

Section 3 – Politica Comparata

Chairs: Gianfranco Baldini, Elisabetta de Giorgi

Panel 3.11 The Xi Jinping Era and the Evolution of Chinese Political Regime. Internal and External Effects

According to Freedom House 2019 Report, China's authoritarian regime has become increasingly repressive in recent years (-3 points on previous year total score). The ruling Chinese Communist Party holds its control over almost all society and has undermined its own already modest rule-of-law reforms.

Recently, President Xi Jinping strengthened his hold on power to a degree not seen in China for decades. National People's Congress (NPC) amended the country's constitution to enshrine "Xi Jinping Thought" and remove the two-term limit on the presidency.

In China, there are no direct or competitive elections. NPC formally elects the state president for five-year terms and confirms the premier after he is nominated by the president, but both positions are decided in advance by the CCP congress.

In this framework, what are analogies and differences between the Xi Era and previous ages in contemporary China (after the Mao or Deng Era) in terms of ideologies (political thought) and practice (politics/policies)? What are causes of power centralization? Is it possible to compare China evolution with other countries' regimes in an authoritarian, post totalitarian and hybrid contexts? Which future for China in terms of political rights and electoral process? Is China (socialist) model an alternative to Western (liberal) Democracy or (a labile) form of democracy remains the "destiny" for China in order to cement their relationship with Western World?

The panel aims to promote discussion on the above-mentioned questions. We welcome interdisciplinary papers that:

- a) Propose empirical analyses focused on Chinese political regime (state bureaucracy, media, groups, associations) and opposition to the same regime, in an overtime perspective;
- b) Focus on the contemporary Chinese politics (political ideology and thought) and/or policies (impact on people life and state functioning);
- c) Deal with a specific topic such as the organization and the functioning of CPP or the personalization of power in Xi Era;
- d) Offer innovative theoretical reflections on the concept of democracy, democratization processes and post-authoritarian regimes mapping, with a specific comparison between China and other Countries (for example Russia).

Chairs: Maria Elisabetta Lanzone