

## New DiSP Young Researchers' Seminar Series

### A.Y. 2024-2025 | Semester I

The New DiSP Young Researchers' Seminars are held regularly in both semesters, and they provide a forum for presentation of work in progress, be it by members of the PhD community, Postdoctoral fellows, or invited speakers, as well as an opportunity to discuss academic and administrative matters of mutual concern.

**Thursday 10 October 2024, 12:30 – 14:00** | Room S02, basement of the Luiss Residence, Via Lisbona, 7

#### **Samuele Lucidi, PhD Candidate, XXXX cycle**

“From Conflict to Cooperation? A Comparison Between Movement-Parties in Italy, France, and Spain”

**Abstract:** This research project aims to examine the impact of movement-parties on party systems in Southern Europe, focusing on Italy, Spain, and France. Drawing from literature on movement-parties (Kitschelt 2006; della Porta et al. 2017) and party system change (Mair 1997), it addresses two key questions: how the emergence and institutionalization of movement-parties affect political competition, and how their relationships with mainstream parties evolve over time - from conflictual to potentially cooperative (De Vries & Hobolt 2020). The study employs a comparative approach, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Key indicators of party change, such as electoral volatility, rate of party innovation and effective number of parties (Chiaramonte & Emanuele 2014), will be analyzed alongside elite interviews and political discourses to capture the evolving dynamics between challenger and traditional parties. This project aims to bridge the gap in the literature, which has focused more on the causes and characteristics of movement-parties rather than their lasting effects on political systems.

#### **Anna Pereti, PhD Candidate, XXXX cycle**

“Party Politics, Restrictive Policies and Local Responsibilities: Unveiling the Dynamics of Integration Governance in Western European Cities”

**Abstract:** In a European context marked by increasingly restrictive national policies and rising migration flows, Western cities have emerged as key actors in integration governance. This study explores the extent to which local integration policies are converging across different national contexts. Utilizing the Multi-Level Governance (MLG) framework, the analysis addresses both horizontal dynamics—engagement with local actors, city networks, and civil society—and vertical interactions, linking local authorities to national and European institutions. A preliminary comparative study of eight European cities, followed by an in-depth case study on Barcelona, Marseille, and Naples, examines the factors shaping local responses to integration. By investigating the role of municipal networks and the interplay between local and national governance, this research provides new insights into the evolving landscape of integration policies and the potential convergence across Western European cities.

#### **Michele Pertosa, PhD Candidate, XXXX cycle**

“Shifting Global Power Dynamics: The Role of US Foreign Policy in European Defence Cooperation”

**Abstract:** This project aims at studying the impact of the United States' foreign policy on the European defence cooperation process.

The research interest rests on the dynamics of the global landscape that are showing increasing competition between Washington and Beijing, the US main priority, while Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put State security back on the European agenda. This framing of priorities shows why Europe, now a secondary theatre for the US, must strengthen its autonomy in defence.

The present doctoral proposal implicates holding scholarly knowledge in International Relations theory, master its intellectual tenets and main operationalizations in the field of defence. In addition, European integration studies could lend important contribution to the development of my upcoming theoretical framework of analysis.

The core argument advanced is that the varying in US foreign policy is causally affecting the development of the European defence integration process.

The proposed doctoral investigation foresees a qualitative research design. At the methodological level, a selected number of case studies will process trace different steps in the causal relation to be investigated. This project presents a solid empirical dimension. Data collection activities shall encompass desk research, archival investigation, semi-structured interviews and focus groups with defence elites.

**Thursday 31 October 2024, 12:30 – 14:00** | Room S02, basement of the Luiss Residence, Via Lisbona

**Nicolas Sebastian Soto Troncoso, PhD Candidate, XXXX cycle**

“Assessing the determinants of public transparency and its impact on corruption at the sub-national level”

**Abstract:** Over recent decades, public transparency has gained significant attention in the field of public policy. Governments and international organizations regard transparency as a benchmark of good governance and as a necessary condition for greater public accountability. Nonetheless, despite the substantial political and economic resources devoted by governments to the implementation of transparency measures, the literature remains inconclusive when it comes to understanding the conditions under which transparency can improve accountability and control of corruption. At the sub-national level evidence also remains limited, and only a few empirical studies have conceptualized and measured the determinants of transparency in local governments, as well as the impact of transparency policies on controlling corruption in cities.

