

VOICELESS AND INVISIBLE CITIZENS. A NEW SOCIAL DIVIDE?

Professor: **Emanuele Ferragina**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **2,5h**



Objective of the Course

The objective of the course is to provide students with a clear understanding of economic and social dynamics that are influencing the labour market and the capacity of citizens to participate in social and political life. Protests and social movements – particularly involving young people – seem to be increasingly related to these dynamics.



Summary

Protests and social movements are emerging in Europe and across the world. The lecture explores how these movements represent a first reaction coming from citizens who increasingly experience exclusion from the labour market. We provide a critical interpretation of this issue, introducing the concept of a 'rising invisible majority', that accounts for the combined growth of unemployment, atypical employment and the overall stagnation of income. We talk about a voiceless, invisible majority to underline the relation between hardship on the labour market and weak social and political participation. We consider a wide array of global evidence to portray a phenomenon that is dramatically affecting our societies and particularly affecting young people. Italy is a crucial case to illustrate how global political economy dynamics are contributing to undermine labour market protection and leave citizens without adequate social support.



Professor's Biography



Emanuele Ferragina is a Professor at the Department of Sociology at Sciences Po. He grew up in Catanzaro, deep south of Italy. Prior to Sciences Po, he was Departmental Lecturer at University of Oxford where he also received his PhD. His main research interest is the political economy of the welfare state. Besides academia, he has established (with a group of Italian researchers) the think tank Fonderia Oxford, which has the objective of raising public awareness about important societal issues, such as the rigidity of the Italian labour market, the lack of social cohesion in the

Mezzogiorno, and the Italian brain drain. He also regularly writes for *Il FattoQuotidiano* about equality, labour market issues, party politics, the welfare state, and lower league football.