Participation in Crisis?
Appraising Acute Challenges and Exploring Prospects for Revitalising Inclusive Democratic Voice

2 - 3 July 2026

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME
LINK CAMPUS UNIVERSITY, ROME

DAY 1: 2 JULY 2026
PLENARY & PARALLEL SESSIONS

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format /Location
09:00 - 10:30 **Plenary Session 1**	**Opening & Keynote Addresses (Welcome: 20 mins; Keynotes: 70 mins total)**	**Welcome Addresses:** **Carlo Alberto Giusti** (Rector of Link Campus University) **Emilio Greco** (Rector's Delegate for Teaching Link Campus University) **Michela Freddano** (LOC Chairperson) **Stefania Capogna** (Director of DITES Link Campus University) **Dasarath Chetty** (RC 10 President) **Stefan Lücking** (Hans Böckler Foundation) **Keynote 1: Dasarath Chetty [In person]** – *Participation in Crisis? Appraising acute challenges and exploring prospects for revitalising inclusive democratic voice: A global south Perspective.* (*South Africa)* **Keynote 2: Stefania Capogna [In person]** – Rethinking Participation in Times of Complexity: Relational Infrastructures for Democratic Voice and Reflexive Social Transformation (Italy)	**In-person & Hybrid (Link Campus)** **Room G** Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU
10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break**	-	-	**Link Campus**

PARALLEL SESSION 1

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel Session 1A**	**Sustainability, Climate Crisis & Urban Action (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair: Stefan Lücking** **Presenters:** **Catherine Casey, Helen Delaney [Online]** – *Eco-Social Just Transition: Trade unions revitalising and innovating participation* (United Kingdom & New Zealand) **György Széll [In person]** – *Local Democratic Participation and Sustainable Development in Crisis* (Germany) **Mario Garofalo [Online]** – *Participation in the time of ecological and climatic crisis: the role of temporalities, causes and responsibilities in climate activism* *(Italy)* **Jūratė Imbrasaitė [In person]** – *Urban Collective Action around Green Spaces: a case of Sanciai neighbourhood* *(Lithuania)*	**Room F** (In-person & Virtual) Room F: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_F_RM_LCU
11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel Session 1B**	**Algorithmic Governance & the Platform Economy (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Isabel da Costa **Presenters:** **Massimo De Minicis, Antonio Gallo [Online]** – *From Algorithmic Control to Algorithmic Alignment: The INAPP WorkMeter Experiment and Worker Autonomy in Platform Work* (Italy) **Tinotenda Gokora [Online]** – *Exploring the challenges and experiences of food delivery drivers* (Zimbabwe) **Mohamad Tarkarooni [Online]** – De-linguistification of Workers by Algorithms: Erik Olin Wright's Contribution to Implementing Justice in the Platform Economy (Iran) **Volkmar Kreissig [In person]** – Can corporate governance and corporate social responsibility and international legislation to this subjects solve the problems of participation crisis in North and South"? (Germany)	**Room G** (In-person & Virtual) Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU

MIDDAY

Time/ Session	Details	Location
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch	**Catered meal**	**Link Campus Canteen**

PARALLEL SESSION 2

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
13:30 - 15:00 **Parallel Session 2A**	**Digital Participation & The Shrinking Civic Space**	**Chair:** Jo Moran-Ellis **Presenters:** **Heinz Sünker [In person]** – *Participative Democracy Against Capitalism* (Germany) **Rebecca Bowen [Online]** – Participation Under Siege: Digital resistance and the shrinking civic space in post-2021 Tunisia (Italy) **Sara Pellegrini, Riccardo Mancini, Riccardo Sebastiani [Online]** – Narrative Participation and Democratic Becoming: Integrating Epic, Emic, and Ethical Perspectives for New Experiential Foundations of Citizenship Education (Italy) **Alan M. George [Online]** – *Internet, Social Media, and Resilience: Some comments on the defiant youth of the 21st century* *(India)*	**Room F** (In-person & Virtual) Room F: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_F_RM_LCU
13:30 - 15:00 **Parallel Session 2B**	**AI as a Participatory Tool & Epistemic Verification(15 mins each + 30 mins discussion**	**Chair:** György Széll **Presenters:** **Sheetal Bhoola [In person]** – AI, Inequality, and the Classroom: Participatory Pedagogy in a South African University (South Africa) **Rosario Aprile, Marco Palmieri, Antonella Pilozzi [In person]** – The role of scientific experts in crisis contexts. An empirical study across healthcare and geopolitical expertise domains. (Italy) **Maria Rosaria Re, Antonio Balestra, Francesco Pizzolorusso, Alessandro Barca [In person]** – AI as a Participatory Tool for Formative Assessment in Higher Education: A Critical Review of International Practices (Italy)	**Room G** (In-person & Virtual) Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU

