CALL FOR PAPERS
«Parliament and Government. Powers in Confrontation»

The Committee of Young Constitutionalists of the Association for Constitutional Law Studies "Gruppo di Pisa" (CgC), together with the Young Constitutional Research Commission (CJRC) of the French Association of Constitutional Law and a group of young Spanish scholars., has launched a call for proposals aimed at young researchers.
The selected presentations will be given during the afternoon session of the Seventh Seminar on Comparative Law, devoted to the following theme: "**Parliament and Government. Powers in Confrontation**". The seminar will be held on **April 30th, 2026**, and will be hosted in person by the University of Milan "*La Statale*".
The seminar aims to analyze, from a comparative law perspective, contemporary transformations in the relationship between the executive and legislative power.
It aims to highlight the gradual imbalance of power in favor of the executive branch observed in recent constitutional systems.
The discussion will focus on the effects of this evolution on the separation of powers, parliamentary procedures, and the system of sources of law.
Finally, the seminar will examine the forms of democratic legitimacy of the two branches of government.

The afternoon session will focus on four topics:

a) The influence of Governments on parliamentary procedures and their internal functioning;
b) The system of sources of law between Parliaments and Governments;
c) Powers of oversight and political guidance between Governments and Parliaments;
d) Old and new forms of legitimization of Parliaments and Governments.

Selected proposals, which should encourage discussion between young researchers, seminar speakers, and other participants, in a workshop format, should not exceed **ten minutes.**
The working languages will be Italian, English, French, or Spanish. Proposals should relate to the seminar topics, as specified in the appendix below.

Proposals relating to domestic, supranational, or international law will be considered provided that the candidate offers coherent comparative perspectives.

Proposals must be submitted in Italian, English, French, or Spanish by **March 15th, 2026**, by email to the following address: eventicgc@gruppodipisa.it.

The application file must include:

a) A proposal for a presentation (summary/abstract), in free form, with a minimum length of 7,000 characters and a maximum length of 10,000 characters, including spaces and notes. The document, written in an editable format (*.doc, *.docx, *.odt), must include in the header the proposed title of the presentation and the thematic area in which the candidate wishes to present, in accordance with the instructions in the appendix to this call for applications;
b) A short *curriculum* attesting that the candidate meets the eligibility requirements set out in this call for proposals (the seminar is aimed at young researchers under the age of 35 with an interest in the topic addressed). In addition, all personal data not necessary for the selection of proposals must be removed from the document.

The proposals for scheduled presentations referred to in the preceding articles will be examined by a specially appointed Scientific Committee, which will assess whether the Candidates meet the required criteria.

The presentations featured in the Seminar may be published in a special monographic issue of the *Rivista Gruppo di Pisa*, subject to completion of the peer-review process.

For more information (in Italian), please visit: Call Seminario di Diritto comparato «Parlamento e Governo. Poteri a confronto» (proposte di intervento programmato entro il 15 marzo 2026).

The call for proposals is also available in French and Spanish.

Appendix

Invitation to speak at the seventh Comparative Law Seminar of the Gruppo di Pisa Association, scheduled for April 30th, 2026, at the University of Milan "*La Statale*".
In accordance with the provisions set out in the invitation at the top of this document, further details regarding the afternoon session of the seminar and the scope of topics that may be covered in the proposed presentations are provided below.
The seventh International Seminar on Comparative Law of the Gruppo di Pisa Association, to be held at the University of Milan on April 30th, 2026, will focus on the following theme: "Parliament and Government. Powers in Confrontation".
The relationship between these fundamental powers of the state has historically been characterized by fluctuations linked to the political context and different constitutional models.
However, the most recent European experience (and beyond) reveals a common dynamic marked by a gradual imbalance of power in favor of the executive.
This phenomenon calls into question the very solidity of contemporary constitutional models, in which the principle of the separation of powers is based – albeit in different

ways – on a dialectic between Parliament and the Government, as well as on the necessary establishment of a system of checks and balances.

The current imbalance in favour of the executive branch is particularly evident in the often decisive influence it exerts over legislative bodies' internal procedures and practices. As a result, we are seeing a transformation of the system of sources of law in favor of primary and subordinate acts adopted by the government, with an increasingly marked departure from the model outlined in European constitutions.
The dialectic between Parliament and the Government is also marked by strong tensions and transformations, both in the joint definition of the general political orientation and in Parliaments' ability to exercise forms of control and conditioning over the executive power (and in particular those at its head).
Finally, there is the issue of the political and democratic legitimacy of the two branches of government under consideration here, which in turn is a factor in transforming and conditioning their mutual relations.
It therefore seems necessary to stimulate legal reflection from a comparative perspective, taking into account, on the one hand, the specific characteristics of each legal system and, on the other hand, the common trends observable in the various constitutional experiences.

