

Silvio Berlusconi and Post-modern Politics

One-day conference

14 December 2012



Venue: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT (Strathcona building, Lecture Room 1 (LT1)). www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/directions/edgbaston-directions.aspx

Conference Organisers: Dr Daniele Albertazzi (Birmingham) and Professor James Newell (Salford)

Programme

9.00 – 9.30 Assemble and coffee

9.30 – 9.45 Welcome address

9.45- 10.45 Key-note address

Stephen Gundle (Professor of Film and Television Studies, Warwick University) 'Living with Berlusconi/Living Without Berlusconi'.

10.45 – 12.45

Session 1: Causes and consequences of Berlusconi's rise

- Laura Polverari 'Clambering the same old tree: the Italian political system at a critical juncture and its incapability of renewal'.
- John Foot '<<Condannato a Vincere>>. Silvio Berlusconi and Football, 1986-2012'.
- Michelangelo Vercesi 'A Prime Minister Between Old Constraints and New Chances for a Powerful Leadership. The Impact of Silvio Berlusconi on Coalition Governance'.
- Elisabetta Cassina Wolff 'Berlusconi's Attempt to Reform the Italian Constitution. Rehearsal of New (Post-modern) Authoritarian Politics or Same Old Habit?'

12.45 – 1.30 Buffet Lunch

1.30 – 2.30 Key-note address

Bill Emmott (writer, journalist and former editor of *The Economist*). 'Why Italy has been in a coma for 20 years, and the prospects for her waking up after the 2013 elections'.

2.30 – 3.00 Coffee

3.00 – 5.00

Session 2: The significance of Berlusconi's decline

- Cinzia Padovani 'The End of Media Moguls: Democracy in the post-television era'.
- Marcantonio Muzi Falconi 'Public Relations in Italy: Dynamics of the profession in Italy 1970-2012, in parallel with the rise and fall of Berlusconi's **CUCU** model of public relations 1992-2012'.
- Maria Elisabetta Lanzone 'Grillo and Berlusconi: web vs tv? Forza italia and MoVimento 5 Stelle. Two examples of <<mediatic populism>> in comparison'.

■ Toby Abse 'The Internet killed the TV star: The role of Social Media in Berlusconi's decline'.

■ Diego Ceccobelli, Marco Mazzoni and Antonio Ciaglia 'Berlusconi's pop-politics: when the private and public spheres converge'

5.00 – 6.00 Concluding round table

Bill Emmott, Stephen Gundle, Geoff Andrews, Guy Dinmore (*Financial Times*) and Annalisa Piras (*L'Espresso*)

6.00 Depart

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