BREAK

Time/Session	Details
15:00 - 15:30 **Coffee Break**	**Session Changeover & Technical Check**

PARALLEL SESSION 3

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
15:30 - 17:00 **Parallel Session 3A**	**Digital Authoritarianism & Counter-Strategies (15 mins each + 15 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Eleni-Nina Pazazi **Presenters:** **Haruming Sekar Saraswati & Irfan Hary Prasetya [Online]** – *Digital Authoritarianism and Democratic Backsliding in Indonesia under President Prabowo Subianto Administration* (Indonesia & *Hungary)* **Martine Legris [In person]** – *Do Elected Représentatives Truly Embrace Democracy?* (France) **İrem Taşçıoğlu [Online]** – *Reconfiguring Democratic Politics Against Far-Right Radicalization in the Digital Space* (Turkey) **Francesca Greco [In Person]** – Democratic Voice and Public Health: Emotional Dynamics, Trust and Participation in Vaccine Decision-Making (Italy)	**Room F** (In-person & Virtual) Room F: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_F_RM_LCU
15:30 - 17:00 **Parallel Session 3B**	**Conceptualizing Participatory Governance & Data (15 mins each + 15 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Volkmar Kreissig **Presenters:** **Beba Molinari [Online]** – *What tools are available for social participation? From case studies to lucid hallucinations.* (Italy) **Suchismita Ghoshal [In person]** – *The Comment Section as Temple: Scrolling the Sacred through AI Spiritual Cinema and Participatory Devotion on Instagram* (India) **Francesca Colella [Online]** – *Rethinking Democratic Participation Through Migrant Women's Transnational Practices* (Italy) **Dariana Sarca [Online]** – American Democracy at 250: The Department of Education and Civic Responsibility in the Age of Anti-intellectualism (Romania)	**Room G** (In-person & Virtual) Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU

CLOSING DAY 1

Time/ Session	Details
17:00 **End of Day 1**	**Academic sessions conclude**
18:30 - 20:30 **Excursion**	**Rome City Excursion & Dinner (Colosseum / Imperiali).** **Coordinators:** Michela Freddano, Stefania Capogna

DAY 2: 3 JULY 2026
PARALLEL SESSION 4

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
09:00 - 10:30 **Parallel Session 4A**	**Citizen & Public Participation (Part 1) (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Michela Freddano **Presenters:** **PP Balan [Online]** – *Diaspora and Participatory Planning- The Case of Kerala, in India* (India) **Noureddine Bahri [Online]** – *From protest to local political engagement: An analysis of the careers of association and political activists from poor rural areas of the Moroccan Middle Atlas* (Morocco) **Joburg Mahuyu [Online]** – *Beyond protest: Innovating participatory governance in public institutions to rebuild fragmented civic trust and democratic agency.* (Zimbabwe) **Dr. José Antonio Ballesteros Figueroa [In person]** – *Participation Without a Definition: Co-constructing Energy Poverty with Indigenous Communities in Mexico* (Mexico)	**Room F** (In-person & Virtual) Room F: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_F_RM_LCU

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair/ Presenters	Format/ Location
09:00 - 10:30 **Parallel Session 4B**	**Education, Inequality and Civic Responsibility (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Sheetal Bhoola **Presenters:** **Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Dr. Antonios Alevizos [In person]** – *Education, Social Inequality, and Democratic Participation* (Greece) **Valentina Pantaleo & Carlo Colloca [Online]** – *Education as a social issue: towards a 'cultural support' project involving Italy, Bulgaria and France* *(Italy)* **Somaiya Kali Padilla [Online]** – *Post-Conflict Development in the Digital Era: Education, Innovation, and Democratic Participation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)* *(Philippines)* **Akaki Kapanadze [Online]** – *From Memorisation to Participatory Competence: Reclaiming the University as a Site of Epistemic Verification in the Age of Generative AI* *(Georgia)*	**Room G** (In-person & Virtual) Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU

MID-MORNING

Time/ Session	Details
10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break**	**Link Campus**

PARALLEL SESSION 5

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel Session 5A**	**Citizen & Public Participation (Part 2) (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair: Heinz Sünker** **Presenters:** **Kanchan Mondal [Online] –** *Citizen and Public Participation in India* (India) **Elif Rana Bircan, Z. Zeynep Sadıkoğlu [Online] –** *Volunteer Sustainability in Child-Focused NGOs: Building Sense of Belonging, Agency, and Relationality* (Turkey) **Jo Moran-Ellis [In person] –** *Making the move to intergenerationally as a response to crises – a methodology and a set of principles* (United Kingdom) **Mushfiqur Rahman Bayzid [Online] –** *Capital Accumulation-Centered State Policies as a Major Barrier to the Democratic Participation of Workers in Third World Countries (Bangladesh)*	**Room F** (In-person & Virtual) Room F: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_F_RM_LCU

