

Press Release

Venice - Italy, 11 October 2017

VIU Workshop | The Personalization of Power | October 20, 2017

A satellite event of the Council of Europe's [World Forum for Democracy](#) at Venice International University, with the participation of students and professors of the Globalization Program.

On October 20, 2017, VIU will host a satellite event of the Council of Europe's [World Forum for Democracy](#), entitled The Personalization of Power.

Why this topic? Because today there is a tendency for leaders in many of our countries to be very visible, finding legitimacy in a direct exclusive relationship with "their" people through the internet, social media and TV, setting aside procedures, political parties and organizations, often exhibiting provocative aggressive language, targeting élites, opponents and foreigners. To what extent, why and how? What are the effects? Should we try to limit this? How?

Through short presentations, discussion and an experimental theatre-game, the participants will focus on personalization and populism, how they are manifested and their disadvantages; on personalization in politics and in non-political institutions, and the role of the internet, social and other media.

The VIU workshop is an excellent opportunity for the participants to explore and discuss this issue with a participatory and interdisciplinary approach.

Professors and students of the Fall semester of the VIU Globalization Program will contribute, in particular:

- Federico Boschetti, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Digital Humanities
- Sara De Vido, Università Ca' Foscari, International Law
- Natalie Göltenboth, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Anthropology
- Gad Kaynar-Kissinger, Tel Aviv University, Theater studies
- Paola Modesti, Venice International University, Architectural History
- Kevin Newmark, Boston College, English literature
- Hiroshi Nishihara, Waseda University, Constitutional Law
- Charlie Thompson, Anthropology and Documentary studies
- Luca Pes, Venice International University, History (coordinator of the event).
- Dr. Bill Chafe, Alice Mary Baldwin Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University and author of *Bill and Hillary: The Politics of the Personal* will be a guest speaker.

The VIU Workshop is a satellite event of the [World Forum for Democracy](#) of the [Council of Europe](#) which will take place in Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2017.



The 2017 World Forum for Democracy will focus on the role of political parties and media in the context of rising populism.

A growing disconnect between citizens and political elites and dramatic changes in the media ecosystem are a challenge for democracy as we know it. New political and media actors and practices are emerging, offering opportunities for direct, unmediated engagement of the public, unbound by ethical or institutional safeguards. How can pluralism, freedom of expression, and fair and evidence-based public debate be safeguarded in these new conditions? How to nourish political culture which embraces a long-term perspective and resists the excesses of populism?



About Venice International University

<http://www.univiu.org/homepage/about-viu/what-is-viu>

Venice International University is something unique in the academic world - a consortium of 17 universities from all over the world with an autonomous campus on the island of San Servolo, Venice, Italy.

Universities today must play a strategic role in addressing the new global challenges: sustainable development, climate change and energy, food and water security, urban growth, welfare, ageing populations, the widening gap between rich and poor, global ethics, protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, human rights, equality, democratization, peace and conflict, global governance, cyber-security.

Today's students need to VIU's academic and thematic programs adopt interdisciplinary approaches in an international context, nurturing the ability of students to develop different skills, to work across disciplines, to react with great flexibility and a broad intellectual range.

The common campus in Venice creates a sense of community that favors consensus building. Programs are drawn up collegially together, across disciplines, continents, languages and cultures. Students encounter a truly intercultural experience at VIU.

One of the advantages is to be in Venice, a living laboratory in a fragile environment with a remarkable cultural heritage where students and professors can directly experience and become aware of some of the common challenges.

VIU campus:



Logos



Programme

9:15-10:10 FIRST ACT - LECTURE

Greetings and introduction

Bill Chafe on Personality and Politics from JFK to Trump

A dialogue from Ubu Roi by Alfred Jarry, performed by Theo De Lepeleere and Elina Messfeldt
(instructor: Gad Kaynar Kissinger)

10:10-10:45 SECOND ACT - SHORT PRESENTATIONS

Three teams of students in Andrea Buratti's class on *Patterns of Democracy and Forms of Government*:

- 1) Andrew Jackson and the roots of populist democracy
- 2) The strange case of Emmanuel Macron, an antipopulist populist
- 3) The 5 stars movement between anti-politics and direct democracy

A monologue from Shakespeare's Richard III, performed by Lea Maria Unterseer
(instructor: Gad Kaynar Kissinger) (5 min)

10:45-11:35 THIRD ACT (45 min) - ROUND TABLE

Sara De Vido on Personalization and Gender

Dario Lucchesi on Personalization and New Media

Hiroshi Nishihara The Personalization of political power as constitutional problem in Japan

Kevin Newmark An Im-personal Perspective

Discussion

11:45-13:15 FOURTH ACT - EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOPS

Workshop on The Personalization of Power's Language (instructor: Federico Boschetti)

Thuy Thao Suong Le: Word clouds for Obama and Trump

Elisa Cugliana: "I, me and myself": Trump vs Clinton

Ekaterina Mikhailova-Smolniakova: Putin's words

Ilia Kozhelskii: Translating Hitler nowadays

Workshop on Staging Power - the construction of space, rituals and habitus (instructor: Natalie Göltenboth)

Natalie Göltenboth: La Madonna dell'Arco

Ricarda Wolf: Angela Merkel

Giovanni Giuliani: Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in the election campaign

Christina Lotz: Mark Zuckerberg

Elias Kruithof: Dalai Lama

Valerie Tumasov: Lena Dunham

Anouk Chambaz: Aung San Suu Kyi

Theater Games Workshop on Attaining Power (instructor: Gad Kaynar Kissinger)

with Jonathan Franco, Theo De Lepeleere, Elina Messfeldt, Gundula Rauch, Marlene Sichelschmidt,
Valerie Tumasov, Lea Maria Unterseer, Julka Wittmann