

XVI Convegno SeSaMO

Università degli Studi di Cagliari
Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Sociali

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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

TITOLO/TITLE: Iran after Woman Life Freedom: Domestic and international politics

PROPONENTE/I – PROPONENT/s: PAOLA RIVETTI (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY), RASSA GHAFFARI (UNIVERSITY OF GENOVA), SHIRIN ZAKERI (UNIVERSITY OF ROME LA SAPIENZA)

Discussant: PAOLA RIVETTI (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY), RASSA GHAFFARI (UNIVERSITY OF GENOVA), SHIRIN ZAKERI (UNIVERSITY OF ROME LA SAPIENZA)

ABSTRACT (1500 parole/words):

This panel investigates the international and domestic politics in and of Iran before and after the 2022 Woman Life Freedom uprising. The panel asks whether the WLF uprising represented a point of rupture in Iran, both domestically and transnationally, and how, for who, and why. While the WLF uprisings was the biggest political mobilisation in Iran and the most important domestic challenge to the Iranian state since the 1979 revolution, it has not come out of thin air. The WLF uprising is part and parcel of a longer historical trajectory of negotiations with and resistance to the state which has unfolded since the establishment of the Islamic Republic, if not before. In continuity with the uprisings of 2010-2013 and the Kurdish liberation struggle, transnational political lineages of revolt also have played an important role in informing and shaping the WLF uprising. However, since 2022, the security and geopolitical context has significantly changed regionally and internationally, with a severing of borders, of armed and ideological conflicts (Israel's assault on Gaza, continuing conflicts in Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, just to name a few examples that are particularly relevant to Iran's international politics, along with ideological crusades, such as the one against migrants, women's reproductive rights and "gender ideology"), and of neoliberal authoritarian violence against forms of liberation from below and transnationally. Have such changes inaugurated a distinct era, of which the WLF uprising is a manifestation? Considering the stiffening of authoritarian politics in Iran and elsewhere in the world, methods and methodology should also be discussed at a time when fieldwork methodologies have become riskier for researchers and research participants.

Interrogating the issues above, the panel seeks submissions that speak to the questions of state-society relations; diaspora politics; political activism and social movements; Iran's diplomatic, security and international politics; the domestic and transnational gender politics in and of Iran; cultural production and counter-hegemonic cultural expressions; ethnicity and race politics in Iran and the Persianate world. More generally, the panel invites submissions focusing on any field related to Iranian politics and society both domestically and transnationally, and in history.

The panel aims to bring together papers that showcase new research findings, new approaches to well-established bodies of scholarship in the social sciences, as well as papers that voice new interpretations, positionalities and methodologies. The papers will be considered for publication in an edited collection.

PROFILO ACCADEMICO DEL/DELLA/DEI/DELLE PROPONENTE/I – SHORT BIO OF PROPONENTS

Paola Rivetti is Associate Professor in Politics and IR in the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University. She has been working on Iranian politics and social movements for almost two decades. She has widely published on these topics, including *Political participation in Iran from Khatami to the Green Movement* (2020), numerous journal articles and edited volumes. Paola Rivetti is Associate editor of the journals *Iranian Studies* and *Partecipazione e conflitto*. She is a member of the Council of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies, the Mentorship Committee of the Iranian Studies Association, and the Committee on Academic Freedom of the Italian Society for Middle Eastern Studies SeSaMO.

Full profile: https://www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/research-profile?person_id=14060

Rassa Ghaffari is a sociologist working mainly on migration, gender and Middle Eastern studies. She has a Master's degree in African and Asian Studies from the University of Pavia and a PhD in Sociology at the University of Milano-Bicocca. She currently works at the University of Genova in the ERC SOLROUTES project, where she focuses on migratory routes through Turkey and the so-called Balkan route. Her work has been widely published on international journals such as *Partecipazione e Conflitto* and *Anthropology of Middle East*. She authored *Strade di donne in Iran. Generi, generazioni, proteste* (2023).

Shirin Zakeri has different teaching experiences in the University of Rome La Sapienza and University of Pisa. Previously, she was a Research Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in 2016-2017 and Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in 2013-2014. Her area studies are the MENA region and the Persian Gulf countries. She also works on issues related to women and immigration. She collaborates with various research institutions and civil society organizations for her research. Zakeri has published on Islamic law (Shari'a), civil society in the Middle East and Iran, social and political analysis in the Middle East and on cultural diplomacy.

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