

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

How the Five Star Movement Activated Passive Political Discontent in Italy

24 October 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EZ.G.22 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

This seminar explores the Internet's role in mobilizing outside traditional social capital networks, focusing on Italy's Five Star Movement (M5S) and its use of Meetup.com for organizing grassroots events. Using Bayesian spatial modelling and surveys, it finds the initial M5S mobilization to be tied to high social capital areas. However, as media attention grew, the need for social capital decreased, and events spread to lower social capital areas. This led to more political discussions among disengaged voters. Social media technologies are found to facilitate political mobilization by reaching diverse demographics. This highlights Internet's potential to complement and occasionally substitute legacy mobilization networks.

Biography

Francesco Bailo is a Lecturer in Data Analytics in the Social Sciences at the School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Sydney. He is interested in researching forms of political engagement and political talk on social media. He has studied the emergence and dynamics of online communities, the role between news organisations and social media, and the interdependence between social media activists and news organisations. He has engaged and applied quantitative research methods, developing expertise in quantitative text analysis (NLP) and network analysis.

Presenter: Francesco Bailo
Discussant: Luigi Di Martino
Chair: Daniele Fulvi

NEXT SEMINAR:
31 OCTOBER