

Section 9– Elezioni e Comportamento di voto
Chairs: Paolo Bellucci, Alessandro Chiaramonte

Panel 9.7 Populist attitudes: Theoretical and methodological foundations

Populism has become one of the most debated topics in Comparative Politics over the last twenty years. The dazzling electoral success of parties identified with this label, and the consequent erosion of support for traditional mainstream parties, is among the most interesting electoral changes in the recent history of the Old Continent.

For many years, scholars tried to identify the characteristics of the electorates of these parties, producing an extensive and heterogeneous literature on the causes behind this success, complicated by the elusive nature of the phenomenon. More recently, various scholars have proposed to identify items able of detecting the presence of specific populist attitudes on the electorate, namely specific scales to isolate populism on the public opinion from other tendencies such as distrust toward institutions or political apathy.

The purpose of this panel is to gather works of this growing field of study of electoral behaviour in Western and Eastern Europe. To this purpose, the panel welcomes studies that deal with topics such as:

- Theoretical contributions: The conceptualization of populist attitudes
- Methodological analyses: Development of items, scales and related measurements to determine the presence of this type of predispositions
- Empirical research: The use of populist attitudes as a predictor of electoral behaviour or other socio-political orientations

Chairs: Pierangelo Isernia, Gianluca Piccolino, Maria Giovanna Sessa