



# Opening Conference

## Report



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# 1 Summary of the discussions

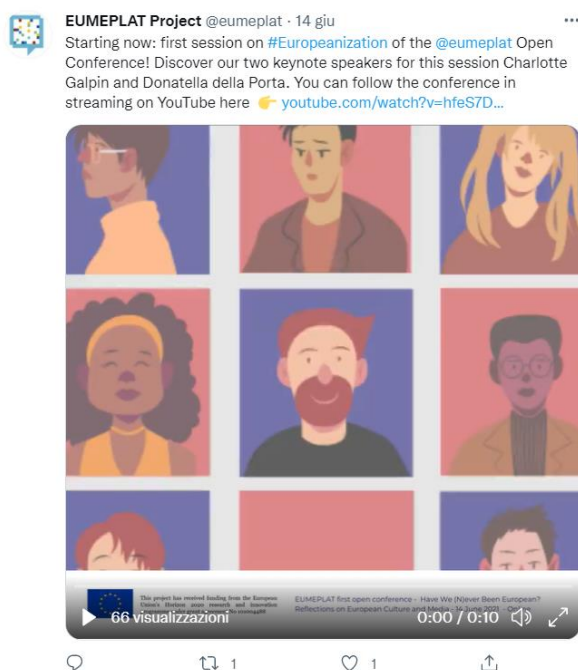
## 1.1 Introduction

The EUMEPLAT Open Conference has been the occasion for a high-level discussion on theoretical and methodological framework for European studies. Three strands can be identified, which respectively have to do with comparative history; participation and possible forms of Europeanization from below; and media systems. Some of the involved speakers – namely, Donald Sassoon, Paolo Mancini and Dan Hallin – are involved in the project as members of the Scientific Board.



## 1.2 Session 1

In the first session Donatella della Porta, from Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, and Charlotte Galpin, from the University of Birmingham, discussed with EUMEPLAT researchers Nico Carpentier and Barbara Thomass. Relations between top-down and bottom-up ways to Europeanization have been analyzed, with a focus on the role played by social movements. Della Porta took the side of agency, in order to reach a more balanced definition of European common identity – as we know that EU is often perceived as a purely bureaucratic entity, which comes as an explanation of its lack of legitimacy. Galpin proposed the results of a field-work on the Brexit referendum and on the specific case of spontaneous remain movements, which might pave the way to a more participatory cross-European debate. At both the theoretical and the empirical level, the seminar provided advanced insights into tendencies and premises of possible Europeanization from below.



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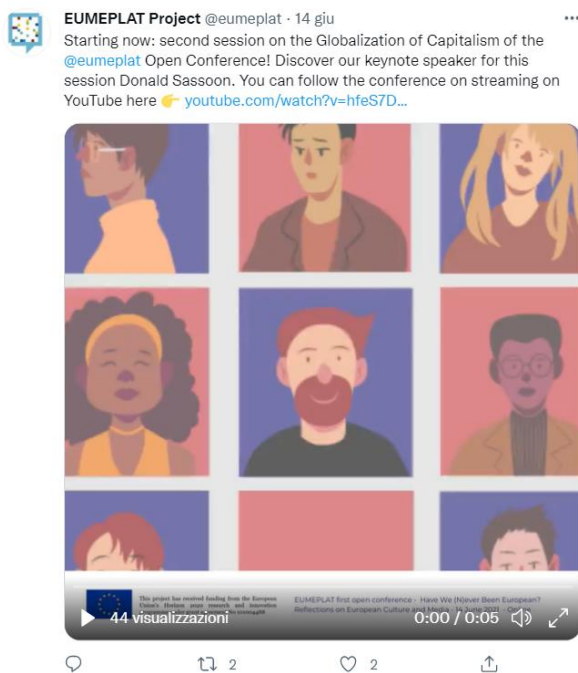


