



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA



TOWARDS A  
**GLOBAL HISTORY**  
OF  
**POLITICAL AND  
LEGAL THEORY**

*Exploring Non-Western Approaches  
to Political and Legal Thought*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

6 MAY 2026

AULA CAMPAGNA

PIAZZA XX SETTEMBRE

*Promoted by the Course of History of Political Thought, BA Degree  
in Political Science and International Relations*

# Towards a Global History of Political and Legal Theory

## International Conference

Wednesday 6 May 2026

University of Messina | Department of Legal & Political Studies  
Piazza XX Settembre | Aula Campagna

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*Across the world, the study of political and legal theory and the history of political and legal thought remains organized almost exclusively around the European and Western tradition. Such a paradigm is increasingly untenable in our global and postcolonial present. The conference Towards a Global History of Political and Legal Theory aims to challenge this perspective by exploring how this area of studies can be systematically broadened to incorporate non-Western approaches and traditions of thought.*

*Political and legal philosophy has never belonged to a single civilization. Across continents and centuries, societies have developed distinct and sophisticated theories of political authority, social order, justice, and legitimate rule. That the mainstream of the discipline has long confined itself to Western thinkers, doctrines, and institutions is a historical contingency, not a scholarly necessity — and one that leaves relevant intellectual traditions from Asia, Africa, indigenous societies, and nomadic peoples largely outside its frame.*

*This conference aims to provide a contribution to the development of a Global History of Political and Legal Thought by bringing into dialogue the diverse traditions that have shaped governance across the world: Confucian meritocracy and Vedic conceptions of dharma, Buddhist kingship and African communal institutions, nomadic steppe governance and Islamic political philosophy, revolutionary Soviet thought and modern postcolonial nation-building projects, among others. By taking these questions seriously on a global scale, the conference invites scholars and students to move beyond a Eurocentric understanding of political development and to engage with political thought as a dynamic, multi-civilizational, and still-unfinished intellectual history.*

*The conference is promoted by the Chair of History of Political Thought, BA degree in Political Sciences and International Relations at the University of Messina.*

### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#### OPENING SESSION (9:30-10:45)

**-Institutional Address**

*Prof. Salvatore Bottari (Coordinator of the degree in Political Science and International Relations)*

**-Introduction to post-colonial political theory**

*Prof. Federico Tomasello*

**-Postcolonial Theory, Decolonial Action: Edward W. Said**

*Dr. Andrea Cannizzo (online)*

**-Frantz Fanon and the Meaning of Post-Colonial Liberation**

*Sabrina Jarfi (Morocco)*

**-The ideological roots of Universalism in the history of political thought**

*Prof. Franco M. Di Sciullo*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Phuong Linh Lu (Vietnam)**

## SESSION 1: EAST ASIA (11:00-12:15)

– **Chinese legalism in Han Feizi's thought**

*Nguyen Hoai Bac (Vietnam)*

– **Confucianism and Its Impact on Vietnam: Political Thought and Governance in the Lê Dynasty**

*Nguyen Mai Linh (Vietnam)*

–**From Frailocracy to Republic: the birth of the First Asian Republic**

*Kimberly Bungay (Italy & Philippines)*

–**The Hobbesian social contract and modern Singapore**

*Lara Ekin (Turkiye)*

–**The Liquid State: Archipelagic power in the pre-colonial Philippines**

*Kimberly Bungay (Italy & Philippines)*

–**One Nation, Two Systems: The Political Division of Korea**

*Asia Collins (Italy & Ireland)*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Erica Jane Scarfi Medrano (Italy and Philippines)**

## SESSION 2: SOUTH ASIA (12:15-13:30)

–***Puruṣārtha, Caturupāya, Brahmavihāra*: Basic Ideal & Strategies of Ancient Political Systems in India**

*Prof. Aneesh Das (India, online)*

– **Vedas and Unpanishads**

*Anshu Madhukar (India)*

–**Republican Thought in the Śānti Parva: A Commentary on the Gaṇa Discourse**

*Shreya Auddya (India)*

–**Concept of Ramrajya and Gandhian Ideal of Welfare Schemes in India**

*Jenny Mary Philip (India)*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Karunanayaka Rishin Sasith Kavinga Silva (Sri-Lanka)**

## LUNCH BREAK (13:30-15:00)

## SESSION 3: EAST AFRICA (15:00-15:30)

– **Decentering the West: Ethiopia and Pan-Africanism**

*Maraki Berouk Mesfin (Ethiopia)*

– **Hamer Evangadi: a traditional governance system in southwestern Ethiopia**

*Evan Belete Koisha (Ethiopia)*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Prof. Agata Daniela Melfa**

# Towards a Global History of Political and Legal Theory

## SESSION 4: CENTRAL ASIA (15:30-16:15)

– **Political Thought and State-Building in the Era of Amir Timur**

*Sabina Mekenbaeva (Uzbekistan)*

– **Nomadic democracy – Part 1: Historical origins**

*Aruzhan Bolatova (Kazakhstan)*

– **Nomadic democracy – Part 2: Governance mechanisms**

*Zhanara Yergazinova (Kazakhstan)*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Prof. Dario Caroniti**

## SESSION 5: TURKIYE AND THE OTTOMAN LEGACY (16:15-17:00)

– **Before the Polis: Rethinking the Origins of Political Order in Ancient Anatolia**

*Nazlı Berrin Burçak (Turkiye)*

– **The Ottoman Millet System: A Historical Model for Multi-Religious Governance and Legal Pluralism**

*Kaan Aslan (Turkiye)*

– **From Empire to Republic: Founding Father of Republic of Türkiye**

*Sude Elif Ayarçioğlu (Turkiye)*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Prof. Dario Caroniti**

## SESSION 5: ISLAMIC LEGAL-POLITICAL THOUGHT (17:00-17:45)

– **Political Islam in Contemporary Turkey: Religion and Power in Modern Governance**

*Nehir Cenik (Turkiye)*

– **The Persian Metamorphosis: How Ancient Political Logic Reconfigured Islamic Thought**

*Iman Ghasemi Deligani (Iran)*

**-Q&A**

**Chair: Prof. Lidia Lo Schiavo**

## CLOSING REMARKS (17:45-18:00)

## INTERCULTURAL EVENT (18:30-21:30)

**Caffè letterario Voltapagina – Strada S. Giacomo 16, Messina**

*This post-conference event is designed to bring together international students and professors of the University of Messina in an evening dedicated to cultural exchange and connection. It will serve as a space to harmonize diverse cultures, foster meaningful interactions, and celebrate the global community formed during the conference. All participants are warmly invited to join and enjoy a relaxed and engaging atmosphere.*

**SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZER: Prof. Federico Tomasello**

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