11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel Session 5B**	**Universities, Organizational Democracy & Civic Value (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Stefania Capogna **Presenters:** **Edita Lenkauskaitė [Online]** – *Who Participates? Invisible Power, Organisational Memory and Collective Decision-Making in European University Alliances* (Lithuania) **Graziella Arazzi [Online]** – *University Students in Universities Outside the Region: The Housing Problem: A Multifaceted Space, Social Actors, and Sustainable Futures* *(Italy)* **Ivan Avella, Domenico Salvatore Galluccio, Francesco De Nigris [Online]** – *Value beyond profit: assessing the civic profitability?* *(Italy)* **Lina Eleftheroglou [Online]** – *From School Violence and Anomie to Democratic Participation: Rethinking Active Citizenship in Greek Secondary Education* (Greece*)*	**Room G** (In-person & Virtual) Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU

MIDDAY

Time Session	Details
12:30 - 13:30 **Lunch**	**Link Campus Canteen**

PARALLEL SESSION 6

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
13:30 - 15:00 **Parallel Session 6A**	**Data Rights, Marginalization & Institutional Power (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair:** Stefania Capogna **Presenters:** **Isabel da Costa [In person], Markus Schulz [Online] –** *Digital Futures between Domination and Participation* (France & New York*)* **Dr Tomasz Kasprzak, dr Salomėja Karasevičiūtė [Online] –** *Datafying Disability: Deafblind Workers, Algorithmic Governance, and Institutional Power in the Polish Labour Market* *(Poland and Lithuania)* **Annalisa Plava [In person] –** *Educating Citizens on Medical Data. Health Literacy and Democratic Participation in the Age of Online Identity Theft* *(Italy)* **Mariangela D'Ambrosio [Online]** – *Participatory obsolescence" in the AI era? A Sociological Inquiry* (Italy)	**Room F** (In-person & Virtual) Room F: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_F_RM_LCU

SESSION 6B

Time/ Session	Session Title	Chair / Presenters	Format / Location
13:30 - 15:00 - (TBC) **Parallel Session 6B**	**Media Literacy, The Digital Public Sphere and Stakeholder Evaluation (15 mins each + 30 mins discussion)**	**Chair: Michela Freddano** **Presenters:** **Franco Campitelli, Nicola Strizzolo [Online]** – *Media Literacy like a "primarily common good" in the civil society against algorithmic polarization* (Italy) **Chacha Fares [Online]** – *Digital Capitalism and Algorithmic Polarization: A Social Network Analysis of Educational and Civic Debates in the Algerian Digital Sphere* *(Algeria)* **Michela Freddano [In person]** – *From Consultation to Co-Creation: Towards Stakeholder-Informed Participatory Evaluation* *(Italy)* **Giacomo Buoncompagni [In person]** – *Learning Through Conflict. Professional Micro-Public Spheres in Digital Journalism: A Netnographic Study of Italian Journalists on Facebook* *(Italy)*	**Room G** (In-person & Virtual) Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU

BREAK & CLOSING

Time	Session	Details
15:00 - 15:30	**Coffee Break**	Afternoon networking
15:30 - 17:00	Plenary Session 2 Location: Room G Room G: link to join https://meet.goto.com/AULA_G_RM_LCU	Closing Presidential Panel: Dasarath Chetty; Isabel da Costa; Heinz Sünker; György Szell.
17:00	End of Day 2	Symposium concludes

Scientific Committee (RC 10 Board Members)

- Chair: Dasarath Chetty (President, South Africa) chettytd@gmail.com
- Michela Freddano (Vice-President, INVALSI, Italy)
- Eleni Nina-Pazarzi (Vice-President, University of Piraeus, Greece)
- Stefan Lücking (Vice-President, Hans Böckler Foundation, Germany)
- Secretary: Sheetal Bhoola (Secretary, University of Zululand, South Africa)
- Volkmar Kreissig (Treasurer, Germany)
- P.P. Balan (Board Member, India)
- Catherine Casey (Board Member, Loughborough University, United Kingdom)
- Katrinell Davis (Board Member, Florida State University, USA)
- Jūratė Imbrasaitė (Board Member, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania)
- Stefania Capogna (Link Campus University, Italy)
- Beba Molinari (University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy)

Local Organizing Committee

- Chair: Michela Freddano, Vice-President of RC10 and Senior Researcher at INVALSI (National Institute for the Evaluation of Educational System of Instruction and Training). michela.freddano@invalsi.it
- Co-host: Stefania Capogna, Associate Professor and Scientific Director of Digital Technologies Education & Society at Link Campus University. s.capogna@unilink.it
- Beba Molinari, The University of Rome Tor Vergata., beba.molinari@uniroma2.it
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