

1st Conference on European Polarisation February 15, 2023 – Virtual Conference

Programme

The CIVICA European Polarisation Observatory (EPO) – an initiative founded by Sciences Po, the London School of Economics, Bocconi University and the Central European University – is hosting the 1st Conference on European Polarisation. The EPO is an interdisciplinary computational social sciences initiative founded to tackle the methodological and conceptual challenges surrounding research on the impact of polarisation in European settings. The 1st Conference on European Polarisation presents a selection of works analysing polarisation at the intersection of cultural and political transformation, with a focus on computational advances and methods. The aim of this collection of works is that of broadening the understanding of polarisation in multi-party, multi-issue, and multi-national settings such as those of Europe, but also relevant elsewhere.

Inscription is mandatory [here](#) to receive the link of the zoom webinar hosting the conference.

Morning

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| 9:40-10:00 | Welcoming address |
| 10:00-10:30 | Keynote: Polarisation and the challenges to democracy <i>Vanessa Rubio-Márquez</i> <i>Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics</i> |
| 10:30-12:30 | Polarisation and culture session 6 presentations of 15min + 5min for QA (20min total each) |

Lunch time pause

Afternoon

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| 13:15-13:45 | European Polarisation Observatory: understanding multidimensional polarisation in France online social networks <i>Pedro Ramaciotti Morales (médialab, Sciences Po)</i> <i>Antonio Fernandez Peralta (Dept. of Network and Data Sciences, CEU)</i> |
| 13:45-16:05 | Data driven approaches for polarisation session 7 presentations of 15min + 5min for questions (20min total each) |
| 16:05-17:25 | Polarisation and democracy session 4 presentations of 15min + 5min for questions (20min total each) |
| 17:25-17:45 | 10min closing remarks |

Detailed program in the next pages...

Detailed program

Morning (9:40 – 12:30)

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| 9:40 | Welcoming address <i>Pedro Ramaciotti Morales</i> <i>médialab, Sciences Po</i> |
| 10:00 | Keynote: Polarisation and the challenges to democracy <i>Vanessa Rubio-Márquez</i> <i>Associate Dean, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics</i> |
| | Polarisation and culture session chaired by <i>Pedro Ramaciotti Morales (médialab, Sciences Po)</i> |
| 10:30 | Comparing French voters' beliefs and belief structures <i>Felix Lennert (CREST-ENSAE-École Polytechnique)</i> |
| 10:50 | Polarisation, populism, and democratic backsliding <i>April Reber (Brigham Young University)</i> |
| 11:10 | Trends in structural polarization in attitudes towards immigration and the European Union in Germany: the role of occupational classes <i>Stephan Dochow-Sondershaus & Céline Tenet (Freie Universität Berlin,</i> |
| 11:30 | How polarized is Europe? Public opinion disagreement, issue alignment, and sorting across European countries <i>Anna Pless, Yassine Khoudja, & Daniela Grunow</i> <i>(Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main)</i> |
| 11:50 | Cultural divide(s) in Europe - A single ideological conflict? <i>Ines Schäfer (Goethe-Universität)</i> |
| 12:10 | Emoji, language games and political polarisation <i>Sara Luxmoore (Bocconi University)</i> |

Afternoon (13:15 – 17:45)

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| 13:15 | Keynote: The European Polarisation Observatory <i>Pedro Ramaciotti Morales (médialab, Sciences Po)</i> |
| 13:30 | Keynote: Multidimensional political polarisation in French online social networks <i>Antonio Fernández Peralta (Department of Network and Data Sciences, CEU)</i> |
| | Data driven approaches for polarisation session chaired by <i>Gerardo Iniguez (Department of Network and Data Sciences, CEU)</i> |
| 13:45 | Pro, Anti or Neutral? The unfolding of Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy on Reddit <i>Dulio Balsamo, Jakob Schlierf, Alessia Melegaro (Bocconi University)</i> |
| 14:05 | The Ukraine/Russia Schism: Measuring Polarization in Europe through AI/ML Applications |

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| | <p><i>Allie Wong (Columbia University)</i> <i>Clara Broekaert (University of Glasgow, Università di Trento, Univerzita Karlova)</i></p> |
| 14:25 | <p>Forms of Media Source Sharing in Polarized Environments: Computational Evidence from French Immigration-Related Twitter Discourse <i>Katharina Tittel (médiab, Sciences Po), William L. Allen (Oxford)</i> <i>P. Ramaciotti (Sciences Po)</i></p> |
| 14:45 | <p>Polarization identification using representation learning on temporal graphs in Eulerian description <i>Victor Chomel, Nathanaël Cuvelle-Magar, Maziyar Panahi, David Chavalarias (Complex Systems Institute of Paris, ISC-PIF)</i></p> |
| 15:05 | <p>Voter-like dynamics with conflicting preferences on homophilic networks <i>Filippo Zimmaro (Dept. of Comp. Sciences of University of Pisa, Dept. of Mathematics of University of Bologna, and Dept. of Network and Data Sciences of CEU)</i></p> |
| 15:25 | <p>Popular Conspiracy Theories about COVID-19 Origin on YouTube: Sources and Political Agendas <i>Yuxi Wang (Bocconi University), Vytenis Juozas Deimantas, (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences)</i></p> |
| 15:45 | <p>Cluster Polarization in Controversy Mapping, or How Dimensionality Reduction Systematizes Public Debates <i>Dario Rodighiero (University of Groningen)</i> <i>Jean Danielou (École de Mines Paris)</i></p> |
| | <p>Polarisation and democracy session chaired by <i>Nicolò Cavalli</i> <i>(Department of Social and Political Sciences, Bocconi University)</i></p> |
| 16:05 | <p>Corporate investment and populism: the role of the electoral system <i>Alfonso Carballo & Margherita Corina (NEOMA Business School)</i></p> |
| 16:25 | <p>Speech is Silver, Silence is Gold: Trade-offs Between Local and Collective Representation <i>Oda Nedregard (Norwegian Business School)</i></p> |
| 16:45 | <p>Immigration drives affective polarization as a cultural issue and an economic issue: Evidence from a ten-country experiment <i>James F. Adams (University of California San Diego), Noam Gidron (The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem), Will Horne (Georgia State University), Thomas Tichelbaecker (Princeton University)</i></p> |
| 17:05 | <p>Partisanship and Microfoundation of Echo chambers: Causal effects of partisanship on preferential social tie formation <i>Mohsen Mosleh (University Exeter Business School, MIT Sloan School of Management, and Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI) Cameron Martel, Dean Eckles, David G. Rand (MIT Sloan School of Management)</i></p> |

17:25

Closing remarks: towards an European Polarisation Observatory
Nicolò Cavalli (Department of Social and Political Sciences, Bocconi University)