In this work, I first propose to analyse the specific mechanisms that influence the variance between sub-national governments in terms of implementing public transparency measures. Preliminary observations indicate that the effective deployment of transparency tools at the sub-national level is contingent upon the capacity to invest in costly training, infrastructure, and personnel. Therefore, I hypothesize that greater resources available to local governments lead to more successful implementation of transparency policies.

A second objective of this work will be to assess the impact of transparency policies on corruption at the local level. On this matter, I propose the hypothesis that the variation in the impact of transparency measures on corruption in cities is influenced by the extent to which the free press and civil society utilize available information to advocate for public accountability.

To address both research questions and test the proposed hypotheses, I will employ a two-site case study and process-tracing methodologies. Data collection will involve key qualitative research methods, including document analysis (e.g., legislation, reports) and qualitative interviews.

**Adalgisa Martinelli, PhD Candidate, GEM-DIAMOND**

“The narrative of European food sovereignty: a new (hi)story?”

**Abstract:** The European Union has been navigating a tumultuous period marked by several crises. These crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, alongside geopolitical tensions between the US and the rising economic power of China, have heightened a sense of insecurity and unpredictability among Europeans. This sentiment has called into question the stability of the EU. Hence, in an increasingly fragmented world, the EU has adopted a sovereignty *repertoire* to address internal and external challenges. Internally, the agri-food sector has been under the spotlight of mounting dissensus with Europeans exposed to images in the newspapers of empty shelves during the Covid-19 pandemic and, soon after, of tractors destroying Brussels. In this perspective, the paper discusses the evolution of European food sovereignty (EFS) from scratch to current developments. The paper refers to the epistemological debate linking global food crises and food sovereignty, and it departs from the official definition of La Via Campesina, by operationalizing EFS in terms of food *autonomy*, *self-sufficiency*, and increased *domestic production*. This European *declination* echoes food sovereignty principles, but it is distant from the system transformation envisaged by grassroots movements; therefore, the different operationalization is justified to unpack the roots of the current food sovereignty discussions in Europe. Indeed, the paper aims to show how discussions on EFS have been envisaged since the creation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 1962. By adopting a qualitative content analysis of official EU policies and secondary sources, the paper explores the evolution of food sovereignty in Europe with 5 key official documents: (1) the first CAP, (2) the June 2003 reform, which provided the foundation to set up the Single common market organization in 2007 (3) the EU’s Strategic Plan for Food Systems Resilience post-COVID-19, (4) the Report from the Strategic Dialogue for the future of Agriculture and (5) the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024–2029. The analysis explores how the EU's approach to food sovereignty has evolved, situating current proposals within broader discussions about European integration, sustainability and global economic restructuring. By operationalizing EFS, the paper aims to demonstrate how this new story extends beyond the agri-food sector, towards discussions on the ontology of a ‘Sovereign Europe’ project.

**Carmelo Fronte, PhD Candidate, Cycle XXXX**

“The places of the “invisibles”: peripheralization as a source of abstentionism and propensity to vote to demarcationist parties in European Parliament elections (2004-2024). A cross comparative study between Inner Peripheries within the European Union”

**Abstract:** "Peripherality" is one of the main causes of the disparities between the different areas of Europe. The concept of "peripherality" refers to a polarization of space, i.e. the diffusion of resources (socio-economic, political, infrastructural, etc.) in the territory. Today we talk about Inner Peripheries, an apparently oxymoronic expression, which refers precisely to a concept of "non-spatial" and, therefore, functional peripherality (Copus, 2001).

Certainly, the phenomenon has been accelerated by the processes of globalization and supranational integration: the Inner Peripheries, unable to benefit from these processes, are defeated. In the "losers of modernization" this generates psychological reactions (anxiety, relative deprivation, sense of threat) that produce effects of "marginalization" and "sense of abandonment". This issue, as a product of globalization, is therefore also part of the area of studies on Transnational Cleavage (Hooghe and Marks 2018).

The present study aims to investigate how the socio-economic conditions of these sub-national realities influence the electoral choices of their inhabitants, making a comparison between the different Inner Peripheries present in Western Europe, collecting and analysing data from the 5 elections for the European Parliament that were held between 2004 and 2024.

