

Section 6 – Partecipazione e movimenti sociali

Panel 2. Political Participation and Mobilisations in Authoritarian Contexts: Beyond Crisis. Chairs: Chiara Maritato, Paola Rivetti

The literature addressing political participation in authoritarian contexts has emphasised how actors and motivations evolved in the context of socio-economic and political crisis. Scholars have particularly focused on the dynamics giving the protests momentum, and on how uproars have been either embedded or repressed. The experience of the so-called Arab Spring, however, tells a different story. The labour unions, long-time activists, local solidarity networks that constituted the backbone of the uprisings have in fact a history of political participation and still today, despite the end of mobilisations, foster spaces for political action.

Analyses that inscribe social movements in longer-term processes are necessary to critically investigate the forms of political participation in authoritarian settings. Such analyses also bridge examinations considering political participation as the result of either public resistance in the form of mass demonstrations, or informal practices in the form of daily and private opposition to hegemonic power structures.

The panel is interested in papers that examine the practices through which political discontent is expressed in authoritarian contexts, emphasising the forms and meanings that it may assume in diverse socio-economic contexts. Papers investigating how political opposition develops in spite of authoritarian manufacturing of consent and discontent are also welcome. We are also interested in the consequences of “participatory governance”: while it is a tool to mobilise supporters and manage dissent (i.e. through embedded civil society), it may also unintendedly empower actors and provide them with a space for political action.

The panel draws from the following questions: What are the forms of political participation in authoritarian regimes? How do “participatory governance” and the management of discontent contribute to possible political change? And to what extent and how do informal practices originate political transformations?

We invite papers with original empirical data and theoretical/analytical reflections from diverse disciplines including anthropology, history, political science and sociology.

Panel chairs: Dr. Chiara Maritato (University of Turin) and Dr. Paola Rivetti (Dublin City University)

Deadline for paper abstract submission: 20th May 2018

Paper abstracts must be max 2,500 characters long and must be submitted through the MySISP online platform.

Guidelines: https://www.sisp.it/annual_conference_brief_eng