



Student Conference SCIPOG 2026 – VI Edition
Doctoral Programs in Political Sciences and Public Administration Sciences

JUSTICE AND HUMANITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD *Rights and Responsibilities between Order, Security and Conflicts*

In an era marked by deep geopolitical fractures, armed conflicts, humanitarian and migratory crises, technological transformations, and growing tensions between security demands and the protection of fundamental rights, reflecting on the meaning of justice and humanity represents a central necessity for contemporary societies.

The erosion of multilateralism, the resurgence of power politics, democratic crises, climate change, and new forms of conflict — hybrid, technological, cyber, economic, and environmental — call for a rethinking of the legal, political, institutional, and moral foundations that have guided international coexistence since the post-war period.

Against this backdrop, the concepts of justice, responsibility, and humanity are confronted with unprecedented scenarios in which the protection of the person, the legitimacy of public power, institutional resilience, and the protection of communities are continuously put to the test.

The Student Conference SCIPOG 2026 aims to promote an interdisciplinary scientific debate on the theme "**Justice and Humanity in the Contemporary World. Rights and Responsibilities between Order, Security and Conflicts**", enhancing the contribution of new generations of scholars. The Conference proposes to analyse these issues through a plurality of disciplinary perspectives — legal, political science, historical, economic, philosophical, and sociological — with the goal of **understanding the roots of current crises and envisioning pathways capable of combining the safeguarding of order, the protection of rights, collective security, and the centrality of the person.**

Doctoral researchers in Political Sciences and Public Administration Sciences at the University of Messina invite doctoral candidates, PhD holders, and early-career researchers to participate in the **2026 Call for Papers**, contributing to the construction of an interdisciplinary debate on the contemporary transformations of justice, institutional responsibility, security, and human dignity in contexts of crisis and conflict.



Panels will be inspired by the following thematic areas.

1. Communities, Territories and Vulnerability: Perspectives on Contemporary Crises

This thematic area invites contributions dedicated to the relationship between justice, humanity, and territorial, environmental, and social transformations in the contemporary world.

In a context marked by the coexistence of climate, ecological, migratory, energy, housing, and social crises, the question of justice intertwines with the recognition of human dignity, the protection of rights, and the unequal distribution of risks, resources, and opportunities. The panel seeks to interrogate territory as a site of vulnerability, marginalisation, exclusion, and conflict, but also as a space of solidarity, care, resistance, participation, and community rebuilding.

Particular attention may be devoted to the gender dimension, the differentiated impact of crises on the most exposed social groups, the distribution of care responsibilities, access to decision-making processes, and forms of individual and collective agency.

2. Justice, Humanity and Political Responsibility between Security and Conflicts

This thematic area welcomes contributions dedicated to analysing the relationship between justice, humanity, and political responsibility in the transformations of the contemporary order. In a context marked by wars, democratic crises, polarisation, transnational emergencies, and the redefinition of geopolitical balances, appeals to security play a central role in shaping the public agenda and legitimising political action.

The panel aims to reflect on the conditions under which contemporary democracies can address insecurity and conflicts without abandoning the principles of justice, humanity, participation, and accountability.

Contributions may address, among other topics, securitisation processes, emergency policies, transformations of political representation, dynamics of participation and protest, crises of liberal democracy, the role of state, supranational, and international actors in conflict management, and the relationship between security, consensus, and the legitimation of power.

3. Order and the Protection of the Human Being: Historical Genealogies and Present Challenges

This thematic area seeks to deepen the relationship between justice, political order, and the protection of humanity in contemporary societies and their historical genealogies.

The concept of "humanity" today stands at the centre of processes of historical, political, and philosophical redefinition. The categories of order and justice, historically tied to the construction of the modern state, political institutions, and international relations, are confronted with scenarios characterised by new social vulnerabilities, asymmetric conflicts, and transnational forms of power. The panel welcomes contributions from contemporary history,



the history of political thought, the history of political institutions, the history of international relations, and political philosophy.

Particular attention will be given to the connections between historiographical analysis, theoretical reflection, and comparative perspectives, including with regard to the memory of conflicts, the construction of democratic institutions, the transformations of sovereignty, and historical conceptions of human dignity.

