

## **Section 8– Relazioni Internazionali**

**Chairs: Carla Monteleone, Vittorio Emanuele Parsi**

### **Panel 8.5 Political parties and Foreign Policy at the Time of Populism**

International relations (IR) and even Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) have generally devoted limited attention to political parties in foreign and defense policy. The current surge of populist parties in Western Europe is deeply affecting states' foreign policy, making the case for studying the role of these domestic actors even more compelling.

Breaking this barrier, research on this topic has recently made significant progresses. Several scholars have tried to connect party politics to FPA and IR, examining the relationship between partisanship (e.g., the left/right or the "GAL-TAN" cleavage) and foreign policy or the role of coalition politics in affecting decisions in the international scenario. Other authors have analyzed how different parliaments influence the propensity to send troops abroad, illustrating the causes and consequences of the variation in parliamentary control of (post-Cold War) military activism of European countries. Finally, the scholarly debate on personalization has also focused on how political outsiders have shaped crucial foreign and defense policy decisions.

In line with this growing qualitative and quantitative literature, the aim of the panel is to bring together scholars from comparative politics and international relations to explore the role of political parties in foreign and defense policy. The SISP Conference represents the ideal context for such attempt.

The panel invites papers that theoretically and/or empirically explore the relationship between parties and foreign and defense policy in Italy, in Europe, and beyond. This panel particularly welcomes papers focusing on:

- Partisanship and foreign policy;
- Populist parties and foreign policy in Europe;
- Personalization, leadership, and foreign policy;
- Party contestation of the EU foreign and defense policy;
- The impact of coalition politics on foreign policy decision-making;
- Transnational party cooperation in European Foreign and Security policy;
- Causes and consequences of variation in parliamentary control of defense policy

The panel welcomes both qualitative and quantitative approaches in studying parties, parliaments, and foreign policy.

Discussant of the Panel: Andrea Pedrazzani (Università di Bologna)

**Chairs:** Fabrizio Coticchia, Valerio Vignoli