

UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA  
INSTITUTO DE ESTUDOS POLÍTICOS

2018/19  
BA Programme

**Nationalism, Populism & Democracy (5,5 ECTS)**

Professor: Mónica Dias

**PROGRAM**

Taking in account that mankind probably never had so many devices to communicate on a global scale, including means and ways to meet and learn from each other and that not only governments but also other forms of political, economic and social organization are inextricably interwoven, the (re-) emergence of nationalism seems to be a paradox. In the "free zone" of Europe this might be even more puzzling. In fact, the trends in international politics (and specially in the European Union) suggest at least three (apparent) paradoxes of nationalism today. Firstly, there is a strong "*globalization*" of markets and brands, but also of ideas, cultural expressions and expectancies. All kind of fusions and complex remixes characterize more and more collective but also personal identities. This is also why, secondly, "complex identities" have taken the place of ideology (or territory) when it comes to mapping international relations, conflicts and conciliation. Thirdly, "global governance" approaches define many working methods in public policies, both on national and international level. All these trends could point at the replacement of nationalism by an *ethos* of Kantian universal cooperation (1795) as foreseen by classic liberalism. However, the gentle ideas of an "international community" of growing liberal Democracies are clearly in retreat. At the same time, we can recognize a new wave of Populism (on the right and on the left) strongly associated to this new Nationalism that threatens not only liberal regimes, but the idea of open and plural societies in itself. This forces us to review our ideas on the consolidation processes of Democracy - and more generally - on the relationship of Nationalism, Populism and Democracy. Is the rise of Nationalism and Populism a consequence of the crisis of Democracy - and of the liberal project - or its cause?

The seminar will tackle these questions and apparent paradoxes and in order to understand and to discuss the rise of new Nationalism and Populism today, we will analyze its meanings and origins. Classic texts, seminal works as well as new thesis will be at the centre of our reflection and introduce a critical assessment of selected case studies worked out by the participants.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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*The Journal of Democracy*, 2015, January, vol. 25, number 1: "Is Democracy in Decline?"

*The Journal of Democracy*, 2015, July, vol. 26, number 3: "Authoritarianism Goes Global"

*The Journal of Democracy*, 2016, January, vol. 27, number 1: "The Authoritarian Threat"

Filmography: Dennis Gansel (Dir.) (2008) *The Wave*

## **METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

**Teaching:** Theoretical-practical approach

**Evaluation:**

Attendance and Participation in Seminar Work (Readings and Comments\*): 15%

Test (November): 30%

Portefolio on Case Study (January): 15%

Final Essay on (the same) Case Study\*\* (January): 40%

\*For each working session, the different reading assignments will be previously announced and all students are expected to prepare these texts in order to participate in the following analysis and discussion.

\*\*Plagiarism excludes the student from evaluation.