



## Barcelona Research Seminar

January, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026  
2025-2026 Edition

Academic Programme & Activities

### **Day 1 – January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Wednesday)**

**9:00 AM - Welcome to Students and Staff from the Consortium Universities (Room 23.S05).**

**9:10 AM / 11:00 AM - Opening Lecture I. (Room 23.S05).**

**Crisis of democracy and neopopulism: conceptual, theoretical and methodological challenges**



*Speaker:* Prof. Paolo Graziano.

*About the Speaker:* Paolo Graziano is Professor of Political Science at the University of Padua, Research Associate at the European Social Observatory, Brussels and Chercheur associé at Sciences Po in Paris. He teaches Political Science and Public Policy Analysis. He has published several authored and edited volumes and journal special issues. His most recent book is “Elgar Encyclopedia of European Union Public Policy” (Elgar, 2022), co-edited with Jale Tosun. He is currently working on two book projects: the first (a monograph) is tentatively entitled “Crises, Leadership and Neopopulisms in the European Union”, and the second (co-edited with Ekaterina Domorenok and Katharina Zimmermann), just published, is entitled “The Eco-Social Nexus: Theoretical, Conceptual and Policy Issues” (to be submitted to Policy Press).

*Abstract:* Until recent times, populism has been studied primarily as a phenomenon regarding a) ‘right-wing’ parties; b) parties in opposition. Since 2010, first in the case of Hungary and Poland, and more recently in the case of Greece and Spain, populist parties have become even more pivotal in a number of political systems. Put differently, populism has changed political competition and has posed new challenges to

decision-making processes in various European Union countries. Furthermore, populism has been also fuelled by crises which may be associated to political, economic and socio-cultural origins: first, since 2007 the political trust (towards political parties and public institutions alike) has been following a negative trend until the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020; in 2008, the financial and economic crisis hit quite hard, especially in some countries; finally, the 2015 refugee crisis supported anti-immigration sentiments, making (especially right-wing) populist appeals potentially much more powerful. Against this background, the presentation will introduce the notion of populism and neopopulism, map the neopopulist parties active in European countries, illustrate the reasons of their success, focus on the cases where neopopulist parties in power are posing serious threats to democratic rule and conclude with final remarks on the future of neopopulist parties in European countries.

### **11:15 AM / 12:45 PM - Presentations of Second Year Students, Part I – Master Thesis Project**

Students will move into each of the assigned group rooms\*\*.

Practical seminar led by different professors from the four partner universities. Each student will have to present their research work in 5 minutes and will have an additional 40 minutes for questions and feedback from professors and the designated student discussant. The students will be divided into six whose distribution criteria will depend on the topic of the MA dissertations.

**Presentations will be divided between Day 1 and Day 2. Students who are not presenting must still attend their own group presentation.**

\*\* Check the [Group Distribution Handout](#) to know to which group, room and presentation you are assigned.

### **12:45 PM / 1:45 PM - Lunch Break (Restaurant in Roger de Llúria Building #40)**

### **1:45 PM / 2:30 PM - EPS Best Thesis Award 2025 – Presentation (Room 23.S05).**

Matilde Forno, from the 2025 EPS cohort will receive the Best Thesis Award and share her experience with current students.

### **2:45 PM / 4:15-5:00 PM Presentations of Second Year Students, Part II – Master Thesis Project**

Students will move into each of the assigned group rooms\*\*.

Practical seminar led by different professors from the four partner universities. Each student will have to present their research work in 5 minutes and will have an additional 40 minutes for questions and feedback from professors and the designated student discussant. The students will be divided into six groups (three groups of six students, and three groups of five students respectively), whose distribution criteria will depend on the topic of the MA dissertations.

**Presentations will be divided between Day 1 and Day 2.** *Students who are not presenting must still attend their own group presentation.*

\*\* Check the [Group Distribution Handout](#) to know to which group, room and presentation you are assigned.

**6:00 PM / 8:30 PM - Social Event**

The venue of the Social Event is Bridge 48 in Carrer de Llull 48, Barcelona.

