

**31** MAR 2021  
14:30 WET

WORKSHOP

# THE MULTIFACETED VIEW OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

BETWEEN LIBERAL AND ANTI-LIBERALS REGIMES  
IN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA 2ND EDITION

CONSENSUS AND LEGITIMACY IN THE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC  
BETWEEN NEW TECHNOLOGIES, CONSPIRACY THEORIES, AND POPULISM

## CONVENORS

Goffredo Adinolfi CIES-Iscte and Giuseppe Ballacci CEPS, UMinho

## SPEAKERS

Paula Diehl University of Kiel, Alan Finlayson University of East Anglia, Paolo Gerbaudo King's College London, Mayra Goulart UFRJ and PPGCS/UFRRJ, Andrea Molle Chapman University, João Rosas CEPS, UMinho

The pandemic is deeply affecting our societies not only for the terrible toll it has taken in terms of lives lost, as well as social and economic negative effects, but also for how it is changing people's thoughts and beliefs. Conspiracy theories in particular are playing a pivotal role in further undermining social trust in liberal democracy. In this respect, we can say that the pandemic has erupted in the middle of a deep-rooted crisis of liberal democracy, which it has significantly contributed to aggravate. Far right populist parties have tried to seize the opportunity to fuel such generalized distrust and advance their agenda. But if populism thrives in moments of crisis, it is still to be seen whether these parties will be able to benefit from this exceptional situation. In the United States, for instance, Donald Trump played the card of minimizing the effects of the pandemic, at the same time inciting people's suspicion toward the establishment and science, but with no clear results in terms of political gains. Something similar happened in Brazil, with Bolsonaro. In other countries such as Germany, Italy, France and Spain we have seen widespread demonstrations against an alleged "sanitary totalitarianism" put in place by hidden elites in order to carry out "a big reset" of the entire economic system. The real political significance of these manifestations is still to be seen, however.

Be that as it may, what is clear is that the pandemic will have a significant impact on the overall legitimacy of liberal democracies around the world, especially regarding the vexed question of their crisis of representativeness. The moment thus is propitious for a reassessment of contemporary forms of political representation in its different models - liberal democracy, authoritarianism and illiberal democracies - in underlying factors of transformation, instability and fragility. A particular focus will be put on the relationship between new technologies and the widespread use of radicalised forms of religion as a way to establish connections with "the people" in a conspiratorial environment. This is the goal of this workshop, which follows up on a similar event that took place last year before the pandemic began.

FREE ENTRY

ONLINE  
<https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/84848275538>

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## 14h30 | OPENING REMARKS

### 14h45 | SESSION 1

Chair: Goffredo Adinolfi CIES-Iscte

Shifting representation

Paula Diehl Kiel

The not so thin ideology  
of right-wing populism

João Rosas CEPS, UMinho

From difference to equivalence:  
Laclauian hypotheses about the  
legislative trajectory of Jair Bolsonaro  
Mayra Goulart UFRJ and PPGCS/UFRRJ

16h15 | Coffee break

## 16h30 | SESSION 2

Chair: Giuseppe Ballacci CEPS, UMinho

Digital political reaction:

The relationship between form and  
content in online conservatisms

Alan Finlayson East Anglia

Populism and anti-elitism amid the  
pandemic: Analysing the reasons behind  
suspicion of experts and intellectuals

Paolo Gerbaudo King's College London

The Italian extreme right between  
religion, contagion and conspiracy

Andrea Molle Chapman

Goffredo Adinolfi CIES-Iscte

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