

## **Right wing and populist parties and Europe: a view from Italy**

*Call for papers*

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In October 2022, Giorgia Meloni, leader of the radical right-wing party Fratelli d'Italia, became Italy's first female Prime Minister.

While Meloni recorded a personal success, with 26% of the votes, the other two partners of the winning coalition, Berlusconi's Forza Italia's and Salvini's Lega, substantially underperformed at the elections, scoring both around 8% of valid votes. Overall, the right-wing coalition only achieved 44% of total votes, a minority of the Italian electorate, in an election which also recorded a very low participation rate.

Meloni's government is certainly the most radical right-wing administration in Italy after the end of the second world war. However, Italy already had a right-wing populist coalition in power from March 2018 to August 2019, with the first Conte Government.

This workshop aims at exploring how right wing and populist parties, once in power, deal with the question of Europe. Despite the fact that, before winning power, right wing and populist parties are often, overtly, against the EU and EU policies, once in government their position changes substantially and the threats to leave the EU are often substituted by requests of an increased involvement of the EU in the management of especially economic and migratory policies, but not only.

This workshop endeavours to explore the anti-EU narrative of right wing and populist parties and investigate how it changes after they win power. The analysis will be predicated around the case of Italy which represents one of the clearer examples of this dynamics in the EU, having now had two right wing populist governments.

The questions asked are: How do right wing and populist parties deal with Europe before and after winning the elections? Does the question of Europe influence the results of the elections? Which policies are more relevant for right wing and populist parties in relation to Europe? How does the EU deal with right wing and populist parties before and after they are in power?

The workshop will bring together early-career and senior scholars to discuss party competition, political campaigns, voters' attitudes, and future geopolitical, social, and economic scenarios. Possible topics can include: PNRR, EU and transatlantic relations, impact of Ukraine war, migration, technocracy, state of emergency, political campaigns, social media, party competition, neo-fascist legacies, gender etc.

The workshop will take place in London on 17 March 2023 within the context of the Centre for Italian Politics at the EIS department of King's College London. It will likely result in the publication of an edited book already discussed with Edward Elgars.