Thursday 07 November 2024, 12:30 – 14:00 | Room S02, basement of the Luiss Residence, Via Lisbona, 7

**Katharina Weber, PhD Candidate, GEM-DIAMOND**

“Navigating dissensus beyond borders: The case of deforestation-free supply chains”

**Abstract:** The chapter focuses on the external dimension of dissensus. Using the EU Regulation on deforestation-free supply chains (EUDR) as a case study, the chapter dives into dynamics and power structures of external contestation. Specifically, the chapter asks which are the main forces of external contestation and how have they influenced the design of the EUDR? External contestation refers to the process of negotiation and conflict between different actors in the international system over the construction and diffusion of norms and values. The chapter builds on document analysis and interviews conducted with key stakeholders in Brussels, Accra, and Jakarta. The EU’s identity and its external action is characterised by normative considerations. The EUDR provides an example of the EU extending the regulation of environmental concerns beyond its jurisdiction through territorial extension. This has been met with allegations of discrimination and neo-colonialism from third countries. The chapter examines empirically how different stakeholders participating in external contestation shaped the legislative proposal of the EUDR and its implementation. It further delves into which voices of contestation were not or only partly heard and acknowledged. This provides insights on what moves the EU to bow to international pressure and where the EU prioritises internal norms and interests.

**Ester Flumeri, PhD Candidate, IUSS Pavia**

“Gender Gap in Political Attitudes: Inequality or Difference? “

**Abstract:** Sustainability is a complex concept that pertains to the relationship between the economy and society and thus extends to broader social sustainability, of which gender equality is one of the pillars. Previous research has shown that a significant portion of gender differences in political attitudes can be attributed to gender inequalities. However, even after accounting for these inequalities, are there still significant gender differences in the modern gender gap? Does gender truly impact values and attitudes, and does this hold even when considering social hierarchy? The objective of this study is to identify current gender inequalities and explore potential gender differences in political attitudes and values. This study employs quantitative analysis and, embracing an intersectional approach, provides a longitudinal perspective on how this phenomenon has developed and changed over recent decades across different countries in Europe and possibly, even outside Europe. Findings will contribute to formulating more inclusive policy recommendations contextualized within the 2030 Agenda.

**María-Luisa Sánchez-Barrueco, Senior Lecturer in EU Law, University of Deusto**

“Public integrity in the EU: Accountability mechanisms and Institutional design”

**Abstract:** In recent years, the legitimacy of the European Union (EU) has come under scrutiny, largely due to a series of high-profile ethics scandals that have damaged the reputation of key institutions. The European Commission is facing judicial action for its opaque handling of joint vaccine procurement during the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Parliament has been rocked by a cash-for-amendments scandal, with several members arrested and charged with corruption, money laundering, and organized crime. Additionally, the President of the European Court of Auditors resigned after media revelations of inappropriate relationships with cabinet members, while a former member of the same institution lost their pension following a Court of Justice ruling for financial misconduct.

In light of these recent scandals, this seminar will explore the effectiveness of the EU's accountability mechanisms in preventing ethical breaches. Using Bovens' conceptualization of accountability as a social relationship between an actor and a forum, the seminar will introduce a four-layer theoretical framework that analyzes both the means and willingness of actors and forums involved in these cases. Participants will also discuss broader issues, including institutional learning and the risks associated with overlegalization in governance.

**Thursday 14 November 2024, 12.300 – 14:00** | Room S02, basement of the Luiss Residence, Via Lisbona, 7

### **PhD Forum Meeting**

**Thursday 21 November 2024, 12.300 – 14:00** | Room S02, basement of the Luiss Residence, Via Lisbona, 7

#### **John Delury, Professor of Chinese Studies, Yonsei University**

“The Cold War as IR Paradigm: A Historian's Perspective “

**Abstract:** Are the United States and China fighting a new Cold War? Xi Jinping and Joe Biden insist no. But are sure we understand the question itself? This talk will examine the different discursive meanings of the term “Cold War” depending on the epistemic community and geographic locus, focusing on the intersection between historiographical writing and international affairs discourse. Most IR discussion is premised on “traditional” historiographical frameworks such as bipolarity, strategic stability, and liberal victory. But how does the contemporary meaning of the question change when we consider 21<sup>st</sup> century historical scholarship as found in trends like global Cold War history, social history of the Cold War, and history of the covert? The revised view of the past yields fresh questions about current dynamics between the US and China.

