

This international seminar is organised by the Research Project PID 2020-112800-GB (POSCOM) -Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the Maastricht University and the Department of History of the University of Zaragoza.

COORDINATORS

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DATES AND PLACE

29 November to 1 December 2023

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

University of Maastricht

Grote Gracht 90-92, 6211 SZ

Maastricht, The Netherlands

LIVE STREAMING

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CARTOON INFORMATION

"All are gone, the old familiar fasces"

Washington Post, July 5, 1962



A 1962 Herblock Cartoon, © The Herb Block Foundation

International Seminar

THE AUTHORITARIAN SPACE IN POST-WAR EUROPE

THE CONTESTED CONSTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY (1945 - 1960)

It has often been taken for granted that liberal democracy was established in the western part of the European continent immediately after May 1945. In such a framework of interpretation, the Iberian dictatorships have been seen as an almost exotic relic of a bygone past. However, over the last few years, several studies have shown that neither liberal democracy was so quickly established, nor did the possibility of ordering European society and politics in a conservative or even post-fascist way immediately disappear from European political elites. Indeed, as a result of this research, it has become clear that to better understand the process of democracy-building in the Old Continent in the decade following the fall of the Reich, it is crucial to consider the legacies of fascism in post-war Europe

This international seminar aims to deepen on the transnational European space of authoritarian character through which the Franco regime was related to the process of European reconstruction and the central debates articulated around it, mainly the discussion on democracy. In this sense, we are not using the word "authoritarian" in the sense that it has been developed by political science since the sixties. Rather, we use it as a simple adjective that allows us to refer flexibly and broadly to the political and ideological space encompassing the most radical sectors of the conservative and Christian-democratic spectrum and those who sought to reconstruct fascist ideology. In other words, those who, after May 1945, sought to develop an alternative model against the new democratic flair or, almost, a highly controlled and limited political democratic play in Western Europe.

This seminar is designed to deepen our knowledge of this authoritarian European space, both in terms of its organisations, its protagonists, the interactions between them, their approaches to the regimes of government that were to emerge from the ashes of the war and, of course, the interconnections with the space of the Franco dictatorship.

29 November (Wednesday)

- 9:30 Conference opening
- 10:00 Keynote conference. Andrea Mammone (U. Roma La Sapienza)
Fascists in postwar Europe
- 11:15-11:30 Coffe break
- 11:30-13:00 Session I (Brigitte Le Normand, U. Maastrich)
- 11:30-12:00 Pablo del Hierro (U. Maastricht)
Beyond Degrelle: the role of the PSC in the development of Belgo-Spanish relations, 1945-1960.
- 12:00-12:30 Miguel Ángel Ruiz Carnicer (U. Zaragoza)
The Falange and post-war foreign policy: networks of contacts
- 12:30-13:00 Debate
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:30 Session II (Karin Van Leeuwen, U. Maastricht)
- 14:00-14:30 Andrea Martini (U. Padua)
The ambiguous fascist attacks on democracy. The post-World War II season in Western Europe
- 14:30-15:00 Steven A. Vickers, Jr. (U. Marquette)
Reimagining "Nation:" Post-war Fascism, Identity, and European Integration
- 15:00-15:30 Debate
- 15:30-17:00 Roundtable "Writing Global History from the European Periphery" (Ferenc Laczo and Brigitte Le Normand, U. Maastricht)

30 November (Thursday)

- 10:00-13:00 Session III (Camilo Erlichman, U. Maastricht)
- 10:00-10:40 Luca La Rovere (U.Perugia)
The Origins of Neo-Fascism in Italy: Between Myth and Reality
- 10:40-11:00 Debate
- 11:00-11:30 Coffe break
- 11:30-13:00 Session IV (Ferenc Laczo, U. Maastricht)
- 11:30-12:00 Michelangelo Borri (U.Trieste)
The roots of the Flame. The first secretaries of the sections and federations of the Italian Social Movement, 1947-1949.
- 12:00-12:30 Marie Müller-Zetzsche (Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum Potsdam)
Conceptions of Europe of a "Fascist International" in the 1950s
- 12:30-13:00 Debate
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-16:00 Session V (Pablo del Hierro, U. Maastricht)
- 14:00-14:40 Carlos Domper Lasús (U. Zaragoza)
Devising an illiberal democracy. The Franco regime and Western European conservatives, 1945-1960.
- 14:40-15:20 Anna Catharina Hofmann (Martin-Luther U. Halle-Wittenberg)
Technocratic authoritarianism or: How European conservatives discovered a new weapon against democracy
- 15:20-16:00 Debate
- 16:00-16:30 Coffe break
- 16:30-18:00 Session VI (Aleksandra Komornicka, U. Maastricht)
- 16:30-17:00 Francisco Jiménez Aguilar (U. Vasque Country)
Managing the Organic Democratization. The Concept of Liberty in 1950s Spain
- 17:00-17:30 Sho Muto (U. Kwansei Gakuin)
From "Against democracy" to "Purchasing own democracy": How did Falangist legitimize "organic democracy"?
- 17:30-18:00 Debate
- 20:00 Seminar Dinner

1 December (Friday)

- 9:00-11:00 Session VII (Miguel Ángel Ruiz Carnicer U. Zaragoza)
- 9:00-9:40 Federico Bellido (U. Grenoble Alpes)
Ainsi votait-on sous la dictature! Le No-Do et la représentation audiovisuelle des élections dans l'Espagne franquista
- 9:40-10:20 Nicolás Sesma (U. Grenoble Alpes)
Criticizing Imperial Democracies. Carl Schmitt, the Partisan.
- 10:20-11:00 Debate
- 11:00-11:30 Coffe break
- 11:30-13:00 Session VIII (Carlos Domper Lasús, U. Zaragoza)
- 11:30-12:00 Giovanni Brunetti (U. Verona) and Federico Creatini (U. Pisa)
Collateralism, instruments and practices of control in post-war Italy: the Casellario Politico Centrale (Cpc) and the Opera Nazionale di Assistenza Religiosa e Morale degli Operai (Onarmo).
- 12:00-12:30 Vinicius Magalhães Casagrande (Labor Judge at the Regional Labor Court of the 15th Region, Brazil)
The normative structure of corporatism in Portugal was created for the authoritarian mediation of labor relations.
- 12:30-13:00 Debate
- 13:00-13:15 Concluding remarks