

Section 3 – Politica comparata

Panel 7. Gender and representation.

Chairs: Pamela Pansardi, Licia Claudia Papavero

The political (under-)representation of women is currently the subject of a wide range of studies at the international level focusing on its extent, causes, and effects. On the one hand, scholars focus on the numeric aspects of women's representation at the various level of government (national, sub-national, and supra-national) and identify the obstacles (political, institutional, socio-economic, cultural) that hinder gender equality in political representation or investigate whether attempts to remove those obstacles (gender quotas, women committees) are effective. On the other hand, international literature focuses on the effects of women's representation, investigating whether and to what extent an increase of women in parliaments or in executive roles in the government has an impact in the content or the direction of legislation.

These two different dimensions of women's representation, commonly referred to as descriptive and substantive representation - together with a third dimension, namely, symbolic representation, which focuses on the effects of an increased representation on the gender roles that are culturally assigned to women in a society - are the object of this panel.

The panel welcomes contributions to all aspects of women's political representation at the different levels of government. Papers may be theoretical or empirical, and new methodological approaches to study gender representation are especially welcome. Works may consist in single-case studies or comparative analyses. Papers discussing the Italian case are particularly encouraged.

The panel is sponsored from the SISP Standing Group on Gender and Politics.