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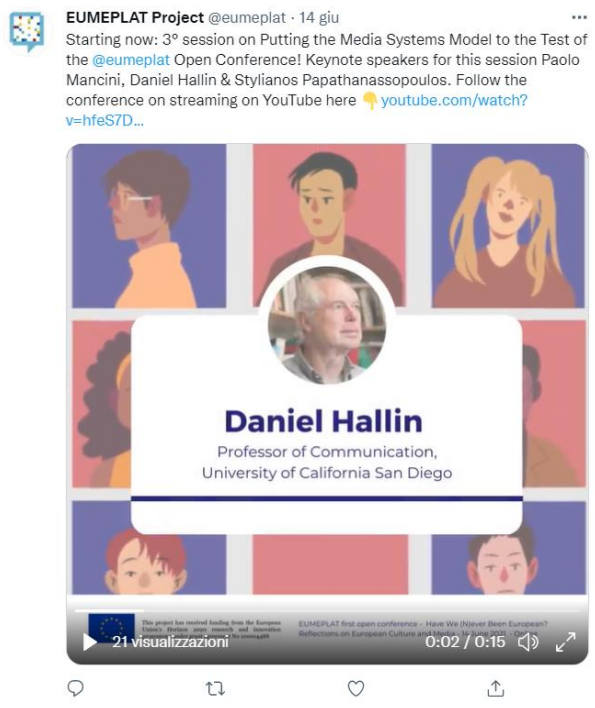
## 1.3 Session 2

In the second session, Donald Sassoon – emeritus professor of comparative European history at the King’s College in London – lectured about the relation between European modernity and long-duration history. Based on Sassoon’s most recent investigation, the category of empire would offer an ideal backdrop, against which to understand contemporary processes. Europe therefore appears as the complex and unstable result of the tension between different, if not opposed forces: and namely, the globalization of markets and cultures, and the resurgence of local forms of identity. In this case too, the Brexit consultation has been used as a main example, as it reveals the conflict between international flows and the communitarian sense of belonging.



## 1.4 Session 3

The third topic is the closest to the specific field of communication studies. As the EUMEPLAT project is partially based on the comparative media systems theory, EUMEPLAT researcher Stylianos Papathanassopoulos discussed with the inventors of the model, Paolo Mancini and Daniel Hallin. Attention has been placed on methodological aspects, and in particular on the adaption of the original three-space model to contemporary media markets. Two main challenges eventually emerged, which deal with the inclusion of digital platforms, at the historical level, and with the analysis of Eastern European regions, at the geographical level. The two-way nature of digital media has also been evoked as a main variable, as it allows for a broader participation to news-making and public debate, also affecting the assumptions on journalistic professionalism, on which the original framework was premised. The final part of the discussion focused on such a classical topic as the convergence of the different media patterns toward the Liberal model. The authors agree on this tendency not being totally backed by empirical evidence, and share the idea that further investigation will be necessary, for detecting the role of technological innovation in the possible convergence at the cross-European level.



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# 2 Biographies of the speakers

## 2.1 Moderators and Discussants

**Donatella della Porta** - *Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Science, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa*



Donatella Della Porta is Professor of political science, dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences and Director of the PD program in Political Science and Sociology at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, where she also leads the Center on Social Movement Studies (Cosmos). Between 2003 and 2014 she has been Full Professor in political sociology at the European University Institute. Previously she has been Full Professor of Political Science and Director of the Department of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Florence. She has received a *Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies* at the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales* of Paris and a Ph.D in political and social sciences at the European University Institute in Florence. Her research focuses on social movements, political violence, terrorism, corruption, the police and protest policing. She has directed a major European Research Council (ERC) project, *Mobilizing for Democracy*, on civil society participation in democratization processes in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. In 2011, she was the recipient of the Mattei Dogan Prize for distinguished achievements in the field of political sociology. She is Honorary Doctor of the universities of Lausanne, Bucharest and Goteborg. Della Porta is the author of 85 books, 130 journal articles and 127 contributions in edited volumes.



**Charlotte Galpin** - *Lecturer in German and European Politics, University of Birmingham*



Charlotte Galpin is a Lecturer in German and European Politics at the University of Birmingham. She holds a BA (Hons) in French and German Studies from Warwick University, an MA in European Integration (University of Birmingham), a PhD in Political Science and International Studies (University of Birmingham), as well as a PGCHE Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education from the same University. Before joining the University of Birmingham in 2017, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Copenhagen where was researching the role of the media in amplifying Euroscepticism. She has also been a teaching fellow at the University of Bath. In autumn term 2019/20 she held the Alfred Grosser Visiting Professorship in Civil Society Research in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Galpin's research focuses on European identities, EU citizenship, Euroscepticism, the European public sphere, including social media, German politics and society, Brexit, gender and feminist approaches to the above. She has presented her research internationally and has provided analysis for a number of news outlets, including Associated Press, BBC Radio, Deutsche Welle, Business Insider UK and the Huffington Post. She has also given evidence to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

**Daniel Hallin** - *Distinguished Professor of Communication, University of California San Diego*



Daniel Hallin is Distinguished Professor of Communication at the University of California San Diego. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Hallin's research centers on journalism, political communication and the comparative analysis of media systems. In recent years, he has turned his attention to the comparative analysis of media systems, focusing on

