

## **Disagreement and Constitutionalism**

**May 9-10, 2019**

**University of Padua, Campus of Treviso**

Department of Public, International, and Community Law, University of Padua

Notre Dame Law School Program on Constitutional Structure

### ***Conference and Call for Papers***

A constitution “is made for people of fundamentally differing views.” Justice O.W. Holmes’s words ring even more true today. Disagreement is prevalent in contemporary life. Fundamental debates about the means and ends of government are ubiquitous and widely inclusive. Differences in understanding and perspective have arguably taken on unique salience in an era of globalization, mass migration, and new media.

The management of disagreement has always been a purpose of constitutions. Traditionally, horizontal and vertical separations of powers channeled disagreement between constitutional actors, providing a shared framework for the resolution of profound disputes. With increased social and ideological pluralism, however, these mechanisms are under increasing strain. Can constitutions meet this intensified challenge?

The conference is intended to provide a forum for discussion of the role of constitutions in respecting, disciplining, and reconciling disagreements. Theoretical and comparative approaches will be adopted to allow conversations across traditional boundaries. We invite consideration of the popular, democratic, institutional, and judicial mechanisms through which legal regimes account for disagreements within their societies. In particular, we invite reflection on how the dynamics of disagreement have changed over time.

### ***Invited Speakers and Chairman***

Jeff Pojanowski, Notre Dame University, and Renata Uitz, Central European University, will deliver the keynote addresses.

Prof. Tommaso Edoardo Frosini, President of the Comparative Public and European Law Association will chair the keynote Session.

***Call for papers.*** The conveners invite abstract submissions from scholars interested in exploring the topic of constitutional disagreement as depicted above. Abstracts should be submitted by November 30, 2018. Accepted participants will be notified by early January 2019; they will have to submit a paper by April 15, 2019. The papers will be circulated among the participants in advance of the conference. A discussant will be assigned to each paper to start the conversation. The discussion is intended to provide authors with substantial feedback on their works. Conference participants are responsible to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

The conveners intend to seek publication of all conference papers in a law journal.

The Conveners

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