

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The 2014 European elections: Italian politics and the European challenge

14-15 January 2015

*University of Strathclyde
Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street
Room GH514*

*Conference hosted by the University of Strathclyde,
European Policies Research Centre, School of Government and Public Policy,
with the sponsorship of the PSA's Italian Politics Specialist Group*

Organisers:

Arianna Giovannini (University of Huddersfield)

Laura Polverari (University of Strathclyde)

Antonella Seddone (University of Cagliari)



14 January 2015

12.30+ Registration

13.00-13.15 Welcome & introduction (Dr Arianna Giovannini, University of Huddersfield)

13.15-14.30 **Keynote address: European elections, independence referendums and the evolving Italian political framework**

Michael Keating – Professor of Politics at the University of Aberdeen and Director of the ESRC Scottish Centre on Constitutional Change

Chair: Laura Polverari, University of Strathclyde

14.30-16.15 **Panel 1 – The EU elections results and their impact on the Italian political landscape**

Chair: Mark Donovan, Cardiff University

The Italian political landscape continues to be characterised by instability and fragility. The general elections of February 2013 returned a fragmented Parliament with no clear winner. The 2014 European elections can therefore be seen as a test of the solidity of the older political actors, like the Democratic Party, and of the continued appeal of new ones, such as the Movimento Cinque Stelle.

The EU: a new cleavage for Italian politics? The 2014 European Election Campaign in the mainstream media

Giuliano Bobba (University of Turin) and Antonella Seddone (University of Cagliari)

It is not different this time. The EU Election 2014 in the European newspapers

Marinella Belluati (University of Turin)

What role for the candidate-Presidents of the Commission in the election campaign?

Edoardo Bressanelli (King's College London)

Beyond the Renzi-effect. Italian MEPs in the wind of change

Pellegrino Cammino (University of Siena) and Luca Verzichelli (University of Siena)

No Elections for Big Parties: European Elections and National Party System Fragmentation in the Italian Context

Pedro Riera (University of Strathclyde) and Elias Dinas (Oxford University)

16.15-16.45 **Coffee Break**

16.45-18.15 Panel 2 – Euro-scepticism, nationalism and populism

Chair: Brian Girvin, University of Glasgow

Never as in recent years has the public debate been animated by populist tensions. In all European countries movements and populist political parties are flourishing. These actors are finding in the European elections a perfect stage to test their public appeal. At the same time, the European Union becomes the target of anti-political and antiparty rhetoric, linked to the accusation of having exacerbated the pressure of the economic crisis via the austerity measures imposed on Member States.

Euroscepticals and Euroscepticisms in Italy and Greece

Roberto De Rosa ('Tuscia' University of Viterbo) and Dario Quattromani (Roma Tre' University of Rome)

The fate of protest: a qualitative comparative analysis of the electoral stabilization of anti-system parties in contemporary western Europe

Mattia Zulianello (Scuola Normale Superiore)

Euroscepticism, governmental parties and the European Elections. Northern and Southern EU member states in comparative perspective (1999-2014)

Stefano Rombi (University of Cagliari)

Gauging the boundaries of Religion, Europeanization and Nationalism: 'EU pragmatism' and Fidesz in Hungary

Umut Korkut (Glasgow Caledonian University)

18.15 Drinks reception, followed by conference dinner (optional)



15 January 2015

9.00-10.15 Panel 3 –The difficult path of European integration

Chair: Gabriela Borz, University of Strathclyde

The European Union is a political experiment that now involves 28 countries and is set to expand further in the coming years. However, the integration process is far from uncontested, and the challenge of achieving social, cultural and economic integration appears far from being resolved. The recent economic crisis has revealed the fragility of the European Union's system, bringing to the surface tensions between and within the Member States.

Unfolding imperfect representation across Europe: the case of European integration
Gabriela Borz (University of Strathclyde)

Closing the gap? The impact of the 2014 European election on the voting dynamics concerning the EU cohesion policy
Alba Smeriglio (University of Strathclyde) and Stefano Braghiroli (University of Tartu)

Constituency, National or European Orientation? Using parliamentary questions to measure political representation in the European Parliament
Fabio Sozzi (University of Genoa)

10.15-10.45 Coffee Break



10.45-12.30 Panel 4 – Going Forward: Italy between domestic challenges & European demands

Chair: Paul Furlong, Cardiff University

The Italian political system is at a delicate juncture. The economic crisis has dictated the agenda for recent governments, highlighting the necessity of major political and institutional reforms. Against a variety of domestic and European challenges, are political conditions in Italy ripe to initiate a comprehensive reform programme, able to address such different demands?

Institutional Change and the Eurozone Crisis'
Paul Furlong (University of Cardiff)

Institutional Reform to Respond to the EU Challenge: Renzi's Constitutional Reform Project
Martin J. Bull (University of Salford)

The Territorial Politics of Immigrant Integration in Italy: Regionalism and 'the Other' in Veneto and Sardinia'
Eve Hepburn (University of Edinburgh)

From the 'Northern Question' to the 'Personal Question'? An electoral analysis of Veneto in the 2014 European Election
Elisa Lello (University of Urbino) and Natascia Porcellato (University of Cagliari)

The Italian Partito Democratico: an 'agnostic' party, between technocratic and populist discourses
Lilia Giugni (University of Cambridge) and Lucia Rubinelli (University of Cambridge)

12.30-13.30 Round table – Italy and Europe: between Europhilia and Euroscepticism

Martin J. Bull (University of Salford), Roberto di Quirico (Università di Cagliari), Franca Roncarolo (University of Torino), Myrto Tsakatika (Glasgow University), Mark Shephard (University of Strathclyde)

Moderator: James L. Newell (University of Salford)

13.30-13.45 Thanks and closing of conference (Antonella Seddone)



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