

OBSERVATORY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY
The Politics and Policy of Transnational Challenges

Pisa, 28 November 2025

Rationale, aims and scope

The study of politics focuses on the set of activities within the public sphere aimed at the acquisition and exercise of power, with the objective of resolving social conflicts and organizing civil coexistence. Conventionally, the study of politics tends to privilege either the domestic or the international dimension of these activities. Such a distinction, though contested and reconfigured by the emergence of sub-fields such as Foreign policy analysis or International political economy, is still deeply rooted in contemporary Political Science. Yet, global issues are increasingly transnational; and supranational processes, such as Globalization and Europeanization, confront States and communities with complex dilemmas, related to the redefinition of power relations and identities. Even in a period in which such processes are questioned, political conflicts are unlikely to be enclosed within national borders. The examples are numerous. While the COVID-19 constitutes a recent disruptive example, the economic and financial implications of globalization represent the most consolidated research field focused on the subtle national/supranational divide; similarly, the international institutions that promote policies aimed at coping with climate change and ecological transition constitute a permanent policy arena for states, corporations, environmental groups and movements. Another area in which policy and politics transcend national boundaries is that of security, since economic and technology policies are increasingly included in this domain, and effective responses can no longer be purely national, as illustrated by the management of cyber and bacteriological threats. The same holds concerning crime and justice, whose implications and management force States to cooperate to increase the effectiveness of policy responses.

The Politics and Policy of Transnational Challenges conference aims to expand and consolidate the research network coordinated by the Observatory on Sustainable Development and Democracy, directed by Prof. Eugenio Pizzimenti under the auspices of the Observatory on Politics and Institutions based at the Department of Political Sciences (University of Pisa). The conference hosts leading political and social scientists, as well as young researchers and SMEs, whose research focus on the transnational dimension of governance structures, policy regimes and political processes. The conference provides a platform for discussion across a range of thematic areas. Its aim is to identify breakthrough research strands upon which to build competitive partnerships at both Italian and international levels.

THE POLITICS AND POLICY OF TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES

Pisa, 28 November 2025, Polo Le Benedettine

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

9.30:9.45 – Institutional Greetings

I SESSION (9.45-13.00 a.m.)

9.45:11.15 – Chair Marco Antonelli (Scuola Normale Superiore)

Shifts in the EU political landscape

Cristina Dallara (University of Bologna); Lorenzo Cicchi (European University Institute), Andres Reljan (European University Institute) and Enrico Calossi (University of Pisa)

From local to global: governance practices and decision making tools

Stefania Profeti (University of Bologna); Anna Rodeghiero (Klink srl) and Paolo Santinello (Klink srl)

11.15:11.45 – Coffee break

11.45:12.45 – Chair: Eugenio Pizzimenti (University of Pisa)

Economic security: challenges and opportunities

Manuela Moschella (University of Bologna); Marco Di Giulio (University of Genova) and Francesco Niccolò Moro (University of Bologna)

12.45:14.00 – Light Lunch

II SESSION (14.00:17.30 p.m.)

14.00:15.30 – Chair: Massimiliano Andretta (University of Pisa)

Defense and security policies: old schemes and new challenges

Fabrizio Coticchia (University of Genova), Andrea Ruggeri (University of Milano)

Crime and Justice: Supranational Coordination and National Legacies

Salvatore Sberna (University of Pisa), Marco Antonelli (Scuola Normale Superiore), Manoel Gehrke (University of Pisa)

15.30:16.00 – Coffee break

16.00:17.45 – Chair: Enrico Calossi (University of Pisa)

Environmental politics and just transition

Paola Imperatore (University of Pisa) and Massimiliano Andretta (University of Pisa); Giulia Cimini (University of Bologna), Eugenio Pizzimenti (University of Pisa); Beniamino Masi (University of Padova)

17.45 – Concluding Address