Research and investigative journalism report malfeasance and palm-greasing so intense and pervasive – between voters and elected officials, politics and bureaucracy, public organizations and citizens, decision-makers and auditors – that in several contexts Italy can still be portrayed as a typical case of "systemic" corruption. The theme has unsurprisingly resurfaced during the recent national election campaign -- both as an issue ranking high in some party manifestos, and as scandals staining the reputation of local and national leaders.

Had the different salience given to the problem, and the special solution promised, any influence on the voters' decisions?

Which are the extent and the characteristics of the "politicization" of the issue corruption in the public debate and in political competition, as well as in the approach of the judiciary? How accurate is the portrait of the actual trends depicted by the media? Are the current policies for public integrity sufficient to counteract the phenomenon? To what extent it is appropriate to borrow some typical tools of anti-mafia policy? What is missing, if any, in the Italian public governance that can improve its integrity and hinder corruption?

The panel aims to stimulate a reflection on such diverse questions. Theoretical as well as empirical contributions are equally welcome – the latter, regardless of the method chosen and the number of cases at hand.