

Section 12 – Politica e politiche dell'Unione europea (Politics and policies of the European Union)

Chairs: Roberto di Quirico, Mattia Guidi

Panel 12.3 Politicisation and Euroscepticism in the European Union: 'Bottom-up' and 'Top-down' Approaches

Chairs: Edoardo Bressanelli, Nicolò Conti

The shift of the 'permissive consensus' about European integration to a 'constraining dissensus' (Hooghe and Marks), and the increasing prominence of national politics across arenas in the EU's system of multi-level governance are, by now, well-established in both political and academic debate. Yet, the ever-increasing success of populist and Eurosceptic parties, the 'existential' threat that they pose to the EU in the 2019 European Parliament elections, and the emergence of an integration dimension for party competition, require further and more systematic analyses. This panel aims to bring together empirical contributions focusing both on the 'top-down' consequences of the EU's politicisation – such as, for example, the changing discourses of the national parties on the EU, or the importance of the EU issue in national elections and referendums – and the 'bottom-up' impact of growing domestic contestation over Europe on the EU's institutions and decision-making – such as, for instance, the impact of national elections on cohesion in the European Parliament, or the behaviour of Eurosceptic governments in the Council. The panel aims to bring together these two rather separate streams of the literature and provide a rigorous assessment of the impact of politicisation on the EU multi-level system. Empirically, the papers presented in this panel should place their focus on how the contestation and politicisation of the EU has affected domestic and/or supranational politics, institutions and policies. This panel welcomes papers analysing new empirical data or placing their focus on specific and 'unusual' cases. If there is enough interest, we would aim to run two sessions – ideally, one on 'top-down' and one on 'bottom-up' politicisation.