



GESI SocioDemo Seminar

Democratic Disservice: Social Stratification and Satisfaction with Democracy across European Regions (1980-2020)

How does the rise of the service sector affect citizens' satisfaction with democracy across different social strata? A strong narrative links socio-economic disadvantage and deindustrialization to skepticism toward democracy. In this paper, we address this topic by examining how social class and education affect satisfaction with democracy in Europe, and how the regional share of service employment moderates this relationship. To do so, we rely on Eurobarameter data for 14 European countries and 42 regions (1980-2018) and European Social Survey data for 24 European countries and 88 regions (2002-2020), integrating them with socio-economic data at the regional level. We find that in regions with higher shares of service employment, members of low social strata are considerably less satisfied with democracy than members of upper strata.

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> 16 April 2024 h. 14.30-16.30 SPS Seminar Room (I FLOOR, CONSERVATORIO SIDE) and MS TEAMS (link: urly.it/3_2a0

> > ID riunione: 340 531 961 849 Passcode: acaqX6

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