

### ***Section 3 – Politica comparata***

#### **Panel 1. Parliamentary Class, Legislative Turnover, and Elite Circulation.**

**Chairs: Eugenio Salvati, Michelangelo Vercesi**

The stability of the political class can be considered as a necessary condition for political professionalization and political effectiveness. This stability can refer to both the personnel proper and politicians' backgrounds and profiles. However, the political elite should be also enough open towards recurring renewals, especially in modern democracies. Indeed, without a minimum of elite circulation, the political system could be confronted with stagnation, inability to adapt to social changes and subsequent difficulties in accomplishing effectively the representative function. While in stable times circulation mainly involves individuals with similar socio-professional backgrounds, during transitional phases broader replacements of old elites with new groups with different profiles are likely. In this respect, the analysis of the composition of the parliamentary class is a privileged point of observation. With regard to the Italian political system, the 2018 general election and the consequent significant turnover of the parliamentary class prompt to take stock of the current state of the art and to settle new research paths. This panel aims to collect original studies on the broad topic of legislators' circulation at all levels of government. In particular, papers addressing the interrelationship between careers in sub-national (e.g., municipalities, provinces, regions and states in regional), national, and supra-national (e.g., European) levels are welcome. However, questions can concern (without, however, being limited to) both horizontal elite circulation and vertical movements. In order to focus on coherent opportunity structures, the works should primarily deal with the member States of the European Union. Among others, we value papers that deal with changes of legislators in terms of morphologic representation, for example looking at the gender equality issue or the representation of minorities. Papers may also concern the relationship between elite circulation and the degree of institutionalization (as a dynamic process) of parties and/or party systems (but also of legislatures). Furthermore, paper proposals may also be devoted to the analysis of the linkage between elite circulation and models of representative styles within legislatures.

First, elite circulation and elite renewal in legislative arenas can be tackled as dependent variables (i.e., what explains renewal and changes as well as profiles' stability?; how are these aspects related to political recruitment's channels and patterns of political careers?). Secondly, they can be treated as independent variables (i.e., which are the consequences of these phenomena on the performance of legislators, on their relationship with their own constituencies and other institutions, on the stability of the political system, etc.). We accept both theoretical and empirical papers. Comparisons are especially valued, while single-case studies should be at least comparative in their scope. Analyses can be longitudinal or cross-sectional; they can employ a vast range of methods, from classic quantitative and qualitative methodologies to mixed-methods and QCA, etc. Within the Section on Comparative Politics, the panel refers to the field of research on the formation and recruitment of political classes in contemporary democracies