On this basis, it was deemed appropriate to distinguish four thematic areas to guide the seminar's discussions.

Workshop No. 1 - The influence of Governments on parliamentary procedures and internal functioning

This workshop aims to explore how changing forms of government, geared towards gradually strengthening the role of the executive, are reshaping the procedural grammar of elected assemblies, influencing both formally codified procedures and parliamentary practices, with significant repercussions on the very functioning and autonomy of parliaments.
As a guide, contributions could analyze how the systematic use of fast-track procedures and block voting has profoundly changed the ordinary legislative process, turning it into a variable of the government's agenda.
Particular attention may be paid to the pre-legislative phase, in which the role of technical services and ministerial technocracy tends to predetermine the content of texts, often relegating parliamentary committees to a marginal review function.
Finally, consideration could be given to the executive's role in relations between the two chambers of bicameral systems (one might think, in particular, of the evolution towards *de facto* unicameralism that characterizes the Italian system).

In this context, proposals for action may also focus on the various “forms of resistance”

that parliaments are developing or could develop in order to address these processes and preserve their autonomy and influence within the institutional system.

Workshop No. 2 - The system of sources of law between Parliaments and Governments

The second thematic area aims to stimulate reflection on how the evolution of the relationship between the executive and the legislature affects the structure of the system of sources of law, marking a clear shift from the model outlined in post-war constitutions.
Bearing this in mind, contributions may analyze, by way of example and without limitation, the gradual transformation of the system of sources in light of the crisis of parliamentary law and the strengthening of the normative role of governments; the proliferation of emergency legislation and instruments that, although formally legislative, allow parliamentary debate to be restricted in the name of swift action; practices—particularly based on the Italian experience—of atypical conversions of decree-laws (known as "*Minotaur decrees*", "*Matryoshka decrees*" and "*disposable decrees*") as well as, more generally, the phenomenon of conversion laws that lack consistency with the initial text.

The following topics may also be examined in relation to: the influence of changes in the form of government on normative production procedures; the impact of endogenous factors such as economic, health, or military crises on normative dynamics and the use of exceptional instruments; the growing use of secondary and sub-secondary sources, including in the area of fundamental rights; and the crisis of the institution of legislative reserve.

Workshop No. 3 - Powers of control and political guidance between Governments and Parliaments

The third thematic area aims to stimulate reflection on the transformations in the relationship of trust between Parliament and Government, with particular attention to the redefinition of the function of political guidance in contemporary parliamentary democracies.

The crisis of classical parliamentarianism and the emergence of plebiscitary dynamics have profoundly altered the nature of the bond of trust, transforming it from an instrument of parliamentary control over the executive branch into a mechanism for rationalizing, and sometimes even rigidifying, parliamentary dialectics.
The institution of confidence, originally conceived as a guarantee of the government's political accountability to the chambers, now tends to be configured as an instrument for curtailing parliamentary autonomy, reversing the logic that should govern relations between the legislature and the executive powers in parliamentary forms of government.

These dynamics raise major questions about elected assemblies' ability to preserve their central role in decision-making.
The personalization of leadership and the verticalization of decision-making processes have gradually eroded the role of Parliament as a forum for policy-making, often reducing it to a mere rubber stamp for government decisions.

In this perspective, the workshop particularly encourages analyses of the strategies parliaments use to preserve their autonomy in the face of executive activism. Contributions may address, in particular, the transformation of the bond of trust across different legal systems; the trend toward *de facto* hyper-presidentialism; the crisis in the function of political guidance; and the coercive use of instruments of trust (such as the question of confidence, particularly in the Italian case).
Furthermore, this thematic area also aims to stimulate reflection on the solutions adopted in different constitutional systems to ensure the political accountability of governments, with particular attention to the powers and forms of parliamentary control.

Workshop No. 4 - Old and new forms of legitimization of Parliaments and Governments

The fourth and final workshop aims to broaden the discussion on the forms of legitimation specific to different forms of government (in particular presidential, semi-presidential, and parliamentary), highlighting the performance of each model, its strengths, and its weaknesses.
Contributions should analyze the evolution of relations between the executive and legislative powers, showing how these relations tend to bring the models closer together or drive them further apart, sometimes giving rise to hybrid forms in practice.
Contributions may focus on the robustness of the principle of political accountability in the face of the strengthening of the executive branch and the role of parliament as the central locus of democratic control; the resilience of the representative model in the face of the emergence of new sources of legitimacy, linked in particular to the growing disintermediation between leaders and the people; the role of electoral systems; the use of technical factors (indicators, data, forecasting models) as sources of legitimacy for government action; and the influence of the European integration process on relations between Parliament and Government.

The afternoon session will be organized into thematic workshops, to be defined at the end of the selection process, taking into account the above-mentioned thematic areas.

When preparing their proposal, candidates should therefore take into account the information provided in this appendix and specify their chosen thematic area.