

## COSMOS SUMMER SCHOOL

### UNDERSTANDING CONTENTIOUS POLITICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SOCIAL MOVEMENT RESEARCH

#### Academic Year 2025/26

##### Art. 1

The Scuola Normale Superiore is organising for the academic year 2025/2026 - within the **MERITA Project, the network for talent**, with funding of the Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR) (NRRP, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan), Mission 4 – Education and Research, Component 1, Investment 3.4 "Advanced university training and skills" – "Reinforcement of the Scuole universitarie superiori (the university institutes of higher education)", Public notice pursuant to Director's Decree No. 594/2024 – a Summer school denominated: "Understanding contentious politics: theory and practice of social movement research".

The Summer school will be held in person from May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, at the Scuola Normale Superiore, Palazzone di Cortona (Arezzo, Tuscany), for a total of 35 hours.

The official language of the Summer school is English.

The Summer school will have a maximum of 20 participants.

##### Art. 2

#### Educational objectives

The Summer school will focus on how to analyse present and past forms of grassroots participation activated by social movement actors at the local, regional and transnational level. More in general, it aims at disseminating knowledge on how to investigate processes and mechanisms that sustain mobilisation. Grassroots participation has been at the centre of the public and political debate in the last decade (covering a range of issues, from anti-austerity to climate, from feminist to solidarity with Palestine). Massive popular protests have deeply impacted national and global politics. The emergence of new protest movements requires scholars to reflect on the research strategies and methodologies that are employed to study grassroots participation. The summer school addresses this gap discussing how to apply the main theories and methods in the social sciences to investigate social and political mobilisation.

The use of the following methods and techniques for social movement inquiry will be addressed: surveys, qualitative interviews, ethnographic participant observation, frame and discourse analysis, protest event analysis, social network analysis, participatory action research and historical methods. Ethical issues regarding every methodology will be addressed within the method lectures.

##### Art. 3

#### Those qualifying and admission requirements

The above described activities are suitable for graduate and master's students, as well as PhD candidates or early career researchers with a specialised interest in protest from different fields of study, including political science, political sociology, political communication, and political anthropology from Europe and beyond.

##### Art. 4

#### Organisation of the Summer school

Over five teaching days, the Summer School will feature thematic sessions, participant project presentations, and feedback, highlighted by two keynote speeches from leading scholars Donatella della Porta (Scuola Normale Superiore) and Rory McVeigh (University of Notre Dame).

The Organizing Committee is composed of Lorenzo Bosi, Donatella della Porta, Martín Portos, and Lorenzo Zamponi from the Scuola Normale Superiore.

Students will be required to write and submit a 7,000-8,000 word paper before the Summer School begins. The paper will be then presented and discussed during the summer school. Students will be also required to complete the mandatory readings for lectures and method sessions and to actively participate in the discussion.

## Art. 5

### Admission applications

Those intending to compete for admission to the Summer school must email a cover letter in which they explain how the Summer school would be beneficial for their research, a 250-word abstract of their proposed paper, and a curriculum vitae no later than **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026** to: [cosmos@sns.it](mailto:cosmos@sns.it).

Email contact for questions and clarifications about the Summer school: [cosmos@sns.it](mailto:cosmos@sns.it).

All applications arriving late or in a form different from that stated in the article herein, for whatever reason, will not be taken into consideration.

False or mendacious declarations are punishable pursuant to the Penal Code and to the specific Laws, Arts. 75 and 76 of D.PR. 445/2000.

At any moment of the procedure, including after the start of the Summer school, the Scuola may carry out checks as to the veracity of the declarations submitted and the documents produced and may request to see the documents in the original. In the case of false declarations, the Scuola may invoke a special Rector's Decree for the exclusion of the applicant, except for any ensuing penal responsibilities.

## Art. 6

### Enrolment fees and benefits

The Summer school is tuition-free: no fees will be required.

Admission to the Summer school includes participation in the lectures, the educational material and lunch on the days when the Summer school takes place.

Participants will have to cover for travel and accommodation. Based on the ranking, 2 scholarships will be awarded, providing a maximum reimbursement of € 300,00 for travel and accommodation expenses. As an additional criterion, with respect to what is set out in art. 3, the distance between the applicant's home institution and the city of Cortona will be considered. No expense reimbursement is provided for candidates affiliated with institutions based in Florence.

## Art. 7

### Acceptance procedure

Applicants will be informed of the outcome by email as soon as possible.

Those offered places must confirm their participation within 7 days, after which places may be offered to applicants on the reserve list.

## Art. 8

### Certification issued

Successful participation in the Summer School will be awarded by the Scuola Normale Superiore a certificate of participation valid within the limits permitted by law.

## Art. 9

### Processing of personal data and manager of the procedure

EU Regulation 2016/679, the General Data Protection Regulation, is applicable to the candidates' personal data processing.

The Data Controller of the personal data provided by the interested parties is the Scuola Normale Superiore, a public university institute, located in Piazza dei Cavalieri, 7 Pisa - 56126, in the person of its Director and pro tempore legal representative.

Applicants' personal data will be collected by the Scuola for the purposes of the selection/admission procedure and will be processed for the fulfilment of the same, and, for successful applicants, for the subsequent career management of the PhD students and all connected activities.

Personal data are thus provided to the SNS for the performance of tasks of public interest or at any rate connected to the exercising of its public powers, including the purposes of archiving, historical research and

analysis for statistical purposes. Personal data will be processed, also with automated tools (software and databases administered by the SNS and hosted by any contracting entities), in compliance with the principles of accountability, lawfulness, correctness, minimization, transparency, integrity, accuracy, confidentiality and proportionality..

The personal data collected will be communicated or transferred to third parties (public and / or private parties) in the context of institutional relations, for the fulfilment of legal obligations or regulations or of contracts, within the services required by the SNS (access to facilities, etc.).

The personal data collected may be communicated or transferred to parties established in third countries, but only if suitable data protection guarantees and conditions have been ascertained.

The personal data collected will be published on the official online register and on the SNS's institutional website if specified by the law and other regulations of the SNS.

The personal data collected will be processed and stored for the time strictly necessary to achieve the purposes for which they have been collected, with the application of the regulations concerning documentation storage by public institutions.

The data subject may at all times exercise the following rights:

- a) access to personal data, under the terms and conditions of Art. 15 of the Regulations;
- b) the rectification, erasure or restriction of the processing of personal data, under the terms and conditions of Articles 16-18 of the Regulations; erasure is not permitted for data included in any documents that the SNS is required to keep;
- c) the portability of data, under the terms and conditions of Art. 20 of the Regulations;
- d) objection to the processing of his or her data, under Article 21 of the Regulations;
- e) the right to submit a complaint to the Data Protection Authority, by sending a request to the e-mail address [privacy@sns.it](mailto:privacy@sns.it) or via PEC (certified e-mail) to the e-mail address [protocollo@pec.sns.it](mailto:protocollo@pec.sns.it).

For any further information, please contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO), at the e-mail address [dpo@sns.it](mailto:dpo@sns.it)

#### **Art. 10.**

##### **Final provisions and referrals, information**

The head of the Teaching Activities Service, Dr. Silvia Marcacci, is the administrative manager of the procedure.