

Section 3 – Politica Comparata

Chairs: Gianfranco Baldini, Elisabetta de Giorgi

Panel 3.7 A Fourth Face of Party Organization? The Role of Digital Platforms in Political Parties

Digital platforms (as Rousseau for the Five Star Movement or Partecipa for Podemos or non-proprietary software like Liquid Feedback or Loomio) have recently been introduced by a number of political parties and movements as instruments of funding, internal communication and decision making.

This panel seeks to stimulate original contributions and reflections on this emerging phenomenon. Although contributions on all cases and countries are welcome, we are particularly interested in deepening our knowledge of specific case-studies beyond Southern Europe.

The papers should possibly focus on the following topics:

- how online platforms are built (e.g. types of software, ownership, developers);
- the functions of online platforms (e.g. internal debate, candidate recruitment, definition of the party manifesto, votes on strategic political decisions, fundraising, etc.);
- how effectively online platforms are used (e.g. longitudinal analysis concerning data on users' engagement);
- affordances of online platforms (e.g. whether they allow horizontal or only vertical interactions, who is entitled to set the agenda, etc.);
- effects on party organization (e.g. empowering members, strengthening leaders, preventing or strengthening territorial rooting, etc.);
- relationships (and potential short-circuits) between online and offline processes (e.g. different weight given to electronic membership and traditional membership).

At this stage, mapping the spread and different uses of online platforms is the main focus of the panel. Cases studies and comparative papers are equally acceptable. All methodological approaches are welcome.

Chairs: Lorenzo Mosca, Filippo Tronconi, Davide Vittori