

PhD Program in Legality, Political Cultures and Democracy

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Department of Political Science

The PhD in Legality, Political Cultures and Democracy, established in 2019 in implementation of the development plan of the Department of Political Sciences, obtained from MIUR the qualification as International Doctorate thanks to the presence of specific agreements with Midsweden University (Sundsvall, Sweden), Lomonosov University (Moscow, Russian Federation) and Paris 8 University (Paris, France). During the first two years PhD candidates are expected to attend curricular teaching activities in Perugia and spend a research period abroad of at least one semester. A good knowledge of Italian and English languages is required. Five scholarships are available every year, two of which are reserved for international candidates. The PhD program includes three curricula, characterized by interdisciplinarity:

LEGALITY - The specific object of this curriculum is the identification of the principle of legality as a premise and guarantee of the good quality of democratic institutions. In a multidisciplinary perspective, attentive to the European, national and local contexts, this focus can be declined in multiple directions: the analysis of regulations and practices related to the prevention and fighting of corruption; the level of transparency and accessibility of data made available by the administrative apparatus, with special respect to big data; the study of economic aspects of illegality; the analysis of social rights' guarantee and welfare policies. Public ethics, in both its deontological and philosophical dimension, represents another fundamental object of study, as well as the measurement of public perception and media coverage with respect to corruption and illegality, in a transnational and comparative perspective.

POLITICAL CULTURES - The privileged object of the investigation is the "political culture", which can be defined as the result of the complex interaction between institutions, citizens' orientations towards them and the self-perception of the citizens themselves as members of a specific political system. The most important issues in this context are political participation, the level of civic culture, the degree of conflict between the various political cultures and, within them, between sub-cultures, the symbolic link between political cultures and individual and collective identities, conflicts and migratory movements as powerful factors in redefining political cultures. The relationship between political culture and national and/or linguistic dimension lends to comparative studies and to the investigation of the phenomenon of multiculturalism; while the ideological specificities of the various sub-cultures connected to specific political parties and movements, can be investigated both in reference to contemporary models and in a historical perspective.

DEMOCRACY - This curriculum focuses on the investigation of the democratic political model, both in its juridical-institutional aspects and in relation to the theoretical conceptualization and the ideological debate that characterize it, in a contemporary perspective as well as in a historical one, and with particular attention to the transnational and comparative dimension of the analysis. The main topics to be studied include political representation, forms of direct political participation, problems linked to the application of the democratic paradigm to the supra-state context and in a context dominated by economic and financial globalization, the role of political communication and new media in the formation of public opinion and in the construction of consensus, the relationship between people and elites, constitutional and electoral systems,

democratic legality understood as the rule of law, analysis of electoral flows. The processes of democratization, with particular reference to the Mediterranean and Eastern European areas, represent a further focus of interest.