4. Fundamental Rights and Multi-level Protection: Security, Emergency and the Rule of Law

This thematic area invites contributions dedicated to the tensions between the protection of fundamental rights, security demands, public powers, and rule-of-law guarantees in contemporary legal systems.

In an era marked by transnational emergencies, war scenarios, migratory crises, social tensions, and internal conflicts, national, European, and international legal orders are called upon to redefine the boundaries between freedom and security, between rights protection and the legitimation of public action in crisis contexts. The panel aims to examine whether and how legal systems are capable of ensuring the effectiveness of fundamental rights even in moments of greatest pressure on the democratic order.

Reflections may address constitutional limits on emergency powers, the role of national and supranational courts, the crisis of the rule of law, multi-level protection of fundamental rights, democratic guarantees in security contexts, the protection of human dignity, and the balancing of rights, public order, and risk prevention.

5. Institutional Responsibility, Public Governance and European Regulation amid Crises and Transformations of the Global Order

This thematic area is dedicated to the transformations affecting public institutions, administrative governance, and European regulation in the current phase of redefinition of global balances.

Contemporary crises — conflicts, environmental emergencies, geopolitical pressures, economic and migratory crises, technological transformations, and new forms of power competition — are reshaping the perimeter of public action and testing the capacity of institutions to govern complex processes with effectiveness, legitimacy, and accountability. The panel aims to highlight, in particular, the perspective of public administration sciences, interrogating the role of public administrations, regulation, administrative capacity, and accountability mechanisms in crisis contexts.

Contributions may address the role of the European Union as a regulatory and normative actor, the transformations of public functions, multi-level governance, the implementation of public policies, the administrative management of emergencies, the regulation of migratory flows, border governance, territorial differentiations, and the relationship between administrative capacity, rights, and institutional responsibility.



6. Climate, Growth and Security: Major Economies Facing the Conflict Multiplier

This thematic area invites contributions dedicated to the nexus between the climate crisis, models of economic development, international security, and global justice.

Climate change is increasingly emerging as a conflict multiplier: it does not necessarily generate crises directly, but amplifies pre-existing social, economic, environmental, and institutional vulnerabilities, reshaping the coordinates of global stability and placing major economies before new responsibilities. The panel seeks to examine whether and how public and private actors are translating climate challenges into policies capable of steering productive systems towards an ecological transition that is sustainable, equitable, and compatible with collective security.

Reflections may address industrial and energy decarbonisation policies, climate finance, development cooperation, competition over critical raw materials, climate diplomacy, climate justice, the responsibilities of major economies, and the relationship between growth, sustainability, conflict prevention, and the resilience of the most vulnerable territories.

VENUE AND DATES

The Student Conference SCIPOG 2026 will be held **in person on 12, 13 and 14 November 2026** at the University of Messina, Department of Political and Legal Sciences.

PARTICIPATION

The Student Conference is open to doctoral candidates (formally enrolled in a doctoral programme as of the submission deadline) and PhD holders who have obtained their degree no more than twelve months prior, in the fields of political, legal, economic, social, and humanistic sciences.

To participate, applicants must submit **by 20 July 2026**:

- an abstract, in Italian or English, of no more than **500 words**;
- the indication of the thematic area for which they are applying;
- a short curriculum vitae.

All documentation, compiled in a single file, must be sent to: conferencescipog@unime.it

Selection results, entrusted to the Scientific Committee, will be communicated **by 20 September 2026**.

Selected candidates will receive, at the email address used for submission, a form to complete for organisational purposes, as well as any other relevant information.



Contributions that have successfully passed the evaluation procedure guided by the Scientific Committee and have been presented in person during the Conference may be published in the *Proceedings of the Student Conference SCIPOG 2026by 2027*. The deadline for submitting contributions for publication will be announced during the Conference.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Giovanni Moschella, Full Professor of Constitutional Law and Coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Political Sciences

Prof. Francesco Martines, Full Professor of Administrative Law and Coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Administrative Sciences

Prof. Alessandro Morelli, Full Professor of Constitutional Law and Director of the Department of Political and Legal Sciences

Prof. Giuseppe Bottaro, Full Professor of History of Political Thought

Prof. Daniela Novarese, Full Professor of History of Political Institutions

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Conference is organised by the doctoral candidates in Political Sciences and Administrative Sciences of the Department of Political and Legal Sciences, University of Messina.

For information: conferencescipog@unime.it