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2017 Summer School - Madrid

Populism and Anti-Politics: Is Democracy in crisis ?

Hosted at the Escorial Monastery
with the Complutense University, Madrid
9th – 14th July, 2017



Democracy has long been regarded as the most desirable political system for advanced societies – one that balances “good” governance with representation, account-ability, equality, and participation.

Even though the end of the Cold War never brought ‘the end of history’, with Winston Churchill Europeans have come to agree that while it may not be the best system, when compared to any other option, it comes out on top. This has been confirmed by the growth of the European Union and especially with the end of the dictatorships in

Greece, Spain, and Portugal, and the fall of Communist rule in the former East bloc.

And yet since the 2008 global crisis, the Euro-crisis, the rise of populist leaders and parties across Europe, the surge of post-truth and anti-expert and anti-globalization politics – and last year the Brexit and Trump votes – the following question is gaining emergency momentum:

Are voters now challenging some of the basic tenets of the liberal-democratic settlement?

This summer school – the 24th in our series – will bring together experts from politics and civil services, think tanks, NGOs and universities, to discuss this urgent topic over five days of talks, panels, working groups, debates, role-playing, and discussions.

Questions will include: *What explains the rise of populism in Europe ? How are traditional politics parties in decline ? Should political parties be publicly funded by states ? How important is charisma as part of political leadership ? Are democratic-liberal values in peril ? How can women change democratic politics ? Why is globalization dividing societies so bitterly ? How is the re-emergence of nationalism challenging liberal values ?*

Speakers will include: Professors David Ellwood, (Complutense), Andres Santana (UAM), Eva Anduiza (UAB), Paul Flather (Oxford), Cesar Enrique Díaz-Carrera (UCM), Fabio Garcia Lupato (UCM & EU), Manuel Muniz, and speaker from the Elcano Institute, and many others.

The Summer School is open to all Europaeum graduates. All local costs are covered through the Europaeum, but graduates are expected to cover their own travel. We welcome other applicants but they must cover local costs c €450. To apply, please send your letter of motivation, a short CV (max. 2 pages), with at least one reference from your professor, and suggestions for a short graduate paper.

Deadline: 8th June 2017

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