Rationale

In a modern, complex society, knowledge and expertise are said to serve as an essential tool to tackle varieties of societal problems. The reliance on experts and expertise for governing—often dubbed “technocracy”—is alleged to weaken ties between people and the government, thereby undermining the functioning of democratic politics.

Coming from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, we organise a workshop on “Technocracy in Time and Space” to revisit this alleged tension between technocracy and democracy, broadly conceived, in different historical and geographical settings. Key research questions to be explored throughout the workshop include: To what extent is technocracy compatible with democracy? Is technocracy displacing democracy across societies? To what extent does democracy rely on technocratic means to operate? Paying renewed attention to technocracy and technocratic forms of governance also invites parallel discussions about populism and ‘technopopulism’ as an alternative form of government. Thus, an inquiry into technocracy can highlight the conditions for, and the viability of, future democracy.

Location: Refectory, Badia and Zoom.us (the link will be disseminated by email).

Format and Housekeeping:

- Sessions will have 15 minutes for each presentation and 5 minutes for questions and discussion at the end.
- We strongly encourage everyone to keep their video on for a feeling of community engagement over the virtual platform. However, everyone except the presenter should mute their microphones unless they are called upon by the chair to participate in the Q&A at the end of a presentation.
- Participants can write their question in the chat during or after the presentation, and the chair will ask them to unmute their microphone and speak up.

Program

09:20 – 09:30 Welcome and introduction by Takuya Onoda (EUI)
09:30 – 11:00 **Panel 1 “International experiences”**
Chair: **Wanshu Cong** (EUI)
- **Julia Gray** (University of Pennsylvania/EUI): “An International Civil Service and Paradigms in International Relations”
- **Adélie Chevée** (EUI): “Reflections on Technocracy, Public Intellectuals and Expertise in Syria”
- **May Tamimova** (University of Oxford/EUI): “Seasonal Technocracy: Rebranding Traditional Politics in Lebanon”
Discussant: **Corinna Unger** (EUI)

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00 **Panel 2. “European experiences”**
Chair: **Giacomo Tagiuri** (EUI)
- **Paul Dermine** (EUI): “When Technocrats Control Other Technocrats - Judicial Review of Monetary Policy in the Eurozone”
- **Sebastian Diessner** (EUI): “Planning laissez-faire: Supranational central banking and structural reforms”
Discussant: **Antoine Vauchez**, (CNRS, Paris 1 – Sorbonne/EUI)

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30 **Panel 3. Innovation, Regulation, Policy-Making: (Un)Orthodox Approaches to Technocratic Governance**
Chair: **Tommaso Milani** (EUI)
- **Martin Kohlrausch** (KU Leuven): “Modernist Architects as a New Technocratic Elite in Europe, 1900-1950”
- **Diane Stone** (EUI): “Transnational Governance and Epistocracy”
- **Claudio Radaelli** (EUI) and **Roberto Baldoli** (UCL): “Foundations of Regulatory Choice: Precaution, Innovation…and Nonviolence?”
Discussant: **Takuya Onoda** (EUI)

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:00 **Panel 4. Roundtable: Technocratic governance in Italy and Europe: 100 days of the Draghi administration**
Chair: **Sebastian Diessner** (EUI)
- **Erik Jones** (EUI)
- **Giulia Pastorella** (Azione/Zoom)
- **Paolo Graziano** (the University of Padua)