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“The self-fulfilling prophecy of electoral paranoia”

Speaker: Till Weber (City University of New York)

Chair: Lorenzo De Sio (Luiss)

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Aula 205AB - Viale Romania

Abstract

Elections around the globe have become more heated and confrontational. At the same time, ordinary people are as cautious and diffident as ever. What appears as a contradiction at first glance turns out to be a systematic necessity. I argue that our polarized world reflects a tragic byproduct of the popular belief that there is more harm than good in politics. If we want to tame polarization, both sides of the political spectrum need to stand up more for their convictions, not less. I will show why this is so, theoretically and empirically.

About the Speaker

Till Weber is professor of political science at the City University of New York. His work covers a variety of democratic processes, including voting behavior, party competition, legislative politics, cabinet government, and unicorn migration.

The talk is based on a section of the paper you can find at this [link](#)

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