

# Call for Papers: Political Institutions in Authoritarian Regimes

Standing Group Political Regimes/ Regimi politici

Italian Political Science Association/ Società Italiana di Scienza Politica

Conference 2022, 8-10 September

Sapienza University of Rome/ Sapienza Università di Roma

We seek contributions to our panel on ‘**Political Institutions in Authoritarian Regimes**’ at the 2022 Conference of the Italian Political Science Association (SISP).

Institutions such as political parties and legislatures have been highlighted as cornerstones of authoritarian rule. The recent ‘institutional turn’ taken by researchers on authoritarian regimes has identified political institutions as fulfilling important functions for dictators in the realms of cooptation, power-sharing, and information collection. In other words, political institutions are now at the core of most research agendas studying stability, strength, and survival in autocracies. Nevertheless, important questions about their role in authoritarian politics remain. For instance, while prior research has taken their mere existence as an important indicator of their usefulness to authoritarian rulers, they display remarkable variation across regimes and time.

Hence, why do political institutions matter in autocracies? How do they contribute to autocratization, authoritarian stability, and/or autocratic breakdown? What institutional trajectories have legislatures and ruling parties experienced over the years in autocracies? These are just some of the research questions the proposed panel seeks to discuss, and we strive to bring together contributions that shed more light on institutional processes in authoritarian regimes across the globe and through time. We are interested in understanding how different institutions interact in dictatorships, how they change and evolve, and how specifically they can support autocratic rule or undermine it. Taken together, this panel will provide a more nuanced approach to studying institutions in authoritarian regimes.

We seek papers on themes including but not limited to:

- Institutions’ role in processes of autocratization and democratization
- Institutions’ contribution to authoritarian rise, resilience, and/or breakdown
- Institutional evolution and changes through the years and decades
- Institutions’ role in cooptation and power-sharing mechanisms
- Intra-institutional processes and conflicts
- Interplay between different institutions in authoritarian regimes

We encourage studies that take an explicitly comparative approach and welcome single-country studies from any geographical region. Submitted papers may focus on a single institution, multiple institutions, and/or consider the interaction of institutions in a given authoritarian regime. We are also open to work presenting empirical evidence utilizing any methodological approach. Lastly, we explicitly invite applications from women and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

Those who wish to attend should submit their abstract through the application system available at <https://www.sisp.it/en/call-for-papers-eng>. Papers must be submitted online by **May 22**. Those interested in attending must indicate paper title, author information, and an abstract not exceeding 10,000 characters. We will notify applicants of a decision by June 14. For any remaining questions, please contact us via email:

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