

## **Section 9 – Elezioni e Comportamento di Voto (Elections and Voting Behaviour).** **Chairs: Paolo Bellucci, Alessandro Chiaramonte**

*Elenco e descrizione di tutti i panels*

### **Panel 9.1 The 2019 European election in Eurosceptic times: still second order elections?**

According to the second-order model (Marsh, 1998; Reif & Schmitt, 1980; Schmitt, 2005), voters consider elections for the European Parliament as less important than first order, national elections. According to this perspective, European elections are dominated by issues rooted in the national context and can also be seen as a kind of “US-style” mid-term election test in which the incumbent government measures its appeal. The idea that the European elections concern and are decided by European issues and that citizens vote first on their opinion about Europe is still quite remote (Bellucci et al. 2010; Hix & Marsh, 2007; Natale, 2010; for a slight different point of view, see Mattila, 2002).

However, the 2019 European election could represent a watershed. In recent years, Europe has experienced a series of “crises” (Eurozone crisis, refugee crisis, Brexit) with detrimental consequences on both the economic development and the social cohesion of the European Union (EU). These events contributed in making the EU increasingly contentious not only among political elites, but also among citizens of different EU member states.

European citizens are called to vote for choosing a new European governance in times of rising electoral consent for Eurosceptic and populist parties that put the opposition to the European integration at the heart of their political agenda and campaign for a re-appropriation of national sovereignty. For the first time since 1979 the “grand coalition” of Populists, Social-democrats and Liberals, which drove the integration process so far, could lose the majority of seats in the European Parliament.

Against this background, this panel seeks papers focused both on parties’ electoral campaigns and electoral results. We will consider both proposals that investigate voters’ electoral behaviour and studies that focus on parties’ as well as citizens’ attitudes towards the EU and the integration process. On this last point, we are not only interested in papers that address EU regime support, but also in works that analyse citizens’ preferences for specific EU policies and initiatives. We are particularly interested in quantitative analyses with no preclusions for data and methodologies employed (electoral data, survey data, social media analyses, content analyses, etc.). Comparative research will be preferred, but also single-country studies will be taken into consideration.

Chairs:

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