

## Call for papers

### *Gender, Leadership, and Party Politics*

12th-13th October 2023  
University of Pavia  
Deadline: 13th September 2023

Keynote lecture: Joni Lovenduski, Professor Emerita at Birkbeck College London

The Standing Group on Gender and Political of the Italian Political Science Association is organizing a thematically centered workshop on the topic of gender, leadership and party politics, with the aim to gather together scholars working in this particular field to elicit collaborations and fruitful exchanges, and, ultimately, to plan a collective volume or a special issue on the topic.

In the last two decades, women's parliamentary presence has significantly increased worldwide, but has not been matched yet by a comparable increase in their access to positions of power and leadership within the main political institutions. While some important steps have been taken at the EU level, where three of the main institutions - European Commission, European Parliament, European Central Bank - are currently chaired by a woman, only four of the EU27 states currently have a female chief executive, and the average rate of female ministers and junior ministers in national governments remains below 30 percent.

Despite Italy has been frequently pointed as a latecomer – when not a negative case – in gender equality in politics, the latest elections brought about an interesting landscape: both the President of the Council, Giorgia Meloni, and the leader of the main opposition party, Elly Schlein, are in fact women. This, notwithstanding a degree of parliamentary representation which is barely above the 30% and is almost 5 percentage points lower than the in the previous legislature – a quite low result if we consider that both latest elections were held under gender quotas.

The present workshop aims at bringing together scholars interested in the relations between gender, leadership and party politics, with particular attention to the Italian context.

Accordingly, we invite papers addressing - but not limited to - the following questions:

- What are the obstacles that prevent female politicians to 'break the glass ceiling' and access higher political offices?
- What are, on the other hand, the possible opportunities or resources specific of women?
- Do LGBTQIA+ people face the same barriers of entrance or is their career path entirely different?
- Are there different styles of leadership among female leaders? Is feminine leadership intrinsically different from masculine leadership?

- Does party ideology still matter in promoting gender balance in politics?
- Are female leaders more conducive to gender equality (in politics, in the promotion of specific policies)?
- Do populist parties present different attitudes towards gender equality from traditional parties?
- How far right parties interpret female leadership?
- Is intra-party democracy conducive to gender equality?

The deadline for paper proposals is 13th September 2023. Please send a short abstract (max. 400 words) to: [generepolitica@gmail.com](mailto:generepolitica@gmail.com). For Early Career Researchers (PhD students and post-doc researchers) the Italian Political Science Association (SISP) is pleased to offer two scholarships to partially cover travel and accommodation costs.

The workshop is co-funded by the Italian Political Science Association (SISP) and the Fondazione CARIPLO (GENPOLEAD Project, University of Pavia).