



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO**

Department  
of Letters, Philosophy,  
Communication

**CLEST**

CENTRE  
FOR LEGAL EDUCATION  
AND SOCIAL THEORY

***Comparing Populisms and Democracies: Local Specificities in the Rule of Law Crisis  
(and its Resolution?)***

**16-17 June 2022**

**West University of Timisoara, Romania  
(hybrid format)**

**Organizers:**

**Dr Alexandra Mercescu (West University of Timisoara) & Dr Manuel Anselmi (Università degli  
Studi di Bergamo)**

**in partnership with CLEST (Centre for Legal Education and Social Theory)**

**under the patronage of the Embassy of Italy in Bucharest**





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## **Day 1: Thursday, 16th June**

Online: Link (valid for both days)

<https://meet.google.com/okf-xrft-vgh>

On site: West University of Timisoara, street Bd. Vasile Parvan, nr. 4, Amphitheatre A1.1

**08.45-9.15**

### **Welcome Address**

**on behalf of the Rectorate of the West University of Timisoara  
on behalf of the Faculty of Law  
on behalf of the Embassy of Italy in Bucharest**

**09.15-10.45**

### **Book Launch and Discussion**

*Anti-Constitutional Populism* (CUP, 2022), edited by Martin Krygier, Adam Czarnota and Wojciech Sadurski

Moderator: Alexandra Mercescu

Speakers: **Martin Krygier** (University of New South Wales) /online, **Adam Czarnota** (University of New South Wales), **Wojciech Sadurski** /online (University of Sydney)

Discussants:

**Carlo Ruzza** (School of International Studies, University of Trento)

**Wojciech Zomerski** (Centre for Legal Education and Social Theory, Wrocław University) /online

**11.00-12.15**

### **Keynote speech**

**John Pratt (Victoria University of Wellington) /online**

The End? Punishment, Populism and the Threat to Democratic Order

**12.15-13.00**

### **Lunch Break**

**13.00-14.30**

### **Panel 1**

Chair: Manuel Anselmi

**Adam Czarnota (University of New South Wales / Wrocław University)**



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Democratic Frustration. Populism and Challenge to Liberal Constitutionalism in Central-Eastern Europe

**Giuseppe Martinico (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa)**

Between Mimeticism and Parasitism: Populism in a Comparative Perspective

**Zoltán Szente (Institute for Legal Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest)**

Populist Constitutionalism – Conceptual and Empirical Problems

**Carlo Ruzza (School of International Studies, University of Trento)**

Populism, Anti-Populism and The Rule of Law

**14.30-15.00**

**Coffee break**

**15.00-16.30**

**Panel 2**

Chair: Adam Czarnota

**Paolo Graziano (University of Padua)**

Crises, Leadership, Neopopulism

**Lorenzo Viviani (University of Pisa) /online**

Populism and Democracy: The Challenge of Populist Personalisation of Leadership in Post-Representative Democracy

**Lucian Bojin (West University of Timisoara)**

Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy in the Age of Populism

**16.45-18.15**

**Panel 3**

Chair: Paolo Graziano

**Hans-Jörg Trenc (Scuola Normale Superiore, Firenze)**

Enhanced Value Conflicts and Crisis of The Rule of Law: Towards a Differentiated European Union of Values?

**Fruzsina Gárdos-Orosz (Institute for Legal Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest)**

The Role of Constitutional Traditions under Populist Government

**Sorina Doroga (West University of Timisoara)**

Populism, Nostalgia and the Law



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starting at 20.00  
**Conference dinner**  
at Hotel Timisoara  
Mărășești street 1-3

**Day 2: Friday, 17th June**

Online: Link (valid for both days)  
<https://meet.google.com/okf-xrft-vgh>

On site: West University of Timisoara, Bd. Vasile Parvan, n 4, Amphitheatre A1.1

**09.15-10.30**  
**Keynote speech**

**Nadia Urbinati (Columbia University) /online**  
Gambling with Representation: The Multiple Forms of Populism

**10.30-11.00**  
**Coffee break**

**11.00-12.30**  
**Panel 4**  
Chair: Michał Stambulski

**Bojan Bugaric (University of Sheffield) /online**  
The Two Faces of Populism: Between Authoritarian and Democratic Populism

**Paul Blokker (University of Bologna)**  
Populist Constitutional Politics and Civil Society Fundamentalism

**Manuel Anselmi (University of Bergamo)**  
Penal Populism, Civil Society and the Crisis of the Rule of Law in Italy

**12.30-13.30**  
**Lunch break**

**13.30-15.00**  
**Panel 5**  
Chair: Lucian Bojin

**Renata Deskoska (University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius”, Skopje) /online**  
Populism and Democratic Erosion in Macedonia (2008-2017)

**Michał Stambulski (Erasmus University of Rotterdam / CLEST - Centre for Legal Education and Social Theory)**  
Populist Jurisprudence? Examining Selected Case Law of the Polish Constitutional Court (2017-2020)

**Andreea Verteș-Olteanu (West University of Timisoara)**  
The Constitutional Court, Civil “Special” Pensions and Populism in Romania

**Djordje Gardasevic (University of Zagreb) / online**  
Constitutional Court and Populist Referendum Initiatives: The Case of Croatia

**15.30-16.45**

**Panel 6**

Chair: Sorina Doroga

**Flaminia Saccà, Luca Massidda (University of Tuscia, Viterbo)**  
Democracies Under Pressure in Pandemic Times: Rule of Law Crisis in Angela Merkel and Victor Orbán’s Political Narrative

**Oscar Mazzoleni (University of Lausanne)**  
Individual Sovereignism. How Populist Rhetoric Hijacks Rules of Law in Times of Pandemic

**Alexandra Mercescu (West University of Timisoara / Centre for Legal Education and Social Theory / Nomos Centre)**  
The Pandemic Uncovers Penal Populism: The Case of Romanian Legal Culture

**16.45-17.00**

**Coffee break**

**17.00-18.00**

**Book Launch & Discussion**

*Filtering Populist Claims to Fight Populism* (CUP, 2021) by **Giuseppe Martinico**

Discussants

**Alexandra Mercescu** (West University of Timisoara)

**Lucian Bojin** (West University of Timisoara)



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