

The 1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the JOURNAL **SCUOLA DEMOCRATICA** will be hosted at the **University of Cagliari** (Italy), **June 6 through 8, 2019**, by Scuola Democratica, **Centro Interuniversitario per la Ricerca Didattica** (University of Cagliari and University of Sassari), **Il Mulino Editore**.

The Conference stands as an opportunity to present and discuss empirical and theoretical works from a variety of disciplines and fields covering education. The focal theme of the Conference is a trend currently affecting many countries invested by processes of globalization: the advent of what Colin Crouch called «post-democracy» (**check Keynote speakers list**). Organizers, promoters and partners of the Conference wish to invite educators, teachers, researchers, scholars, academics, scientists, professionals, experts and policy makers to join the conversation and bring the disciplines towards a more integrated set of alliances by:

- promoting a trans and inter disciplinary discussion on urgent topics;
- fostering debates among experts and professionals;
- diffusing research findings all over international scientific networks and practitioners' mainstreams;
- launching further strategies and networking alliances on local, national and international scale;
- providing a new space for debate and evidences to educational policies.

We invite you to submit abstracts for your presentation at the **Special track**:

H.2. The changing of academic profession in the contemporary university

Convenors: Roberto Moscati (Università di Milano-Bicocca, roberto.moscati@unimib.it)

Stefano Boffo (Università di Napoli "Federico II", stefano.boffo@gmail.com)

Michele Rostan (Università di Pavia, rostan@unipv.it)

Daniele Checchi (Università Statale di Milano, daniele.checchi@unimi.it)

Keywords: **University; academic staff; professional ethic; academic power.**

Higher education systems in most of the countries belonging to different cultures are experiencing processes of transformation. These processes are underway already for years and are affecting both structural organization and content of research activities as well as teaching programs. Reasons for this dynamics are several and already rather well known.

In this process notable changes affect the internal organization and the distribution of power inside the universities which are pushed to become more efficient and productive utilizing a vertical structure of governance. But also conspicuous changes concern the academics and their roles inside the university.

A number of major structural changes related to the NPM governance reforms have been identified as having an impact on the academic work and the academic profession. Namely:

- Academics' professional self-regulation and degree of control over work conditions has been reduced;
- Academics' work has been affected by changes in funding, quality assurance and evaluation practices.
- Academic careers have to face the increased visibility of individual performance, the external research funding, the increase of non-permanent staff and of competition for permanent positions. As a consequence a growing difficulty to enter the academic profession for Ph.D. owners push – in systems like the Italian one - many of them to leave the academia or to transfer to a more open system of higher education.

A reconfiguration of academic power seems also underway through the raise of new roles like those of the "academic gatekeepers" who are made by academics sitting on review and selection committees, reviewing papers, selecting projects, and making authoritative judgements on the quality of institutions or disciplines...the position of the members of this new elite is based not just on full professorship and similar academic top-positions, but on network position gained through participation on academic peer review panels of all sort, research funding panels, evaluation bodies, hiring committees, editorial boards and so on.

Consequently, academic autonomy and self-determination in organizing their work and allocating their time have been limited while rewards and sanctions became an important tool in the hands of managers, particularly through the assessment and the evaluation of the attainment of formal objectives. In this way the universities had increased their capacity to intervene in the careers of their academic staff.

What has been described seems to represent a central (although not the only) aspect of transformations of higher education systems – not only due to the spread of the NPM model. These transformations have produced and are still producing relevant changes in post-democracy university, and especially in the characteristics of the academic staff.

Larson-Sarfatti, M. (1977), *The Rise of Professionalism: A Sociological Analysis*, Berkeley, University of California Press.
 Musselin, C. (2013), *How peer review empowers the academic profession and university managers: Changes in relationships between the state, universities and the professoriate*, in "Research Policy", 42, 1165-1173.
 Piper, D. (1994), *Are Professors Professionals? The Organization of University Examination*, London, Jessica Kingsley.

ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION

HOW TO SUBMIT

Abstracts should be submitted by **February 28, 2019** ([check Dates and Deadlines](#)).

Abstracts should be edited in the **template form** ([click to download](#)) and then submitted via the [submission platform](#).

Please do not submit your abstract by e-mailing it to the Convenor(s) of the track session you chose. Convenor(s) will receive submitted abstracts automatically from the [submission platform](#) and they are going to reject all the abstracts sent to their e-mail addresses.

Abstracts should include:

1. Title (limited to 20 words in UPPER CASE);
2. author's name and surname, institution and email address;
3. five keywords;
4. abstract's text (limited to 500 words).

- The presenting author can submit **only 1 abstract** at the Conference.
- You may be co-author of a second, third ...*n*th... submitted abstract only in case you are not the submitter of this latter.
- Submitters that are accepted for oral presentation will be permitted to give only **1 oral presentation**.
- The submitting and presenting author must be listed as the first author in the [template form](#).
- Please note the submitting author will receive all correspondence about the abstract so we advise that the submitting author details that are entered are the same details as those of the presenting author.
- Abstracts may not be edited/updated after final submission. You are welcome to bring an updated abstract onsite with you at the Conference.

Before you begin, please prepare the following information:

- Abstracts must be allocated to a specific track session and therefore you have to select and report track session's code and title in the [template form](#). For a complete listing of track session please [click here](#).
- Abstract layout in the [template form](#) has the following sections: Methods, outcomes, references. However, suggestions are not obligatory. Word count is affected by inclusion of references.
- Convenors and the Scientific Committee will review all submitted abstracts. Notification regarding abstract acceptance and scheduling will be sent to the submitting author
- Please note, if your abstract is accepted for oral presentation, the presenting author will be permitted a maximum of 20 minutes oral presentation in the program.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Anna Maria Ajello / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
 Gianluca Argentin / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
 Massimo Baldacci / Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo"
 Magali Ballatore / ESPE d'Aix-Marseille Université
 Carlo Barone / Sciences Po – Université Sorbonne Paris Cité
 Luciano Benadusi / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
 Rodriguez Leopoldo José Cabrera / Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife
 Vittorio Campione / Fondazione ASTRID
 Alessandro Cavalli / Università di Pavia
 Daniele Checchi / Università degli Studi di Milano
 Maddalena Colombo / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
 Filippo Dettori / Università di Sassari
 Orazio Giancola / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
 Paolo Landri / CNR-IRPPS
 Bruno Losito / Università degli Studi di Roma Tre
 Andrea Maccarini / Università di Padova
 Denis Meuret / Université de Bourgogne, Dijon
 Marcella Milana / Università degli Studi di Verona
 Roberto Moscati / Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
 Donatella Palomba / Università di Roma, Tor Vergata
 Filippo Pirone / Université Paris 8
 Marco Pitzalis / Università degli Studi di Cagliari
 Simonetta Polenghi / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
 Maria Polo / Università degli Studi di Cagliari
 Mariano Porcu / Università degli Studi di Cagliari
 Fabio Pruneri / Università di Sassari
 Luisa Ribolzi / Università di Genova
 Luca Salmieri / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
 Loredana Sciolla / Università degli Studi di Torino
 Roberto Serpieri / Università di Napoli "Federico II"
 Agnès van Zanten / Sciences Po – Université Sorbonne Paris Cité
 Assunta Viteritti / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
 Simonetta Ulivieri / Università di Firenze

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Antonietta De Feo / Università degli Studi "Roma 3"
 Domenico Lovecchio / Associazione "Per Scuola Democratica"
 Gabriele Pinna / Università di Cagliari
 Leonardo Piromalli / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
 Marco Romito / Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
 Luca Salmieri / Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

