

Study Days on Social Movements and Political Participation V Edition

Messina, May 14-15-16, 2026

Political and Legal Sciences Department, Piazza XX Settembre, 4

THURSDAY, MAY 14th

Room Buccisano, Political and Legal Sciences Department (Piazza XX Settembre, 4)

- 2.00 pm **GREETINGS**
Alessandro Morelli (Director of Political and Legal Sciences Department, Messina)
Conference Organising Committee
- 2.15 – 3.45 pm **PANEL 1 - Democracy, Deliberation, and Identity in Social Movements**
Chair: Giuseppe Lipari (SNS)
Discussants: Federica Frazzetta (SNS), Giuseppe Lipari (SNS), Federica Stagni (SNS)
- This panel focuses on the democratic life of social movements themselves, examining how inclusion, deliberation, and belonging are produced from below. The papers explore intersectionality in deliberative settings, the internal construction of social demands, and the capacity of movements to turn fear into solidarity and democratic security. Taken together, they show that movements are not only actors making democratic claims on institutions, but also spaces in which democratic practices are enacted, negotiated, and transformed.
- Ludovica Berlingieri** (University of Reggio Calabria), *Intersectionality and (deliberative) democracy: Who is not in this room and why are they not here?* [discussed by Federica Stagni]
- Iraide Gutiérrez Busto** (UNED), *Ekologistak Martxan: Deliberation and the Shaping of Social Demands in a Social Movement* [discussed by Federica Frazzetta]
- Manuel Nuñez Fernandez** (UNED), *UTEP: identity constructions and political practices in the process of resistance to the Argentine government of Javier Milei* [discussed by Giuseppe Lipari]
- Francesco Barbalace** (University of Genoa), *Governing Green from Below. Eco-Rationalization, Conflict, and the Ambivalent Politics of Municipal Green Plans* [discussed by Giuseppe Lipari]
- 3.45 – 4.15 pm **Coffee break**
- 4.15 – 6.00 pm **ROUNDTABLE - “La lotta contro il ponte: giustizia sociale, ambientale e prospettive intersezionali” ***
Chair: Federico Alagna (SNS)

Speakers:

Elena Grimaldi (Assemblea No Ponte - Messina)

Federico Giordanelli (La Base - Cosenza)

Giulio Sturniolo (Collettivo Pantera - Messina)

Francesca Frisone (Collettivo Morgan3)

Gianni Piazza (SG MoPa)

7.30 pm

Social dinner

[La Tovaglia Volante](#), Via Mario Giurba, 27 (ME)

[for people who have confirmed their participation]

9.00 pm

Theatrical performance “Scecco, Cavallo e Re”

[Caffè Letterario Voltapagina](#), Strada San Giacomo, 13 (ME)

[free entry]

FRIDAY, MAY 15th

Room Buccisano, Political and Legal Sciences Department (Piazza XX Settembre, 4)

10.00 – 11.30 am

PANEL 2 - Green Transition and Ecological Conflicts

Chair Paola Imperatore (University of Pisa)

Discussants: **Domenica Farinella** (University of Messina) **Lidia Lo Schiavo** (University of Messina), **Gianni Piazza** (University of Catania)

This panel explores the conflicts, inequalities, and competing visions of development that shape contemporary ecological transitions across different regional contexts. The contributions examine environmental political mobilizations in sub-Saharan Africa, territorial conflicts over renewable energy infrastructures in Italy, migrant labourers’ agency within processes of just transition, and anti-extractivist resistance to lithium mining in southwestern Spain.

Simone Guglielmelli (University of Calabria), *Energy Transition, Territorial Conflicts, and Development Visions: A Comparative Analysis of Calabria and Tuscany* [discussed by Gianni Piazza]

Martina Lo Cascio (University of Palermo), **Emilio Caja** (University of Lisbon), **Ippolita Basile** (University of Palermo), **Greta Tommesani** (Contadinazioni), **Luigi Conte** (University of Cà Foscari, Venice), *Just Transition, ‘Fare Casa’ and the Migrant Labourers’ Agency: An Analysis Based on the Countryside and Life in Informal Settlements* [discussed by Domenica Farinella]

Julián Panadero García (UCM), *“No a la mina”: an assessment of the anti-extractivist framework to explain the EU’s energy transition from southwestern Spain* [discussed by Lidia Lo Schiavo]

