

## Autumn School in European Studies

### "Europe and the Post-Global World. Re-thinking Identity and Democracy in the EU"

VILLA VIGONI, 16-19 OCTOBER 2024

PROMOTED BY VILLA VIGONI IN COOPERATION WITH

EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT FLENSBURG | UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
FEDERICO II | UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO | UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG | UNIVERSITÀ  
BOCCONI – BLEST



In recent years, the European Union has been at the forefront of both global and regional challenges, necessitating a re-evaluation of the fundamental concepts of democracy and identity within its framework. The traditional notions of democracy, centred on nation-states with clear boundaries and relatively homogeneous populations, are increasingly inadequate in addressing the complexities of a supranational entity like the EU. Similarly, the concept of a singular European identity is being questioned as cultural, economic, and political divides become more pronounced.

The concept of democracy in the EU must be reconsidered in light of its unique structure. The EU's multi-level governance, which includes the European Parliament, the European Council, and the European Commission, creates a complex democratic landscape that often seems distant to ordinary citizens. The perceived democratic deficit, where decision-making appears removed from the electorate, challenges the legitimacy of the EU. To address this, there is a need to enhance transparency, foster citizen participation, and develop mechanisms that bring EU institutions closer to the people they serve.

The recent European Parliament elections in 2024 have highlighted both progress and persistent challenges in this regard. Voter turnout has shown varying levels of engagement across different Member states, indicating fluctuating interest in EU-level politics. The elections also underscored significant regional disparities and the continuing influence of nationalist and Eurosceptic parties, reflecting deep divisions within the electorate.

Simultaneously, the concept of identity within the EU is evolving. The rise of nationalist and populist movements in various Member states has highlighted the tension between national identities and a collective European identity. This tension is further exacerbated by issues such as immigration, economic disparity, and political sovereignty. The challenge lies in promoting a sense of unity and shared values while respecting the rich diversity of cultures, languages, and histories that comprise the EU.

The interplay between democracy and identity in the EU is crucial. A robust democratic system relies on a shared sense of belonging among its citizens. However, fostering a European identity that complements national identities is a complex task. The EU's democratic institutions must reflect and respect this dual identity, creating policies that promote inclusivity and representation. This involves not only political reforms but also cultural and educational initiatives that strengthen a pan-European identity without erasing national uniqueness.

In rethinking democracy and identity, the EU must navigate these complexities to ensure its future stability and cohesion. How can the EU bridge the gap between its institutions and its citizens to foster a more inclusive democratic process? What strategies can be employed to balance national and European identities, promoting unity without undermining diversity? As the EU continues to evolve, these questions remain crucial for its continued integration and success.

## Programme [updated 14/10]

Villa Vigoni  
16-19/10/2024

Wednesday, 16 October

---

15:00	Departure of the collective shuttle from Milano Centrale railway station (meeting point: in front of the Excelsior Hotel Gallia, in Piazza Duca d'Aosta, 9, 20124 Milan)
-------	--

17:00	Arrival of the collective shuttle at Villa Vigoni
-------	---

---

19:00	Welcome speech   Christiane Liermann Traniello, Secretary General of Villa Vigoni
-------	--

19:30	Welcome dinner
-------	----------------

Thursday, 17 October

08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
---------------	-----------

09:00 - 09:30	Opening lecture The New European Commission: Policy Priorities, Leadership and Democratic Accountability   Catherine E. De Vries, Università Bocconi
---------------	--

09:30 - 10:00	Q&A
---------------	-----

SECTION I – Democracy in the EU - Historical, Political, Legal and Economic Perspectives  
| Moderator: Matteo Scotto

10:00 - 10:25	Lecture 1 – Historical Perspectives The Evolution of the Concepts of Democracy and Identity in the EU Institutions   Ubaldo Villani-Lubelli, Università del Salento
---------------	---

10:25 - 10:50	Lecture 2 – Political Perspectives Media and Political Debate on EU Freedom of Movement and Emigration. The State and the People Balancing Individual Freedoms and the Collective Good in Countries of Origin   Christof Roos, Europa-Universität Flensburg
10:50 - 11:10	Open discussion
11:10 - 11:35	Coffee break
11:35 - 12:00	Lecture 3 – Legal Perspectives European Identity: Towards a Community of Law?   Amedeo Arena, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
12:00 - 12:25	Lecture 4 – Economic Perspectives Identity, Internal Institutions, and Incompatibilities   Stefan Voigt, Universität Hamburg
12:25 - 12:45	Open discussion
13:00	Lunch
15:00 - 15:45	Guided tour of the historic villa and park
SECTION II – Identity in the EU - Legal, Historical, Political, Economic Perspectives   Moderator: Ubaldo Villani-Lubelli	
16:00 - 16:25	Lecture 1 – Historical Perspectives Europe after Globalization: Identity Roots Breeding the Future   Andrea Colli, Università Bocconi
16:25 - 16:50	Lecture 2 – Political Perspectives European Geopolitical Identity: Facing Challenges and Seizing Opportunities   Daniela La Foresta, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
16:50 - 17:10	Open discussion
17:10 - 17:35	Coffee break

17:35 - 18:00	Lecture 3 – Legal Perspectives <b>Who We Are and Who We Want to Be: European and National Identity/Identities – An Oscillating Continuum</b>   Markus Kotzur, Universität Hamburg
18:00 - 18:25	Lecture 4 – Economic Perspectives <b>The Political Economy of Authoritarianism – Europe's New Role in a Post-Global World</b>   Ulrich Glassmann, Europa-Universität Flensburg
18:25 - 18:45	Open discussion
19:30	Dinner

## Friday, 18 October

08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
---------------	-----------

### SECTION III – EU Identity and Democracy in the Post-Global Context | Moderator: Ulrich Glassmann

09:00 - 09:25	Lecture 1 – Political Perspectives <b>Integration of Core State Powers in the EU. A New Beginning?</b>   Matteo Scotto, Villa Vigoni
09:25 - 09:50	Lecture 2 – Legal Perspectives <b>"We, the Citizens of Europe" – Constitutional Perspectives for a Citizen-Based European Democracy</b>   Markus Kotzur, Universität Hamburg
09:50 - 10:10	Open discussion
10:10 - 10:35	Coffee break
10:35 - 11:00	Lecture 3 – Economic Perspectives <b>Future Economic Perspectives of the European Union in the Global Context</b>   Luca Zamparini, Università del Salento
11:00 - 11:25	Lecture 4 – Historical Perspectives <b>Capitalism and Democracy</b>   Grace Ballor, Università Bocconi

11:25 - 12:45	Open discussion
13:00	Lunch
15:00 - 18:45	WORKING GROUPS
19:30	Dinner
21:00	<i>Kamingespräch</i> Understanding China to Build a Dialogue – An Angle on Chinese Categories   Giovanni Elia Bray, Villa Vigoni   Andrea Colli, Università Bocconi

## Saturday, 19 October

08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 - 12:00	PRESENTATIONS & FINAL DISCUSSION
<hr/>	
12:00	Departure of the collective shuttle from Villa Vigoni
14:30	Arrival of the collective shuttle at Milano Centrale railway station
<hr/>	