**8:30 PM - End of Seminar, Day 1**

## Day 2 – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Thursday)

**9:00 AM / 11:00 AM - Opening Lecture II (Room 23.S05).**

**Don't forget power! Unpacking the social impact of policy and policy-making processes**



*Speaker:* Prof. Roberta Guerrina

*About the Speaker:* Roberta Guerrina is Professor in Politics and co-founder of EQUAL In-Sight, an interdisciplinary equality and inclusion consultancy focusing on holistic, evidence based approaches to equality mainstreaming. She researches the politics of gender, with a particular interest in EU politics, policy making processes and gender mainstreaming.

*Abstract:* What is policy? What roles does it play in shaping social interactions, hierarchies and structures of power? This session will explore the social impact of public policy through an analysis of the gendered and racialised nature of policy processes. Starting with Carol Bacchi's question, "What is the problem represented to be?", the session will problematise approaches to policy analysis

that treat policy as an independent and neutral site of research. Rather, drawing on the work of interpretive approaches to policy analysis, e.g. WPRB and Critical Frame Analysis, this session will demonstrate that policy is not merely a response to external events, it actually constitutes the "problem". In so doing, it reproduces social hierarchies and structure of power. The analysis presented here will centre the many manifestations of power in the policy cycle and will open a space for a more critical reflection on their social impact on the politics of the everyday, thus highlighting the necessity to embrace messiness in this field of study.

### **11:15 AM / 12:45 PM - Presentations of Second Year Students, Part III – Master Thesis Project**

Practical seminar led by different professors from the four partner universities. Each student will have to present their research work in 5 minutes and will have an additional 40 minutes for questions and feedback from professors and the designated student discussant. The students will be divided into six groups, whose distribution criteria will depend on the topic of the MA dissertations.

**Presentations will be divided between Day 1 and Day 2.** *2<sup>nd</sup> year students who are not presenting must still attend their own group presentation.*

\*\* Check the [Group Distribution Handout](#) to know to which group, room and presentation to review you are assigned.

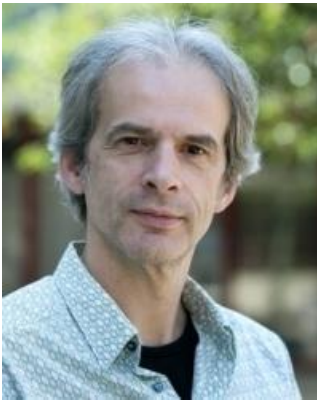
**12:45 PM / 1:30 PM - Lunch Break (Restaurant in Roger de Llúria Building #40)**

**1:30 PM / 3:30 PM - Methodological Workshops.**

Four different 120-minute session seminars will allow students to delve into different research methodologies. Students must choose one of the workshop lectures. Details for each seminar and speaker are provided below, alongside the room numbers.

Please register to attend one of the Workshop Seminars [in the following form](#). Bear in mind that the selection **is based on a first-come first-serve basis**. The number of slots allocated to each seminar is a maximum of 9 students. Even though we will be monitoring students' choices to check if the limit of students is met across workshop seminars, **students must check whether their group of choice is already full in the "Summary of previous results" link that appears after submitting the Google Form. In case they represent the 9+N student, they have the obligation to edit their form and select an alternative for the seminar. Otherwise, the BRS organisers shall redistribute students among the different groups.**

### 1) Reading Primary Sources



*Speaker:* Dr. Joost Augusteijn (Leiden University, The Netherlands)

*About the Speaker:* Dr. Joost Augusteijn studied history at the University of Amsterdam where he also obtained his PhD (1994) on the history of the Irish Republican Army. He subsequently worked as Lecturer in Modern Irish History at Trinity College, Dublin (1994-5) and Queen's University, Belfast (1995-2000). In 2000 he was appointed Assistant Professor in European History at Leiden University, since 2014 he has been Associate Professor. During his time at Leiden he spent a semester as visiting Associate Professor at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia (2004), and a year as a fellow-in-residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the

Humanities and Social Sciences (2010-2011).