11.30 – 12.00 pm

Coffee break

12.00 – 1.30 pm

PANEL 3 - Social Movements, Memories and Emotions

Chair: **Massimiliano Andretta** (University of Pisa)

Discussants: **Massimiliano Andretta** (University of Pisa), **Eugenio Cusumano** (University of Messina), **Federica Frazzetta** (SNS)

This panel explores the role of emotions, memory, and symbolic processes in shaping social movements under contemporary conditions of conflict, repression, and democratic uncertainty. The contributions examine how fear, solidarity, and belonging are produced and transformed within collective action; how emotional repertoires evolve in response to transnational repression; how affective communication contributes to democratic erosion; and how historical memory is reworked to sustain present-day mobilization. Bringing together papers on anti-war diaspora activism, affective populism, democratic security, and the symbolic recovery of distant historical figures in the NO TAV movement, the panel highlights the analytical value of studying the emotional and mnemonic dimensions of contention.

Alice Franchini (SNS), *A Study of Social Movements' Use of Distant Historical Figures in the Case of the NO TAV Movement's Recovery of fra Dolcino and Margherita* [[discussed by Federica Frazzetta](#)]

Elena Varotto (UCAM Murcia), *Affective Populism and the Measurement of Democratic Erosion: A Multimodal Qualitative Framework with Quantitative Extensions* [[discussed by Massimiliano Andretta](#)]

Tatiana Lysova (University of Milan-Bicocca), *Russian anti-war diaspora mobilisation and adaptation to transnational repression: From emotional outpour to security repertoires* [[discussed by Eugenio Cusumano](#)]

Eleonora Maria De Blasio (University of Messina), *Fear, Solidarity, and Belonging: Social Movements as Symbolic Spaces of Democratic Security* [[discussed by Massimiliano Andretta](#)]

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Lunch break

3.00 – 4.30 pm

PANEL 4 - Social Movements between Theory and Practice

Chair: Federica Frazzetta (SNS)

Discussants: Federico Alagna (SNS), Gianni Piazza (University of Catania), Federica Stagni (SNS), Giuliana Sorci (Independent Researcher)

This panel brings into dialogue theoretical reflection on social movements and the analysis of concrete practices of mobilisation across different contexts. The contributions address grassroots legal mobilisation against institutional unaccountability, the evolving repertoires of global movements from the “new global” cycle to the present, the transformative potential of collective action through a multi-level theoretical framework, and forms of civilian agency in protracted, low-intensity conflicts.

Francesca Fortarezza (Independent Researcher), *Law Against the State: Institutional Unaccountability and Grassroots Legal Mobilisation in Italy and Portugal* [[discussed by Federico Alagna](#)]

Marta Di Giacomo (University of Salento), *Understanding global movement. Theory and repertoires of grassroots mobilizations from new global to present days* [[discussed by Giuliana Sorci](#)]

Davide Grasso (University of Turin), **Lorenza Giorgetti** (University of Turin), **Alessandro Sciullo** (University of Turin), **Dario Padovan** (University of Turin), **Vittorio Marton** (University of Turin), *Prospettiva multilivello e*

azioni collettive nelle attivazioni genovesi post-alluvione (2011-2014)
[discussed by [Gianni Piazza](#)]

Chiara Minora (University of Milan), *Living between war and peace: civilian agency in protracted, low-intensity conflicts* [discussed by [Federica Stagni](#)]

Saturday, May 16th

Public meeting with local activists, citizens and academia

- 10.00 - 11.00 am **“Il Ponte sullo Stretto come dispositivo politico” ***
Fondazione [Horcynus Orca](#), Room Vincenzo Consolo
Viale Senatore Francesco Arena, Torre Faro (ME)
- Introduction: Gino Sturniolo (Assemblea No Ponte)
- Speakers:
Paola Imperatore (University of Pisa)
Gloria Pessina (Polytechnic University of Milano)
Alessandro Volpi (University of Pisa)
- 11.30 am - 1.00 pm **WORKING GROUPS ***
Fondazione [Horcynus Orca](#), Room Vincenzo Consolo
Viale Senatore Francesco Arena, Torre Faro (ME)
- 1) “Le ricadute socio-ambientali del ponte”
2) “Pratiche di lotta e resistenza”
- 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm **No-bridge walk** through some of the areas that would host the main bridge construction site, in the neighbourhoods of Faro and Ganzirri
- 5.00 - 7.00 pm **PLENARY SESSION ***
Via Mario Ciurba, 8 (ME)

*speaking language: Italian