

## **Section 6 – Partecipazione e Movimenti Sociali**

**Chairs: Gianni Piazza, Massimiliano Andretta**

### **Panel 6.2 Catholic mobilizations: religious movements in the public sphere**

Panel co-hosted by the standing groups “Participation and Social Movements” and “Religion and Politics”.

Chairs:

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### Catholic mobilizations: religious movements in the public sphere

Starting in 2012-2013 in France against marriage equality, a wave of Catholic mobilizations rapidly spread all around Europe. Catholic organizations protested against the possible recognition (or the enforcement) of LGBT+ rights, and, later on, against the so-called ‘gender theory’. A few years later, this wave of mobilization is still in place and gained new fuel from the electoral and political success of the extreme right, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2018, for example, Hungary banned gender studies at colleges: this testifies for a renewed public legitimacy of religious discourse in the public and political spheres. Furthermore, the development of transnational networks facilitated the diffusion of mobilization resources and repertoires of actions across countries. The 2019 World Congress of Families, organized by the International Organization for the Family to protect the ‘traditional’ family, will take place in Italy where the Minister of the family, a devoted Catholic, is openly anti-abortion.

This panel focuses on the Catholic mobilizations in Europe, to understand cross-country similarities and differences, internal organizations and claims between local actions and transnational networks, patterns of failures and successes, and alliances and opponents. Conservative and reactionary mobilizations, very visible since 2012, tend to obscure progressive Catholics engaged, amongst others, in the Peace Movement or in the Refugees and Migrant solidarity movements but we would also like to include these groups to the analysis.

Theoretically grounded empirical papers are welcome on the following (but not exclusive) topics:

- Case studies and/or comparative analyses of Catholic mobilizations (conservative and progressive ones)
- Public and media discourse around Catholic mobilization

- Analysis of transnational networking
- Methodology papers on how to study these movements that pose specific challenges
- Papers addressing social movements theory: what these mobilizations can bring to SM theory, which is built on non-religious mostly progressive case studies?
- How to integrate religion in Social Movement Studies? Is there a Catholic specificity?
- Papers addressing the gendered agenda of these movements, but also their gendered organization.

Chairs: Martina Avanza, Alberta Giorgi