

CALL FOR PAPERS

International conference

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Southern Europe: policy, diplomacy, economy, and institutional transformation, 1950s-1980s

University of Padua, 23-24 May 2024



The Department of Political Science, Juridical and International Studies of the University of Padua (Italy) and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Bergamo (Italy) invite scholars to contribute papers to an interdisciplinary conference exploring the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) in Southern European countries between the 1950s and 1980s.

The year 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Bretton Woods conference and the establishment of the IMF and the WB. After almost 80 years, few global institutions can claim to be quite as controversial as the IMF and the WB and to regularly provoke passionate reactions. Some scholars argue that the IMF and the WB are indispensable institutions to favour the smooth functioning of the international economy, critics object that the two institutions are unrepresentative, inefficient, an engine of moral hazard, unable to favor development and conclude that the world would be better off without them.

Our conference aims to bring together scholars from different disciplines (economics, history, law and political science) with the aim to examine the IMF/WB by focusing on Southern Europe. We want to investigate both evolution of the IMF/WB as institutions and their impact on Southern European states during a critical period that encompassed the post-WWII economic boom, the Cold War, the crisis of the Bretton Woods system and the stagflation of the 1970s, the transition from dictatorship to democracy and the deepening of the integration of the international economy. We want to study how strategies for international loans intersected with questions of political governance, economic conditionality and democracy.

Our goals are to understand which political, economic and institutional factors influenced the trajectory of the IMF/WB and their policies, which events can be considered milestones and decisive turning points in this process, which personalities played a relevant role, which ideas drove the action of the two institutions. We want to identify the distinctive operational phases that have come to characterize concrete periods of the IMF/WB's existence and offer a periodisation of the organizations' trajectory. We also want to ascertain how the changes in the international economic and political context influenced the IMF/WB, and how they responded and adapted to these changes. Lastly, we want to investigate the role governments played in the formulation of IMF/WB programs and political and socioeconomic impact the IMF/WB programs had on the recipient countries.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit an abstract of no more than **500 words** and a short bio to IMFWB2024@gmail.com by **10 December 2023**. Notification of acceptance: 20 December 2023. If accepted, full papers (8000 words max including footnotes) must be submitted by 5 May 2024.

Publishing plans: selected papers will be published in a collective co-edited volume or in special issue in scientific journal.

Economy fare travel and hotel costs will be covered by the organizers.

For queries and clarifications, please contact: IMFWB2024@gmail.com.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Lucia Coppolaro *Università di Padova*, **Francesco Petrini** *Università di Padova*, **Leonida Tedoldi** *Università di Bergamo*.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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For full information see: <https://www.spgi.unipd.it/ricerca/call-papers>.



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