



UNIVERSITÀ  
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Dipartimento  
di Lettere, Filosofia,  
Comunicazione

Seminario

# The Secession Wind Blows from the Alps to the Rockies

INTERVIENE

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Aula 11, Sede di Via Pignolo 123

## ABSTRACT

I spent nine months in Montana (overlapping 2019 and 2020) in order to document Trumpism at the root, just as I had done in Italy in the 2000s by analyzing the Northern League in the Bergamo area. In the 1990s, Montana was the hub of the militias that led to the Oklahoma terrorist attack of 1995. That subversive subculture never completely disappeared, even though they were ostensibly dismantled by federal powers. Democrats and moderate Republicans coexist with libertarians who sympathize with militias' movement, and must maintain dialogue and social harmony. Political tension is high in this "purple state." Every morning, when I woke up on the Bozeman campus of Montana State University, I saw through my window the flag my neighbor had hanging on his facade. It was the Gadsden flag: a yellow flag with a rattlesnake and the words "Don't Tread on Me," which the more radical members of the Republican Party had dusted off since Barack Obama was elected to the presidential office. I knew well the history of that flag, which referred to the Culpeper Minute Men Oath: the first gesture of sedition by Americans against British colonial power, which was repeated in 1860 by the Confederates against the Yankees at the beginning of the US Civil War. I had studied its history and political uses. The symbolic similarities with the Northern League foundation ritual are many. In my intervention, I will present my comparative analysis and return to my interpretation of the US Capitol attack on January 6, 2021.

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