*Abstract:* In this workshop we will analyze primary source material and discuss what questions you should ask, what information you can draw from it and how to contextualize this. After a joint session in which we will work on one source together, we will practice in groups with a small selection of sources on material from a specific topic (in this case the IRA) and try to draw conclusions on this at the end of the session.

*Venue:* Room 24.015

### 2) Bacchi's: What Is the Problem Represented to Be?



*Speaker:* Prof. Roberta Guerrina (University of Bristol, United Kingdom)

*About the Speaker:* Roberta Guerrina is Professor in Politics and co-founder of EQUAL In-Sight, an interdisciplinary equality and inclusion consultancy focusing on holistic, evidence based approaches to equality mainstreaming. She researches the politics of gender, with a particular interest in EU politics, policy making processes and gender mainstreaming. She is Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a leading feminist scholar of European integration.

*Venue:* Room 24.102

### 3) Qualitative research methods and elite interviews.



*Speaker:* Prof. Paolo Graziano (Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy)

*About the Speaker:* Paolo Graziano is Professor of Political Science at the University of Padua, Research Associate at the European Social Observatory, Brussels and Chercheur associé at Sciences Po in Paris. He teaches Political Science and Public Policy Analysis. He has published several authored and edited volumes and journal special issues. His most recent book is “Elgar Encyclopedia of European Union Public Policy” (Elgar, 2022), co-edited with Jale Tosun. He is currently working on two book projects: the first (a monograph) is tentatively entitled “Crises, Leadership and Neopopulisms in the European Union”, and the second (co-edited with Ekaterina Domorenok and Katharina Zimmermann), just

published, is entitled “The Eco-Social Nexus: Theoretical, Conceptual and Policy Issues” (to be submitted to Policy Press).

*Venue:* Room 24.202

### 4) Comparative and Transnational Approaches



*Speaker:* Prof. Brian Shaev (Leiden University, the Netherlands)

*About the Speaker:* Brian Shaev is a Lecturer at the institute for History at Leiden University. His research offers new perspectives on the ‘economic constitution’ of the early European Communities that later became the European Union. There exists a mythology in much of the public sphere today that ordoliberal ideas were hegemonic in the original European Economic Community but these claims are exaggerated to the point of inaccuracy. By examining transnational networks of socialists in the early European parliament and in national politics, we gain a new awareness of how open visions for a European political economy were in the 1950s-70s and what such visions might offer for a 21st-century single market in

today’s EU.

*Abstract:* Comparison is easier said than done. In this seminar we focus on the how and why of comparison, discussing how comparing cases can shed new light on each individual case and reveal larger trends and patterns that can give us a more encompassing understanding of the larger phenomenon in politics or international relations that we are seeking to understand. Comparison bears some similarity with transnational approaches because transnational approaches often include a comparative dimension. Scholars use transnational approaches to analyze how organizations and movements that span borders are created, operate, and in some cases, decline. Examples of organizations and networks that benefit from transnational approaches include the global disability movement, international organized crime, or the party groups in the European Parliament. We will situate transnationalism within a larger universe of scholarly approaches to cross-border activities and exchanges, including international and entangled approaches. Finally, we will also discuss potential pitfalls of comparative and transnational approaches and offer tips as to how to avoid them.

*Venue:* Room 24.400

3:30 PM / 4:00 PM - Closing ceremony of the Barcelona Research Seminar (Room 23.S05).



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Universitat  
Pompeu Fabra  
*Barcelona*



Erasmus+

## Location | Pompeu Fabra University, Campus Ciutadella



### Mercè Rodoreda - Building #23 & 24 Rooms

Basement | Auditorium 23.S05  
Ground floor | 24.015 - 24.019 -  
24.023  
1st floor | 23.103 - 24.102  
2nd floor | 24.202  
4th floor | 24.400

### [Campus Ciutadella](#)

Ramon Trias Fargas  
Street, 25-27 08005  
Barcelona

Metro: Line 4  
Ciutadella-Vila Olímpica  
Tram: Lines T4, T5  
Wellington or  
Ciutadella-Vila Olímpica

Bus: H16, V21, 136

[Your itinerary on Google Maps](#)

### Roger de Llúria - Building #40 Rooms

Basement | Restaurant

