Beyond the Populist Hype
Online-Workshop, University of Aberdeen | Wed, 13 – Fri, 15 January 2021

This workshop seeks to bring together scholars working on populism or related themes to reflect on their own work and its relation to populist hype. Following Glynos and Mondon, the term refers to an inflationary use of the label populism, across scholarly, mass media and political arenas, simplifying and homogenizing an array of politicians, parties, and movements, whether as populist or anti-populist. In light of the recent populist hype surrounding the surprise elections of Trump, Duterte, and Brexit to name but a few, we invite critical reflections on the way populism is utilized in politics, media, and academia.

We suggest three sets of questions for the workshop:

- How can we justify our particular scholarly uses of “populism” in the light of the hype surrounding it? Can populism still be a productive analytical concept especially compared to related concepts such as democracy, technocracy, and liberalism?
- What impact has the populist hype had on both academic debate and political discourse? For example, has the populist hype led scholars and other commentators to rally around the political status quo? Did it distract attention from other political projects such as the climate movement, feminism or decolonization?
- What happens after the hype subsides? Does populism become normalized and fundamentally change politics? Or does the political system instead tame populism?

**Keynotes include:** Aurelien Mondon (University of Bath) and Christopher Bickerton (University of Cambridge). Our third keynote, Bice Maiguashca (University of Exeter) unfortunately had to cancel due to illness.

To join as an audience member please use [the registration form](#).

Organizers and contact: Stephan Ritscher and Daniel Matthews-Ferrero.

The workshop is hosted by the inter-disciplinary Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law, which studies political concepts in the world. This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation programme.
Workshop Program

Day 1, Wednesday 13 January

10 – 10.30am  Welcome

10.30am – 12pm  Keynote: The populist hype and the mainstreaming of the far right by Aurelien Mondon

Chair and discussant: Dan Paget

12 – 1.30pm  Lunch Break

1.30 – 3pm  Session 1: Contemporary Populism(s)

Chair and discussant: Carlo Ruzza

The essence of contemporary populism. The rise of anti-liberal populist rationality in Israel, 2000-2020

Rami Kaplan (Tel Aviv University)

Talking ‘with’ and ‘about’ the far right: how the populist hype means we do both

Katy Brown (University of Bath)

“The Opponent Is Always Populist”: On the Usage of Populism in the Macedonian Political Discourse

(Dimitar Nikolovski, Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg)

3 – 4pm  Break

4 – 5.30pm  Session 2: Historicizing Populism

Chair and discussant: Anton Jäger

Rethinking the concept of populism today through a review of Latin-American academic literature

Felipe Linden (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

Lessons from the Brazilian Populist Hype, 70 years later

Thomás Zicman de Barros (Sciences Po Paris) with Sebastián Ronderos (University of Essex)

Carl Albert and the Populist Roots of American Liberalism

Jeffrey Bloodworth (Gannon University)

All times are Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
Day 2, Thursday 14 January

10 – 10.30am  Coffee meet-up

10.30 – 12pm  Keynote: Technopopulism. The New Logic of Democratic Politics by Christopher Bickerton
              Chair and discussant: Daniel Matthews-Ferrero

12pm – 1.30pm  Lunch Break

1.30pm – 3pm  Session 3: After Populism – New Political Formations
              Chair and discussant: Panos Panayotu
              Jean-Luc Mélenchon, La France Insoumise and the normalization of populist ‘mood’ in French left party politics
              Armando Vittoria (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II)
              Beyond the Wave, the Sea: Re-Assessing The Southern Europe’s Populist Upsurge
              Arthur Borriello (Université libre de Bruxelles)
              Together Without Consensus: Populism, Liberalism and Class Politics in Pakistan
              Salman Hussain (York University)

3 – 4pm  Break

4 – 5.30pm  Session 4: Gender(ed) Populism
            Chair and discussant: Susanne Reinhardt
            Political Masculinities and Performative Populism in Nigeria: Locating Feminist Resistance
            Ololade Faniyi (University of Ibadan)
            Populism and Gender
            Juliane Lang (University of Giessen)
            A populist rebellion against godless elites: anti-gender campaigns in contemporary Europe
            Elżbieta Korolczuk (Södertörn University & University of Warsaw)

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# Workshop Program

## Day 3, Friday 15 January

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<td>10 – 10.30am</td>
<td>Coffee meet-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am – 12pm</td>
<td>Session 5: <strong>Rethinking Populism / New theoretical venues</strong></td>
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<td>Chair and discussant: Stephan Ritscher</td>
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<td><strong>Populism as a political logic and a discursive repertoire – debating the ontological and ontic dimension of populism</strong></td>
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<td><em>Marina Vulovic (University of Helsinki) and Emilia Palonen (University of Helsinki)</em></td>
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<td><strong>A Case for Political Stupidity</strong></td>
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<td><em>Yonathan Listik (University of Essex)</em></td>
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<td>12 – 12.30pm</td>
<td>Closing discussion</td>
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<td>Chairs: Daniel Matthews-Ferrero &amp; Stephan Ritscher</td>
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Workshop Program

Program Overview

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<tr>
<td>10-10.30am (GMT)</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>10.30-12</td>
<td>Aurelien Mondon Keynote (90min)</td>
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<td>1.30-3pm</td>
<td>Contemporary Populism(s) Session 1 (90min)</td>
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<td>4-5.30pm</td>
<td>Historicizing Populism Session 2 (90min)</td>
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