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SPGI Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Giuridiche e Studi Internazionali

Call for Panels and Papers

Ex post Europe. Experts and politics on Science and Technology in Europe: a problem of democratic legitimacy and international reliability? The interplay between experts, political decision-makers and civil society representatives in foreign policy from the crisis of the 1970s to the “new” international and European system of the 1990s

Conference to be held in Padua, on 2nd and 3rd February 2017

Deadline for panel or paper proposals on 20th November 2016

Response by the organisation on 28st November 2016

Paper for the discussants to be send on 10th January 2017

Language English and French

Based on a research project in the University of Padua on the role of experts in science and technology as regards the Italian case from the crises of the 1970s to the beginning of a new international and European system in the early 1990s, the Conference aims to debate around the interplay between experts and political stakeholders/representatives in managing more generally national policies from an historical perspective linked to present trends thanks to an interdisciplinary approach. National policies in science and technology represent a stimulating point of view to suggest some definitions and trends for the role of experts/advisers in all national policies engaging a country at European and international levels. We verified the opportunities to exploit this lens in a workshop organized by the research project ExPost in Padua in December 2015 on the Italian case, and in another workshop at European Union Archives in Florence in May 2016 organized by the French partners of ExPost project Maison des Sciences de l'Homme d'Aquitaine SCOR Figures et métamorphoses de la société civile organisée : expertise(s), médiation(s) et pouvoirs (France et Europe occidentale de la fin du XIX^{ème} siècle au XXI^{ème} siècle) coordinated by Christine Bouneau (Université Bordeaux III Montaigne) and Robert Lafore (Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Bordeaux). For this reason the Conference is interested in panels and papers not only on the techno-scientific policies, but in economic-financial, social and cultural policy fields too. The test cases suggested have to be linked to international cooperation/competition in order to debate on a definition of the role of experts/advisers in national and multilateral decision making processes, and particularly whether the political stakeholders/representatives did actually take decisions or rather the experts did it in their place. In other words, the aim is understanding whether the politicians simply rubber-stamped the outcome of a decision making process led by experts and delegated to them, either as they lacked cognitive skills or because the experts tried lukewarmly to impress on them the pros and cons involved. The decision process, in this way, might loose any democratic legitimacy, calling into question first of all the responsibility of a ruling class of which the politicians and the experts are part, and secondly the role of the civil society representatives.

The role of experts has been studied by the European integration, and the international organization history, as well as social by cultural, and technology history. More specifically as regards the state of art, by taking stock of several test cases we would debate on the multifaceted definition of experts in their relation with the stakeholders and the civil society representatives in the framework of the European integration evolving between national and international levels. Interventions inspired by a interdisciplinary historical approach are welcomed as well as linking present trends. Finally, the general aim of the conference is giving the opportunity to connect colleagues for a future network on a wider consideration of the interplay between experts, political stakeholders (Governments, Parliaments, parties) and civil society representatives in the decision-making process with regard to the international dimension of national, and European policies on science and technology facing to economic, political and ethic challenges.

The organisation will cover travel and hospitality expenses.

For papers we request a brief CV and the abstract of the proposal in one page; for panels we need the abstract of the panel in one page with the names of the participants and discussant as well as for each intervention a page with a brief CV and an abstract of the speaker. This material has to be send on 20th November 2016 to the Scientific Coordinator David Burigana (University of Padua) david.burigana@unipd.it as well as to the Scientific Secretaries Giulia Bentivoglio (University of Padua) giulia.bentivoglio@unipd.it, and Benedetto Zaccaria (European University Institute) Benedetto.Zaccaria@eui.eu

The conference is organised with the contribution of research projects ExPost (University of Padua), of the Department of Polical Science, Law and International Studies-SPGI (University of Padua), of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme d'Aquitaine SCOR Figures et métamorphoses de la société civile organisée: expertise(s), médiation(s) et pouvoirs (France et Europe occidentale de la fin du XIX^{ème} siècle au XXI^{ème} siècle), and of the HistCom3 Project; and with the participation of Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre (European University Institute).