

Interdisciplinary Researches on Populism, Accountability, and Active Citizenship Project Presentation

Preliminaries of the project

The project of this research derives from a preliminary workshop about: «Populism and Tecnocracy», that had been held on March 2018 at Sophia University Institute (IUS), during which some ideas on this topic were discussed on an interdisciplinary level. The theme of populism was deepened in a second seminar on: «Illusory People and Identity Relationships», in March 2019. Following these two events, a research project was proposed, which was approved by University of Bologna - Department of Management (DISA), and Sophia University Institute - Center for Research on Politics and Human Rights (PHR) about: «Interdisciplinary Researches on Populism, Accountability, and Active Citizenship». The scientific directors of the research are: prof. Maria Gabriella Baldarelli (for DISA), prof. Antonio Maria Baggio (for PHR). The research will take place in the 2020-2022 period.

First result

The first result of this research will be the following book:

Combatting Populism – Responsibility and Accountability in Community and business

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Description

This book takes into consideration the development of different forms of populism over the past two decades in various countries with democratic political systems. Despite the diversity existing between current populisms, political sciences reveal some common elements: the tendency to diminish the role of political representation with respect to forms of direct democracy, the centrality of the relationship between the "charismatic leader" and the part of citizenship that supports him, the idealization of "people" in such a way as to feed nationalist ideologies that undermine international agreements and the processes of building supranational political entities. What are the effects of these phenomena on the instruments, rules and culture of democracy? These require citizens to have a regulated and organized political participation and not only a plebiscitary type, a careful limitation of powers and a balance between them and not an uncontrolled concentration of them, constant monitoring of the work of the people elected to public office and not an uncritical delegation to the leaders. To what extent do contemporary populisms undermine these fundamental principles of democracy? For what reasons attracted strong acclaim? How can we respond to the real needs that can be at the basis of populisms, not abandoning democratic principles, but finding a better application of them? This book addresses these problems through an interdisciplinary approach. In this context accountability has a very important role for emancipate relationships. The combination of "to account" (what ant to whom) and "responsibility" are concepts that are very important as serving power as well as serving the poor. Especially, the term responsibility is not only social but requires awareness and active participation both as stakeholders but also as individual citizens.

The book will be published in 2022 by: Springer Nature Switzerland AG, Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland, Series CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance (contract signed in July 2020)
 Researchers interested in this project can write to either M.G. Baldarelli maria.baldarelli@unibo.it or A. M. Baggio am.baggio@sophiauniversity.org

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