

Section 6 – Partecipazione e Movimenti Sociali

Chairs: Gianni Piazza, Massimiliano Andretta

Panel 6.6 The consequences of populism: civil society, discourses and policies

This panel aims to reflect on the consequences of the recent success of populist parties and movements in Europe, a topic still in its infancy in populist research, which mainly focus on the causes. With populist parties assuming more stable positions within the party system and governments (today 11 governments in Europe see the presence of a populist party), it is even more crucial to explore the impact of populists' success on several domains, including: the civil society and social movements, the party system and the political discourse, media debate and the public opinion, as well as on policies (especially those related to sensitive topics such as welfare, immigration, labour, etc.). Many outcomes associated with the quality of democracy can indeed be influenced by populism. On the one hand, it is stated that radical right populism endangers some of the constitutional foundations of liberal European democracies such as pluralism and the protection of minorities. However, other scholars agree that populists could actually correct democratic deficiencies by speaking to a large group of citizens disillusioned with mainstream politicians and by giving to citizens the feeling that there is someone who 'listened to their grievances'.

In this panel, we welcome single and comparative case studies in Europe as well as quantitative works aiming to reflect on these issues. A special attention will be paid to both right wing and left wing populism in various European countries, including Western and Eastern/Central Europe.

Chairs: Manuela Caiani, Paolo Graziano, Enrico Padoan