Western Europe and on Latin America, and trying to bring into political communication and media studies the tradition of comparative historical and institutional analysis that can be found





in sociology and comparative politics. Most recently, Hallin has been doing research on health and medical reporting and the mediatization of health and medicine. Hallin has written on the media and war, on television coverage of elections, and on the rise and decline of journalist professionalism in the United States. His book *Comparing Media Systems: Three Models of Media and Politics*, co-authored with Paolo Mancini, has won the Outstanding Book awards of the International Communication and National Communication Associations, and the Goldsmith Book Award of the Shorenstein Center on Press and Politics at Harvard. He was awarded the Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award by the Political Communication Division of the American Political Science Association and Fellowships at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford.

**Paolo Mancini - Professor of Media Sociology, University of Perugia**



Paolo Mancini is Full Professor at the Department of Political Sciences at Università degli Studi di Perugia. His research focuses on the relationship between mass communication systems and the political system, and on the study of electoral campaigns. He is author of several publications: his 2004 book *Comparing Media Systems* won the Goldsmith Award from Harvard and the Diamond Anniversary Book Award from the National Communication Association, and in 2006 the Outstanding Book Award from the NCA. His articles have been published in *Theory and Society*, *European Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Communication*, *International Journal of Press/Politics* and in various other collections.

Mancini has been several times Visiting Professor at University of California, San Diego, as well as fellow at the Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, Harvard University, at the Erik Brost Institute, University of Dortmund and at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. In 2019 Mancini was appointed Fellow of International Communication Association (ICA) and was awarded the Murray Edelman Career Achievement Award from the Political Communication division of the American Political Science Association. In the same year he was named Honorary Doctor from Midsweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden.



**Donald Sassoon** - *Emeritus Professor of Comparative European History, Queen's College, London*



Donald Sassoon is Emeritus Professor of Comparative European History at Queen Mary University of London. Educated in Paris, Milan, London and the USA, he obtained his first degree in 1969 from University College London, his MA from the Pennsylvania State University and his PhD from Birkbeck under Eric Hobsbawm's supervision. He taught at Queen Mary, University of London until his retirement in 2012. He was visiting professor at Trento, Padua, and Brisbane. He has lectured at universities throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America, spoken at conferences in over thirty countries and is frequently interviewed by the international media. He is currently writing a comparative analysis of revolutions (England, USA, France, Russia, and China). Donald Sassoon is author of over 100 articles and many books, which have been translated into 15 languages: among them *One Hundred Years of Socialism*, *The Culture of the Europeans*, *Mona Lisa*, *The Anxious Triumph. A Global History of Capitalism 1860-1914* (Penguin), and *Morbid Symptoms: An Anatomy of a World in Crisis*.

## 2.2 Moderators and Discussants

**Luca Barbarito** - *Dean of the Faculty of Communication, IULM University*



Graduated in Law at Università degli Studi di Milano, he holds a Master in Business Administration at the University of Hartford (USA) and a Master in Economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium). He also obtained a Ph.D. in Economics at Università Bocconi - Università Cattolica di Milano - Università degli Studi di Milano in 1994.

He was a short-term Fellow of CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) and has spent short visiting periods of teaching abroad, in European Universities, within the Erasmus and Socrates Programs. He

is currently Full Professor in Applied Economics at IULM University, where he is also Professor of Economics and Media Economics and of Competitive Analysis. He has been Director of Department of Business Law Economics and Consumer Behaviour at IULM University from 2017 to 2020 and he has been recently appointed as new Dean of the Faculty of Communication Media and Advertising. His areas of research include: Market Analysis, Industry Analysis, Media Industries, Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis, Strategic Positioning, Performance Analysis, Regulation of Industries, Antitrust Policies.

**Nico Carpentier - Charles University**



Nico Carpentier is an Extraordinary Professor at Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic) and President of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (2020-2023). He also holds a part-time position at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB – Free University of Brussels, Belgium) as an Associate Professor. Moreover, he is a Research Fellow at Loughborough University. Earlier, he was IAMCR Audience Section Chair (2010-2012), ECREA Treasurer (2005-2012) and Vice-President (2008-2012), IAMCR Treasurer (2012-2016) and IAMCR Participatory Communication Section Chair (2016-2020). His theoretical focus is on discourse theory. His research is situated in the relationship between communication, politics and culture, especially towards social domains as war & conflict, ideology, participation and democracy. His latest monographs are *The Discursive-Material Knot: Cyprus in Conflict and Community Media Participation* (2017, Peter Lang, New York) and *Iconoclastic Controversies: A Photographic Inquiry into Antagonistic Nationalism* (2021, Intellect, Bristol).



