

Workshop

Party Realignment, Economic Crisis and Varieties of Populism in Europe (WEP Special issue)

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9 & 10 Nov. 2017

Location: SNS, Scuola Normale Superiore, Palazzo Strozzi (5° floor), Piazza Strozzi, Florence.

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This workshop (and the special issue related to it) empirically investigates how the recent economic and political crisis of the EU has effected the diffusion or consolidation of varieties of populisms in Europe, making this category increasingly difficult to be attributed only to some specific (ideologically determined) political parties. Furthermore, the workshop tries to disentangle the role of the crisis with respect to other variables (such as party realignment or party de-institutionalization: Hernandèz and Kriesi, 2015; Chiaramonte and Emanuele, 2015) on the growing electoral strength of populist parties in various European countries. The general hypothesis supporting the special issue is that the long-lasting redefinition of Western parties (Mair, 2013; Hernandèz and Kriesi, 2015) has offered specific opportunities for the *emergence* of populist parties whereas the crisis has provided a specific opportunity for their *consolidation*.

More specifically, the workshop aims, first, at understanding the concept of populism and to reflect on its conceptual 'usability' beyond the traditional party families to which it is usually related. Second, it aims at using this preliminary theoretical clarification to shed new light on the different ways in which populism has been articulated in the various European countries (either in Continental ones or in the less known and studied Central and Eastern, Scandinavian and Southern Europe ones) since the economic crisis, which has acted as an external shock in many party systems giving birth to new political actors or consolidating already existing ones; to investigate the connections between populism and the national contextual political and cultural specificities that can determine the development of different

types of populisms across countries; and-ultimately- to reflect on the limitations of a discrete conceptualization of the phenomenon (according to which one party can be defined as populist or not), rather as a continuous one, establishing a variety of populisms (i.e. different degrees of populism) across countries and time. In sum, we would like to start from the suggestion to study the phenomenon as a 'gradational property' rather than as an essential quality of particular parties (Gidron and Bonikowski 2013:7-10; for an empirical application, Caiani and Graziano, 2016).

More specifically, taking into account recent scholarly reflections on populism, **our workshop (and the special issue proposal related to it) aims** to appraise the 'degree' and 'varieties' of populism within various political parties across all Europe (South, North, East and West) with a particular focus – also linked to the special momentum for European democracy after the Brexit – on Europe. Our broad research questions guiding the workshop are: How 'much' populist is/are the party(ies) of the country? Which parties are populist? Only those that traditionally are defined as such or also the mainstream ones? Are there degrees of populism empirically measurable? What is the role of Euroscepticism in the definition of populist identity? This latter question is particularly relevant since the link between populism and Euroscepticism has been often evocated but rarely thoroughly studied (for exceptions see Mudde, 2004; Carlotti, 2015). With this regard, we consider that applying our analysis to populist parties in Europe (and to their relation to the EU) is particularly fruitful as it may also shed new light on Euroscepticism.

This workshop aims at filling these gaps. It combines a theoretical/analytical perspective with an empirical focus on current populism in Europe. One aim is to understand how (and if) populism can be used as a new framework to understand the current (and future?) party changes. Another aim is to reconstruct the new and complex ways in which populism can manifest itself within the context of the economic and political crisis. The third aim is to understand whether and how certain forms of populism – beyond the negative or value-embedded evaluation which can often be found both in the press and in some academic literature – can contribute to the creation of more 'inclusive' politics through new forms of political participation.

(Draft) Program

DAY 1:

9th Nov. 2017

14-14.30- Welcome and Introduction

1) **14.30- 15.45-** M. Caiani (Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence) and Paolo Graziano (University of Padua), *Party Realignment, Economic Crisis and Varieties of Populism in Europe*. Discussant : _____(TBD)

2) **15.45-16.30-** C. Mudde (University of Georgia, USA), *The Populist Challenge in Europe: Past, Present and Future(s)*. Discussant : _____(TBD)

16.30-17- Coffee break

3) **17-17.45-** P. Taggart (University of Sussex), *Euroscepticism and Populism: Understanding the Link*. Discussant : _____(TBD)

4) **17.45-18.30-** L. Bernhard (University of Zurich), S. Hutter (European University Institute), H. Kriesi (European University Institute), *Populist Communication in election times: Southern Europe in Comparative Perspective*. Discussant : _____(TBD)

20.00- Dinner (location TBA)

DAY 2:

10th Nov. 2017

5) **9.15-10.00-** Y. Surel (Paris II-Assas and SciencesPo, Paris), *The Evolution of Exclusionary Populism - the case of FN*. Discussant : _____(TBD)

6) **10-10.45-** S. Usherwood (University of Surrey), *Shooting the fox? UKIP's populism in the post-Brexit era. Discussant : _____(TBD)*

10.45-11.15- Coffee break

7) **11.15-12.00-** M. Lisi (Universidade Nova, Lisbon), L. Ramiro (University of Leicester) and M. Tsakatika (University of Glasgow), *Economic Crisis and Challenges to established Parties: Testing the Inclusionary Populism Hypothesis in Greece, Portugal and Spain. Discussant : _____(TBD)*

12.15-13.30- Lunch (location TBA)

8) **13.30-14.15-** L . Mosca (Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence) and F. Tronconi (University of Bologna), *The Five Star Movement: a hybrid populist party or a party in transition? Discussant : _____(TBD)*

9) **14.15-15.00-** S. Engler (University of Bern), B. Pytlas (University of Munich) and K. Deegan-Krause (Wayne State University), *The Long Crisis and the multiple Varieties of Populism in Central and Eastern Europe. Discussant : _____(TBD)*

10) **15.00-15.45-** A. Jupsås (University of Oslo), *Understanding Scandinavian Populism(s). Discussant : _____(TBD)*

15.45- 16- Concluding Remarks and Special issue Agenda