



Populism in Democratic Countries: Foundations and Measures

Tuesday 11 December 2018, 1 – 2.30pm

Speaker

Associate Professor
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Location

The Nye Hughes Room

ANU Centre for European Studies
The Australian National University
Building #67C, 1 Liversidge Street
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Map reference

[http://www.anu.edu.au/
maps#show=29321](http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#show=29321)

Registration required

[https://policy_lab_vassallo_
december2018.eventbrite.com.au](https://policy_lab_vassallo_december2018.eventbrite.com.au)

Afternoon tea will be provided

A series of elections over the last few years have emphasized a political change in many voters across different countries. Surprising election results (the Netherlands, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the USA and Sweden, to name a few) have suggested that popular resentment for a failed economic recovery as well as open immigration decisions contributed to a wave of so-called 'populism'. As new leaders from populist movements are benefiting from the voters' anger and disappointment, electoral systems are experiencing a surge in new protest parties, whose main scope is to disrupt and replace the current political and economic system with something different.

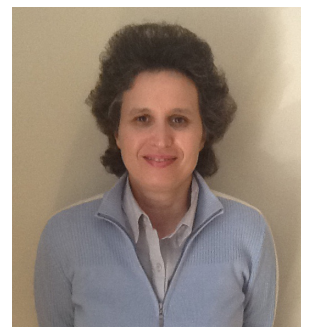
Illiberal political leaders have embraced similar positions with regards to economic and cultural policies, helping extreme parties in elections and introducing major policy changes once in government. How can we understand how it has spread across countries in such domino effect? What do we mean by the term 'populism'?

This policy lab plans to accomplish two main goals:

- 1) the identification and understanding of the term 'populism' in a comparative context, employing some European case studies as examples; and
- 2) the initial development of possible measures to quantify the presence of populist views in European countries.

Associate Professor Francesca Vassallo's

publications have focused on comparative political behavior, protest activism, French politics, European public opinion, and US-EU relations. In addition to publications like peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, she has served as a guest editor for special issues of *German Politics and Society* (2013) and *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2018). Her book *France, Social Capital and Political Activism* (Palgrave) was published in 2010. Associate Professor Vassallo is currently working on a research project investigating measures of populism in democratic systems, with a particular focus on Europe, and a book-length manuscript on European public opinion and the recent EU citizen consultations.



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