



# DOES DEMOCRACY NEED SOLIDARITY? REFLECTIONS ACROSS DISCIPLINES

## RAVENNA, 29 APRIL 2025



"Les ateliers nationaux au Champ de Mars" (gravure de Césart Bouton)  
extraite de "Histoire de la Révolution de 1848", de Garnier-Pagès, tome II, Paris Degorce-Cadot  
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Dist GrandPalaisRmn/Agence Bulloz

### Welcome Speech:

**Francesco Di Donato** (University of Naples Federico II)

**Giovanni Giorgini** (University of Bologna)

### Opening Remarks and Chair:

**Annalisa Furia** (University of Bologna): *Does Democracy Need Solidarity?*

### Speakers:

**Andrea Sangiovanni** (King's College London): *Challenges to Solidarity*

**Elena Irrera** (University of Bologna): *Proto-solidarity in Aristotle. Friendship, Care, and the Wisdom of the Many.*

**Lorenzo Coccoli** (University of Catania): *From Charity to Solidarity: Exploring the Reasons of a Semantic Shift.*

**Elena Musiani** (University of Bologna): *Shaping a "New Social Human Subject": Women's Solidarity Networks in Europe in the first half of the 19th century.*

**Niall Bond** (Université Lyon 2): *Expressions of "Solidarity" in French and German Social Philosophy during the Long 19th century.*

11.00 – 13.30

PALAZZO VERDI - ROOM GERSHEVITCH |  
VIA PASOLINI, 23 – RAVENNA  
LINK TEAMS

Contemporary democracies have increasingly been described as exhibiting a tendency toward *de-solidarity*, understood as the critical dismantling of solidarity as a concept, obligation, or practice. At the same time, the idea of *transnational solidarity* is regaining prominence in academic discourse, where it is framed as a tool to broaden the conceptual and historical understanding of solidarity and to confront global challenges.

Emerging as a distinct modern concept between the 18th and 19th centuries—especially within French intellectual traditions and working-class movements—solidarity is dialectically connected to concepts such as charity, altruism, fraternity, friendship, and care. Its development has been shaped by enduring tensions and is situated at the crossroads of diverse moral, social, political, and disciplinary traditions. Against this background, the seminar aims to critically explore the historical and contemporary significance of solidarity in the development and maintenance of democracy in Europe, focusing on its emancipatory potential, pedagogical functions, normative implications, and modes of institutional and social articulation.

**Scientific Committee:** Francesco Di Donato, Giovanni Giorgini, Francesca Russo, Claudia Giurintano, Manuela Albertone, Gianluca Cuniberti, Annalisa Furia, Francesco Raschi.