

Section 1 - Qualità della Democrazia (Quality of Democracy)

Chairs: Davide Gianluca Bianchi, Fulvio Venturino (fventurino@unica.it)

Panel 1.3 Post-secularism and post-democracy – focusing on the intersections

Contemporary European societies have been described as 'post-democratic' and 'post-secular'. The rise of the extreme right, political disintermediation, the judicialization of the political sphere, citizens' disaffection towards institutional politics, the personalization of politics, and issues' polarization are some of the processes affecting the contemporary political sphere. At the same time, the relevant political role of religion-related issues, the pervasive voice of religious actors, the diffusion of religiously-inspired mobilizations, the diversification of European societies' religious landscape, and the rise of religiously-motivated hatred characterize contemporary religions' presence and religious experience.

In light of these processes, this panel focuses on the entanglement of the 'post-secular' and 'post-democracy' conceptualizations. Does post-democracy intervene on the traditional boundaries of secular societies? Can the analyses on post-secularisation shed light on the changing role of political 'authority'? How do the two concepts interact in the context of contemporary democracies?

The panel welcomes both theoretical and theoretically grounded empirical papers (single case studies as well as comparative papers) on the following (but not exclusive) topics:

- Extreme right, populism, and religions (religious identity, religious freedom, religious diversity, debates and policies on religion-related issues, relations between parties and religious institutions, etc.)
- New religious movements and politics (new issues, new forms of religion/politics entanglements, etc.)
- Religion and democratization processes in the 21st century (the role of religion in new authoritarian trends in former democracies, religious actors in democratization movements, etc.)
- The post-secular state (role of religious institutions in policy-making, religion and political parties, new kinds of separation between church and state, etc.)

Chairs: Alberta Giorgi, Luca Ozzano