Popular Sovereignty and Populism

The course will concentrate on the contemporary challenge of populism(s) appearing in a wide variety of political environments. We will examine the foundations of the phenomenon in concepts of popular sovereignty and the people emerging or re-interpreted in the democratic revolutions, along with later debates around these concepts. We will go on to examine the place of birth of modern populism in Latin America comparing the relevant movements and regimes to their fascist contemporaries. With respect to the present, we will distinguish between left and right variants, and the various “host ideologies” to which populist movements and leaders have attached themselves: nationalism, socialism, and even liberal democracy. Concentrating on European case primarily we will distinguish populism as movement, as government and as regime. In each version we will focus on the relationship to democracy and civil society. Finally we will consider the international conditions that make populism a world-wide challenge to political democracy.

I. Popular Sovereignty I: history

Readings: Edmund Morgan *Inventing the People*; M. Canovan *The People*

II. Popular Sovereignty II: doubts

Reading: Kelsen *General Theory of State and Law* (selections); Carl Schmitt *Political Theology*

III. Populism: phase I. Latin America

Reading: G. Germani Authoritarianism, fascism, and national populism

IV. Populism Left and Right: Theory

Reading: E. Laclau *On Populist Reason*; C. Mouffe *For a Left Populism*

V. Populism, Civil Society and Social Movements

Reading: Arato and Cohen “Civil Society, Populism and Religion” *Constellations* October 2017; Rosanvallon *Counter Democracy* (selections)

VI. Movement, Government and Regime. The European cases.

Readings on Constitutional conflicts in Hungary and Poland

VII. Populism and “Deep Globalization”

Reading: Dani Rodrik *The Globalisation Paradox* (selections); Rodrik “Populism and the economics of globalization” 2018; Arato “Populism and Socialism” forthcoming in *Constellations*