#### **Marco Martino, PhD Candidate, Scuola Normale Superiore**

“Communists are beyond death?” Enrico Berlinguer and the militant experience of endless grief.

**Abstract:** On June 11, 1984, Vincenza, a communist militant, wrote: «Enrico Berlinguer is dead. It felt like a personal loss, not just for me but for all communists and even non-communists. When a man's life holds value for others, his death brings collective suffering and leaves an irreparable void».

Forty years later, historiography continues to grapple with the full impact of Berlinguer's death on the communist body politic and Italian society. Much of the debate centers on the mythical memory of his funeral, often neglecting the human experiences surrounding that farewell.

This work delves into the existential meanings of Berlinguer's death for grassroots militants and examines how this mourning affected the unity of the Italian Communist Party (PCI). By employing concepts from political anthropology, particularly *liminality* and *death of father*, and analyzing primary sources such as militants' letters and diaries, I argue that Berlinguer's death was experienced as a profound social drama. This unresolved grief highlights the existing fractures within the PCI. The party felt orphaned, stripped of the only master of ceremonies capable of bearing the political authority necessary to guide it through the uncertainty and creativity of the liminal period that began in those days of common sorrow.

**Uğur Bulgan, Postdoc, Luiss University**

“*Jus post Terrōrem*: A Sisyphean Task for Just War Theory? “

**Abstract:** Terrorism has been a significant problem in the political life of peoples. States fought, and in many cases keep fighting, against the waves of the anarchist, anti-colonial, leftist, separatist, and religious terrorism. Waging such war is commonly justified by *jus ad bellum* arguments. The conduct in warfighting against terrorism is morally evaluated by *jus in bello* principles. However, the post-terrorism justice remains relatively undertheorized –if not completely untheorized. Political philosophy literature on terrorism does not provide much in terms of what should be done after terrorism. Just war theory could be an auspicious reference point for answering post-terrorism justice questions. In this article, I shall reconstruct *jus post bellum* and critically assess its practical and normative capacity for grounding a satisfactory theory of justice after terrorism. My quest also leads to the examination of the rules for just termination of warfighting against terrorists, i.e. *jus ex terrōre*.

**Thursday 05 December 2024, 12.300 – 14:00** | Room S02, basement of the Luiss Residence, Via Lisbona, 7

**Marine Fiedler, Postdoc, Luiss University**

“From one empire to another: A merchant’s role in the circulation of colonial knowledge between the British and the German Empire (around 1900) “

**Abstract:** At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a merchant from Hamburg deeply involved with the British colony of Singapore, Eduard Lorenz Lorenz-Meyer (1856-1926), contributed to the circulation of colonial knowledge about Southeast Asia. Drawing on a chapter of a PhD thesis about Lorenz-Meyer’s family published in 2022, the presentation will show how this merchant transmitted colonial knowledge as collector and adviser of several German and British institutions in the fields of ethnography, natural history and trade. His case thus underlines the transimperial circulation of knowledge between the British and German empires in a dynamic of competition and collaboration, as well as the multiplicity of non-scientific actors involved in this circulation. Building on these research results, the presentation will also be the occasion to lay the first stones of a new postdoc project on the transnationalcirculation of colonial knowledge in the 20<sup>th</sup> century before and after the decolonization process.

**Flavia Canestrini, Postdoc, Luiss University**

“For a “consensus on both sides of the aisle of Congress.” Sanctions and Contra aid in the 1980s. “

**Abstract:** Through the study of the imposition of the embargo against Nicaragua in May 1985 and the Congressional votes over Contra aid, this paper explores the role of economic sanctions in building a cross-party consensus on U.S. foreign policy in Nicaragua. The measures imposed by the Reagan administration served to shift the Congressional votes by bringing, between April and June 1985, Democratic House members to support contra aid. Economic sanctions allowed the Reagan administration to reach a majority in a Democratic-led House of Representatives. In particular, the rhetoric surrounding the decision to impose an embargo served to sway votes in favor of the administration’s line and at the same time to defuse any foreign policy alternatives coming from the Democratic party.