

Democracies and Democratic Backsliding: Conceptual, Theoretical and Empirical Challenges

15 May 2026 | University of Padova

Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies
Palazzo Ca' Dottori, Via del Santo 28, Padua
Aula A (Ground Floor)

9:00 AM | Welcome and introduction
Paolo Graziano

9:15 AM | SESSION I

Paolo Graziano, Andrea Felicetti and
Edoardo Grillo, University of Padua
***The DEMOSLIDING Research Project: Aims,
Scope and (Very) Preliminary Results***

Natasha Wunsch, University of Freiburg
***Democratic Commitment: Why Citizens
Tolerate Democratic Backsliding***

Licia Cianetti, University of Birmingham
***Interscalar Authoritarianism: A new
approach to studying regime
transformations***

Johannes Gerschewski, German Research
Foundation–WZB Berlin Social Science Center
***Democratic Self-Defense in Times of
Autocratization: A Research Agenda***

11:15 AM | Coffee Break

11:30 AM | SESSION II

Guya Accornero, ISCTE–IUL, Lisbon
***Social movements framing Europe in
Portugal between democratization and
democratic threats***

Martin Portos, Scuola Normale Superiore
***Crisis or Resilience? Democratic
Backsliding and Political Contestation in
Spain***

Lamprini Rori, National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens, and **Maria-Anna Telli**,
SciencesPo, Paris
Democratic backsliding in Greece

Guido Panzano, Kiel University
Italy After 2022: Early Signs of Backsliding?

1:30 PM | Concluding remarks



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Dipartimento
di Scienze politiche, giuridiche
e Studi internazionali