

## Politics all' italiana - crisis as a permanent condition? A political system between the will to transition and reform resistance

International Conference

15 – 16 November 2013  
University Siegen  
Senatssaal

Chair of Comparative Politics and Political Theory  
Prof. Dr. Robert Kaiser  
Jana Edelmann, M.A.

### Topic

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Italy is in need of fundamental institutional reforms in order to remain internationally competitive and regain the capability of efficient policy-making. This is the unanimous and longstanding tenor of political observers as well as of the political actors themselves – more relevant than ever following the dramatic parliamentary elections' results in February 2013 and in view of the grand coalition's government crisis persisting since Silvio Berlusconi's upheld conviction for tax-fraud in August 2013.

Expectations rising at the beginning of the 1990s, which claimed that after the party system's collapse due to the tangentopoli corruption scandals there would be a fundamental socio-political turn taking place, still seem to be unfulfilled. In fact, the alleged transition from the "First Republic" to the so-called "Second Republic" provided Italy with a dazzling and dominant new political figure – Silvio Berlusconi – and established a competitive party system based on bipolarism, however still highly fragmented. What obviously has not been achieved is the long desired and often requested institutional renewal or fundamental change of the political elite's preferences and behavioural patterns.

At the conference, that subject will be discussed from an interdisciplinary point of view, taking into account the analysis of Italy's socio-political history as well as the country's political system and its elites' configuration.

### Programme

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#### Friday, 15 November 2013

- Opening speech: Italy at the threshold of the "Third Republic"?  
10.00 – 10.30 am
  - Prof. Dr. Robert Kaiser  
*tbd*
- Panel I: National identity and political culture - crisis already inherent?  
10.30 – 12.00 am
  - Prof. Christopher Duggan  
*The problem of the nation-state in Italy: some long-term historical reflections*

- Prof. Günther Pallaver/ Dr. Marco Brunazzo  
*From important parties to pivotal parties. The role of (ethno)regional parties in the Second Republic*
  - Prof. Silvana Patriarca:  
*A Crisis of Italian Identity? Racism and the Renationalization of Italy*
- Panel II: Political system and institutions - the never-ending story of transition?  
1.00 - 3.30 pm
- Prof. Martin Bull  
*'Stagnation in Change': Institutions and the Political System in Italy*
  - Prof. Maurizio Cotta  
*The changing Italian party system: uncertainties and explanations*
  - Prof. James L. Newell  
*The Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S), the PD and the current (and changing) state of the party system*
  - Prof. Pasquino, Gianfranco  
*The Second Republic that was not (and never will be)*
  - Prof. Francesco Zucchini  
*The Republic of vetoes. A spatial analysis of the Italian Political System*
- Panel III: Political actors and elite structures - clientelism and corruption only?  
4.00-5.30 pm
- Prof. Carlo Carboni  
*Italian Elites. Some descriptive remarks*
  - Assistant Prof. Alberto Vannucci  
*Between systemic corruption and anticorruption: political scandals and electoral accountability in Italy*
  - Prof. Luca Verzichelli  
*So what's new? Amateurism, individualism and Familism within the Italian political elite of the early XXI century*

#### Saturday, 16 November 2013

- Panel IV: From "Berlusconismo" to "Beppegrillismo"?  
9.00-10.00am
- Prof. Marco Maraffi  
*The decline of Berlusconi and the rise of Grillo: from a personal leader to a new political star?*
  - M.A. Jana Edelmann  
*Berlusconia has never existed. The powerlessness of Silvio Berlusconi as Italy's Prime Minister*

- Concluding discussion  
10.00-11.00