**Andrea Miconi** - IULM University, EUMEPLAT Principal Investigator



Andrea Miconi has been Associate Professor at the Department of Media, Arts & Communication of IULM University since 2017. There, he was a researcher from 2008 to 2017, after obtaining his PHD at Sapienza University of Rome (2001). A visiting lecturer at USP University, Sao Paulo (2007-2011) and Adjunct Professor at USI – University of Italian Switzerland (2013-2016), he was Coordinator of the Master Program in Management of Creative Processes at IULM University (2007-2010).

Coordinator of IULM University Unit in the Tempus Project “e-MEDia. A bottom-up approach for the design and pilot of a joint Master Course in Cross-Media Journalism” (2013-2017) and Project Coordinator for the Erasmus+ KA2 Project “PAGES - Post-Crisis Journalism in Post-Crisis Libya: A Bottom-up Approach to the Development of a Cross-Media Journalism Master Program”.

Miconi is an Expert Peer-Reviewer for the Italian National Scientific Evaluation (CINECA) and Member of the Scientific Board of the PHD Program in Visual and Media Studies at IULM.

His articles have been published in “Social Media & Society”, “Creative Industries Journal”, “International Journal of Communication”, and “New Media & Society”.

**Stylianos Papathanassopoulos** - National & Kapodistrian University of Athens



Stylianos Papathanassopoulos is Professor in Media Organisation and Policy at the Department of Communication and Media Studies, School of Economics and Political Science at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. He was the Head (2007-2011) of the Faculty, member of the Board of the Hellenic Audiovisual Institute (2006-2011). Previously, he was Deputy Director (1996-2005) of the University Research Institute of Applied Communication (URIAC) and Deputy-Head of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies (2003-2007) and a Visiting Professor at City University of London (2017-2020). He has given lectures at the Universities of Helsinki, Sheffield, and Cyprus. He was



Director of the Division of Communication Psychology and Communications Policy and Planning and currently Director of the Laboratory of Journalism Studies at the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens.

He is also a member of the Euromedia Research Group, the Managing Committee of the COST Action "IS1308 -Populist Political Communication in Europe: Comprehending the Challenge of Mediated Political Populism for Democratic Politics" and the Network of European Political Communication Scholars, as well as he was a member of the research project and network «Changing Media-Changing Europe» funded by the European Science Foundation. He has written extensively on European media and politics. His publications can be found in journals like European Journal of Communication, Media Culture and Society, Global Media and Communication, Media International Australia, The International Journal of Harvard in Press and Politics, Intermedia, Political Communication, The Communication Review, Journalism Studies, International Journal of Digital Television, Javnost/the Public, Eurozine. He has also written for the trade press (Broadcast, Television Business International, European Television Analyst, and Cable & Satellite Europe). He is the Editor of the Greek communication journal Zitimata Epikoinonias (Communication Issues) and member of the editorial boards of the journals Global Media and Communication, European Journal of Communication and Journalism Practice. He has been a regular contributor on media topics in the Greek press (newspapers Kathimerini and Ta NEA).

### **Barbara Thomaß** - *Hans-Bredow-Institute, Hamburg*



Prof. Dr. **Barbara Thomaß** has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institut (HBI) in the EUMEPLAT project since March 2021.

From 2003 to 2020, Barbara Thomaß held the professorship for "Media Systems in International Comparison" at the Institute for Media Studies at the Ruhr University Bochum. There she is still co-director of the research training group "MEDAS21 Media Development Assistance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".



She is second deputy chairwoman of the ZDF board of directors and chairwoman of the board of the Akademie für Publizistik in Hamburg. She is a member of the European Media Research Group as well as a member of the expert committee of Deutsche Welthungerhilfe. Her work focuses on international communication, the politics and economics of media and communication, and media systems in Western and Eastern Europe. She has worked on issues of European media policy, media ethics and journalistic ethics as well as on media development cooperation and media in democratization and transformation processes. She studied journalism, political science and economics in Berlin and Grenoble and received her PhD from Universität Hamburg in 1998. Since 1995, she has taught at the universities of Hamburg, Lüneburg, Bremen, Göttingen and as a guest lecturer at the Nouvelle Sorbonne in Paris, the University of Vienna and Mc Gill University in Montreal. She has also worked as a lecturer in international journalism training. Before her academic career, she completed a newspaper traineeship and worked as a journalist for several years.



## Get in touch

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