

Section 6 – Partecipazione e movimenti sociali

Panel 4. Populism and democracy today.

Chair: Manuel Anselmi, Università degli Studi di Perugia.

Discussant:

Lorenzo Viviani, Università degli Studi di Pisa.

Marco Damiani, Università degli Studi di Perugia.

In national and international scientific literature a central issue concerns the relationship between populism and democracy. The question that needs to be asked: are contemporary forms of new populism, increasingly institutionalized and of government, compatible with democracy? This question was answered in a non-ambiguous manner, depending on the individual case. On the basis of these considerations, the objective of the panel is to establish:

- 1) how populism induces democratic systems to change;
- 2) how democratic systems are able to institutionalize populism;
- 3) how and whether democratic systems can activate a reaction of radicalizing populism and its anti-establishment characteristics.

Furthermore, the theoretical question of the relationship between populism and democracy highlights a particularly delicate problem in the mechanisms of democratic regulation, which concerns the balance between populist "mentality" or "ideology" and the liberal system, based on the principle of plurality of powers and political pluralism in general. From this point of view, the varied populist offer in political terms involves parties from the right, centre and left. Based on these considerations, the panel is interested in receiving contributions aimed at deepening the different types of case studies and the dynamics that are determined in relation to the political organization, the participatory dimension and the tools of participation, political communication and leadership model.