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Call for papers:

Weaving the Transnational Anti-Gender Network

Identities, Practices, Relations

Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Scuola Normale Superiore

Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, **30 - 31 May 2022**

Organizers: Manuela Caiani, Ivan Tranfić (SNS)

Keynote lectures: **Olivier Fillieule** (University of Lausanne), **Mieke Verloo** (Radboud University), **David Paternotte** (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Scientific Committee: Agnieszka Graff (University of Warsaw), Elżbieta Korolczuk (Södertörn University), Roman Kuhar (University of Ljubljana), Eva Anduiza Perea (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Bice Maiguashca (University of Exeter), Francesca Feo, Anna Lavizzari, Giada Bonu (SNS)

In the summer of 2021, WikiLeaks published the 'Intolerance Network' – 17.000 internal documents of two Spanish organizations important in the transnational anti-gender mobilizing efforts. The documents provide further solid evidence of a vast network of global financial, ideological, and strategic ties between far-right parties and ultra-conservative religious groups tied to various Christian denominations. This conference aims to create a forum for scholars working on the transnationalization and coordination efforts of radical right and conservative actors promoting heteronormative family values and mobilizing against 'gender ideology' and abortion. We investigate the development of anti-gender movements, focusing on *collective identities, frames, repertoires of action, networks*, and factors that help with their transnationalization.

A network of anti-feminist and anti-LGBT organizations has been weaved against the backdrop of rising populism and illiberalism. Rallying around the outcry to protect family values and children gave new wind to the sails of both national and transnational far-right actors. Appealing to the common-sense politics of essentializing differences between women and men and extolling the nuclear family arguably helps far-right actors to circumvent uneasy (geo)political tensions on issues of history, ethnic and religious difference when collaborating transnationally.



On the one hand, national actors disseminate their strategies, share best practices and help spread know-how and resources to develop new transnational anti-gender fora. On the other hand, regional and global anti-gender actors help support the creation of new local initiatives or chapters of existing anti-abortion and anti-gender organizations. While scholars have mostly focused on national actors and discourses, the relational and transnational aspects of anti-gender campaigning, including movement-party interactions and transnational movement-building, have been neglected until recently.

Drawing on these developments, we are particularly interested in the following themes:

- The role of the **radical right** in anti-gender movements
- Development of **transnational anti-gender actors and fora/spaces** (conferences, summits, meetings)
- **Diffusion** of anti-gender **networks, campaigns, discourses, and repertoires** across country-cases
- The role of **churches** and **religion** in (transnational) anti-gender mobilization
- **Movement-party** interactions and formation of anti-gender movement-parties
- Conflict, tensions, and **internal heterogeneity** of the anti-gender movement
- Movement-counter-movement **interactions** with **feminist and progressive** actors
- The role of **emotions, identities/frames, and affect** in (transnational) anti-gender mobilizing
- **Comparative analyses** of anti-gender, anti-abortion and religious mobilization
- **Bridging issues** (and networks): **anti-gender, radical right, and COVID protests**
- **Theoretical and conceptual** grounding of transnational anti-gender politics

The conference invites theoretical and empirical contributions from all related academic fields. We welcome papers with different regional foci and aim for methodological pluralism.

The deadline for paper proposals is **15 February 2022**. Please send an abstract of your planned contribution (max. 400 words) together with a short bio to **ivan.tranfic@sns.it** and **manuela.caiani@sns.it**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by **15 March 2022**.

There is no registration fee, but accommodation and travel costs are to be covered by participants. In addition, **lunch boxes** are offered to the participants.