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OF TRENTO - Italy



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TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY



## Pre and Post-Doc Colloquium

# *E la nave va? Social Science perspectives on Germany, Italy and the European Union after a decade of crises.*

7-9 October 2021,

At VILLA VIGONI, Centro Italo-Tedesco, Via Giulio Vigoni, 1 - 22017 Loveno di Menaggio (CO), Italy.

## Call for Papers

This project is part of an ongoing conversation established in 2017 by a group of scholars interested in assessing the nature and evolution of the relationship between Germany and Italy in the framework of the EU from diverse points of view. Within the short span of a decade (2009-2019), Italy, Germany and the rest of Europe have gone through three major crises: the euro-crisis, the refugee crisis, and the Covid-19 crisis. The goal of this workshop is to compare and contrast their responses by assessing how these crises affected the politics, economy, society as well as the inter- and trans-national relations of both countries in the European context.

German-Italian relations are powerfully affected by their membership of the European Union and the Euro-area: EU membership creates interdependencies between policy choices and even occasional negative externalities. These constraints add a layer of complexity to German-Italian relations and may occasionally strain otherwise very strong and fruitful interactions. Moreover, both countries historically lie at the cross-roads of East-West relations, particularly with reference to trade relations with Russia and the former Soviet Republics. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic affected all European and non-European countries. We therefore think that it is important to add a broader international context.

We start from an assessment of Germany and Italy as comparable political and economic systems and explore their reactions to these crises and the eventual positive and negative externalities that they impose on each other and what this means for their economic and political developmental paths.

We also want to analyse the growing strength of populist and single-issue movements, the increased difficulty of forming governmental majorities, and the greater salience of divisive issues such as refugee management, the stability orientation of economic policy (balanced budgets, structural reforms, trade surpluses) and the management and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic that may polarize national political systems and affect mutual relations.

We aim to analyse the politics and economics of both countries in innovative ways and with a variety of methods. In each case, we want to emphasize the heightened interconnectedness between these two countries and explore the ways in which it affects both their bilateral relations and the interactions that they entertain at EU level. A specific EU focus is therefore welcome.

We therefore invite paper proposals from pre- and post-docs on any of these aspects, including analyses of how these two countries interact within European institutions. Papers may address any of the following aspects:

- Analyses of Italy's and Germany's responses to recent crises, highlighting similarities and differences and the interactive aspects of these responses
- Analyses of the political, social and economic philosophies/approaches underlying these responses, highlighting the extent to which they differed, coincided or changed over time
- Analyses of the way in which the Italian and German executives handled the communication concerning the Covid-19 pandemic and the dynamics that developed between government and opposition, central and regional/Land governments, and institutional and non-institutional actors (such as think-tanks, scientific experts, categorical associations, etc.)
- Longitudinal analyses of how responses to one crisis affected those to the following ones, as well as the actions taken by the EU
- Analyses of the political, media and social reactions to the crises and their impact on German-Italian relations
- Analyses of the sources of contrast and collaboration between Germany and Italy at EU level, and how these interrelations affected the decisions eventually made by the EU

### **How to submit a proposal:**

Applicants at the Pre- or Post-Doc stage are invited to submit abstracts of up to 300 words and a short CV Nils Sartorius ([sartorius@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:sartorius@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)) by **28 February 2021**. Accepted applications will be announced by 31 March 2021.

As we aim to work towards the publication of some of the more interesting and coherent papers, we invite you to apply only if you can commit yourself to submitting a full draft of the paper by 30 June 2021 so that we can discuss it at the workshop. Between your submission and the workshop dates, we will find out about potential possibilities for publication.

If you have any organizational or content-related questions, please send an E-Mail to Nils Sartorius ([sartorius@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:sartorius@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)).

There is no conference fee. Accommodation and full board will be provided at Villa Vigoni. Travel costs are refundable – the Villa Vigoni guidelines for the reimbursement of travel expenses are set out below.

**Organizers:**

Prof. Simona Piattoni, Ph.D. (Università degli Studi di Trento)

Prof. Claudius Wagemann, Ph.D. (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)

**Confirmed speakers:**

Prof. Luca Verzichelli, Ph.D. (Università degli Studi di Siena)

Prof. Ton Notermans, Ph.D. (Tallinn University of Technology/Università degli Studi di Trento)

**Reimbursement guidelines:**

The following travel expenses are refundable upon submitting the original receipts to Villa Vigoni:

- travel by train (return trip) from your home city/place of work to Lugano or Como;
- low-cost-/economy class-flight (to Milan). Other types of flights are refundable only in exceptional cases and only upon prior approval by Villa Vigoni;
- travel by private car is reimbursed at €0,20 per km for the shortest possible distance, with the maximum refundable amount equivalent to the cost of a second-class train ticket for the same distance;
- travel by public transportation or private car to and from the train station or the airport.
- For the reimbursement of taxi fees, a written motivation is required;

Note that Villa Vigoni may organise collective transfers as an alternative to public transportation; Please book your trip as soon as possible and take advantage of available offers or rebates.