

## ***Technocracy in Time and Space: Multidisciplinary Perspectives***

### **Max Weber Programme Multidisciplinary Research Workshop**

Co-organised with "Democracy in the 21st Century" and "Crisis of Expert Knowledge and Authority" EUI Interdisciplinary Research Clusters

**Monday, May 31, 2021**

**Organisers:** Takuya Onoda (MWF-SPS), Adélie Chevéé (MWF-RSC), Wanshu Cong (MWF-LAW), Paul Dermine (MWF-LAW), Sebastian Diessner (MWF-RSC), Tommaso Milani (MWF-HEC), Giacomo Tagiuri (MWF-LAW)

### **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” –, however, 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”
- **Johanna Breuer** (EUI): “Assessing ESMA’s Review in light of New Intergovernmentalism – The Agency’s Review between 2017-2019”

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)