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**Monday
December 14
2026
1:30-3:00 PM**

**Scuola Normale Superiore
Faculty of Political and
Social Sciences
Aula Dottorandi
Palazzo Vegni
Florence**

Organization
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Global cleavages

The shape of political conflict across world regions in historical perspective

Daniele Caramani

University of Zurich | EUI (European University Institute)

Chair

Manuela Caiani

Scuola Normale Superiore

The talk examines how major social and political divisions (cleavages) have shaped world politics since the 19th century. It expands cleavage theory beyond national politics to global divisions such as core vs. periphery, North vs. South, class, gender, and generations.

Using exit-voice models, it explains how global inequalities become politicized through processes of social exclusion, boundary formation, and the concentration of power at the centre. The talk argues that traditional territorial divisions are increasingly being replaced or supplemented by functional divisions that cross national and regional borders. This enables transnational groups to organize around shared identities and inequalities and to develop forms of solidarity across regions.

It presents a theoretical framework and empirical evidence, drawing on different types of data covering approximately 180 years of global history.

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