**Populism in International Relations: Moving beyond Borders and Levels of Analysis**

Angelos Chryssogelos (London Metropolitan University, UK) a.chryssogelos@londonmet.ac.uk
Bertjan Verbeek (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands) bertjan.verbeek@ru.nl

Populism has emerged in recent years as a novel area of research in international relations (IR) and foreign policy analysis (FPA). A growing literature now assesses the role of populism in IR issues, including trade, international organization, security and diplomacy. Most of these studies display an emphasis on single or small-n case studies, mostly cases of populist leaders in power. This literature succeeded in identifying the features of populist dispositions towards world politics. Its findings point to less coherent actual policies.

Building on these foundations, scholarship of populism in international relations should now move on. On the one hand, the populist wave of the 2010s, fed by economic crisis and ethnic identity grievances, seems to be abating. At the same time, new issues of systemic importance carry important representational, material and identity repercussions on which populism typically thrives: examples include the Covid pandemic as well as the challenges of the green and digital transitions. These developments require us to examine populism from a system-level, structural perspective, as a general phenomenon of international relations rather than as a factor of foreign policy analyzed on a case by case basis.

The purpose of this workshop will be to present and discuss new directions in the study of populism in international relations but with an explicit intention of breaking down both national barriers and limits between levels of analysis. We want to push the debate towards both a transnational and a systemic-structural perspective of populism’s roots, consequences, impact and character, moving beyond the national level as the exclusive locus of populist politics, discourses and actions. Rather than continuing viewing populism as a phenomenon of domestic politics that simply unfolds in an international context, we want to locate it in the supranational, regional and transnational levels, as a concept and phenomenon of international relations in its own right. The workshop seeks contributions on the following questions:

* How do developments at the international political system’s level affect the emergence and popularity of domestic populism?
* How do populist critiques and pressure affect the material and/or ideational reconstructions of regionalism?
* How to understand the emergence and effects of transnational diffusion, communication and contestation of populism and anti-populism?
* How do regional issues affect the rise of different populisms?
* How do diplomatic practices and practitioners (international multilateralism, governance networks, transgovernmental cooperation)adapt to populism?
* What does the international system look like in a populist world?
* Does populism transform in reaction to the pandemic, the green transition and other global pressures on states and societies currently unfolding?

The workshop aims at epistemological, methodological and regional diversity. Contributions of conceptual, empirical, qualitative or quantitative nature are welcome, although we particularly look forward to papers engaged in cross-national or cross-regional comparison and with at least a partial focus on the systemic-structural level. We especially look forward to contributions that will broaden the comparative scope of analysis of IR and populism in the Global South.