

Technopopulism: The New Logic of Democratic Politics

23 November 2021

EUI, Florence, Italy – Hybrid event

Organised by the Democracy in the 21st Century Interdisciplinary Research Cluster

Technocratic appeals to expertise and populist invocations of ‘the people’ have become mainstays of political competition in established democracies. This development is best understood as the emergence of technopopulism—a new political logic that is being superimposed on the traditional struggle between left and right. Political movements and actors—such as Italy’s Five Star Movement and France’s La République En Marche—combine technocratic and populist appeals in a variety of ways, as do more established parties that are adapting to the particular set of incentives and constraints implicit in this new, unmediated form of politics. In the first book-length treatment of the phenomenon of technopopulism, the authors combine theoretical and historical approaches, offering a systematic definition of the concept of technopopulism, while also exploring a number of salient contemporary examples. The book provides a detailed account of the emergence of this new political logic, as well as a discussion of its troubling consequences for existing democratic regimes. It ends by considering some possible remedies moving beyond the simplistic idea that in the right ‘dose’ populism and technocracy can counter-balance one another.

EVENT PROGRAMME

Tuesday 23 November

14:30-16:00, Refectory, Badia Fiesolana

Book presentation: “Technopopulism: the New Logic of Democratic Politics”

With book authors Christopher Bickerton (University of Cambridge) and Carlo Invernizzi Accetti (The City College of New York)

16:00-16:30, Antirefettorio

Coffee break

16:30 -18:00, Refectory

Open discussion with authors on policy implications