

Section 9 – Elezioni e comportamento di voto

Chairs: Paolo Bellucci, Alessandro Chiaramonte

Panel 9.6 European Politics beyond left and right

The stability and predictability that had been a defining feature of most West European party systems have become a pale memory of the past. Increasing electoral volatility, lower voters' identification with political parties and falling party membership are all signs of growing political instability. These developments have been mostly considered signs of electoral dealignment. The perforation of nation-states' boundaries by immigration, integration, and trade, however, may constitute a critical juncture in the political development of Europe no less decisive for parties and party systems than the previous junctures that Lipset and Rokkan describe in their seminal article. The significance of 'new politics' issues beyond the traditional left and right along with the rise of new challenger parties who articulate these demands have reinvigorated the relevance of cleavage theory to explain current changes in European party systems. This panel aims to bring together empirical accounts of party competition, voting behavior and political attitudes extending beyond the sphere of 'old' left and right politics. What are the consequences of transforming European party landscapes for voting behavior? What are the implications of an increased salience of the new cultural cleavage for mainstream party strategies? Are challenger parties successfully integrating previously alienated voters into the political realm? How does the structure of political conflict differ across and within Europe? We welcome both case studies and comparative accounts tackling these and related questions, providing either causal or descriptive evidence, with reference to all different parts of Europe. The panel will be followed by an "Authors meet critics" roundtable in which Italian political scientists will engage in a discussion with Hanspeter Kriesi about his forthcoming book "European party politics in times of crisis" (CUP, 2019).

Chairs: *Giorgio Malet, Elisa Volpi, Julia Schulte-Cloos*