PAOLO MARZI

Postdoctoral Researcher in Political Science | University of Siena

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political representation; Political elites; Political parties; European politics; Euroscepticism; Legislative careers; Comparative politics.

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

University of Siena

Sep. 2023 – Jan. 2027

Siena, Italy

Postdoctoral Researcher

Department: Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences (DISPOC)

Project: REDIRECT – The REpresentative DIsconnect: diagnosis and strategies for RECTification

Project number: 101095142; HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01 / HORIZON-RIA

Role: Communication and Dissemination Manager

Project Coordinator: Prof. Luca Verzichelli

- Contribute to systematic reviews of the theoretical and empirical literature on the evolution and current transformation of representative democracy in Europe.
- Contribute to questionnaire design, survey research and experiments, including the organisation and collection of mass- and elite-level data.
- Contribute to the design of guidelines for in-depth qualitative interviews with citizens, politicians and experts.
- Analyse project data and contribute to research reports, deliverables and academic outputs.
- Support the scientific and organisational management of the project and collaborate with other members of the research consortium.
- Coordinate communication and dissemination activities; liaise with European Commission officers and contribute to periodic scientific reporting.

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Turin

Sep. 2021 – Aug. 2023

Turin, Italy

Postdoctoral Researcher

Department: Department of Cultures, Politics and Society (CPS)

Project: Horizon 2020 EUComMeet – Developing Participatory Spaces using a Multi-stage, Multi-level, Multimode, Multi-lingual, Dynamic Deliberative approach (M4D2)

Work Package: WP2 – Testing participatory spaces in schools and universities

Project Coordinator: Prof. Pierangelo Isernia

- Pilot-tested the M4D2 platform and verified the effective operation of its components.
- Developed and tested research questions involving high-school and university students as a distinct sample of young citizens.
- Coordinated partner activities during the testing phase across ten metropolitan areas in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Poland.
- Recruited a high school and a university in Piedmont for pilot testing.
- Prepared information materials and survey items in coordination with partner teams.
- Analysed the results of deliberative sessions and related surveys.

University of Siegen

Sep. 2021 – Feb. 2023
Siegen, Germany / Remote

External Collaborator

Unit: Chair for Comparative Cultural Sociology and Political Sociology of Europe
Project: SoVE – Social trust as a prerequisite for social cohesion in Europe
Coordinator: Prof. Christian Lahusen

- Conducted 15 qualitative interviews and two focus groups in Italy.
- Performed qualitative analysis of interview and focus-group transcripts.

University of Bologna

Sep. 2021 – Feb. 2022
Bologna, Italy / Remote

External Collaborator

Project: National and Subnational Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Italy: A Policy Tools Perspective
Macro-project: Oxford University COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)
Coordinators: Prof. Giliberto Capano and Prof. Stefania Profeti

- Classified policy measures adopted by Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria and Molise to limit infections and mitigate the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic.
- Coded regional policy measures for the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND FUNDING

Collaborative projects

University of Siena

Nov. 2025 – Oct. 2027
Siena, Italy

Project Researcher

Project: Erasmus+ EuroConnect – Strengthening Civic Competences and EU Democratic Life
Project number: 2025-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000358939
Funding: Erasmus+ KA220-HED – Cooperation partnerships in higher education
Total consortium budget: €250,000
Project Coordinator: Stefano Braghiroli, University of Tartu
UNISI WP Leader: Prof. Luca Verzichelli
Work Package: WP2 – Emboldening Civic Competences Through Transnational Discussions

- Support the coordination and implementation of activities assigned to the University of Siena, including a programme of ten transnational online discussions.
- Organised and moderated the European Issue Debates on Youth and Representation (4 May 2026) and Youth and Digital Citizenship (25 May 2026).
- Prepare guidelines, presentations, background readings, participant materials and moderator briefings for the online discussions.
- Contribute to the design and revision of pre- and post-activity questionnaires and to data collection, analysis and evaluation across three survey waves.
- Coordinate schedules and partner communications; monitor attendance and participation records.
- Contribute to the collaborative project course, the project toolkit, dissemination activities and research reporting.

University of Siena

2026
Siena, Italy

Research Team Member (funded proposal)

Project: Bridging Cultures and Shaping Policies: A Comparative Study of Italian and German Cultural Diplomacy in Europe

Funding: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), 2026 research programme

Award: €8,000 to the University of Siena; awarded on 31 August 2026

Project Coordinator: Prof. Luca Verzichelli

Planned duration: 12 months from signature of the convention

Proposed contribution: Systematic mapping of Italian Cultural Institutes and Goethe-Institut activities across EU countries; construction of a comparative dataset; support for quantitative and qualitative analysis.

University of Siena

2026

Siena, Italy

Project Participant (selected proposal)

Project: DEEPEU – Democratic Engagement and Pedagogy for Perspective European Citizens

Funding: Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Networks in other fields of education and training (ERASMUS-JMO-2026-NETWORKS-SCHOOLS)

Project number: 101321878

Project Coordinator: Prof. Luca Verzichelli

Selection: Evaluation score: 90/100; invited to grant agreement preparation on 26 June 2026

Proposed consortium grant and duration: €300,000; 36 months

Focus: A transnational network of secondary schools in Italy, Belgium, Portugal and Türkiye, supporting teacher training, interactive EU citizenship education and student summer schools.

Individual grants

COST Action CA23102 – EUPopLink

1–5 Oct. 2026

Remote

Virtual Mobility Grant Recipient

Action: Linking euroscepticism and populism: causes and consequences (EUPopLink)

Grant: WG3 Expert Survey on Populism and Euroscepticism; €1,500 awarded

- Completed the Italian expert mapping through bibliographic searches in Web of Science and Scopus, assessment of publications and verification of institutional affiliations and professional contact information.
- Delivered a database of 77 experts and a methodological report documenting the identification, selection and coding procedures. The final grant report was approved on 13 October 2026.

Additional academic roles

Political and Social Analysis Laboratory (LAPS), University of Siena

2020

Siena, Italy

Research Assistant

Project: Mega Elite Survey (MES)

Focus: Mapping the Italian political class at subnational, national and European levels; political representation, populist attitudes and political opinions.

Political and Social Analysis Laboratory (LAPS), University of Siena

2020

Siena, Italy

Research Assistant

Project: DialogUE

Focus: Experimental deliberative-democracy project in which participants discussed immigration, the economy, welfare and EU institutions through a virtual platform.

University of Siena — **Jan. 2019**
Executive Chair — Siena, Italy

Project: This Time I'm Voting – A Students' Simulation of the European Parliament
Topic: Application of Article 7(1) TEU to the Hungarian case
Coordinator: Prof. Luca Verzichelli

EDUCATION AND VISITING POSITIONS

Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies — **Oct. 2017 – Nov. 2021**
Ph.D. in Political Science, European Politics and International Relations — Pisa, Italy

Thesis: Euroscepticism and Government: A Comparative Analysis
Supervisor: Prof. Luca Verzichelli
Qualification: EQF Level 8

University of Lisbon — **Feb. 2020 – May 2020**
Visiting Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Social Sciences (ICS-UL) — Lisbon, Portugal

Supervisor: Prof. Marina Costa Lobo

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — **Sep. 2019 – Dec. 2019**
Visiting Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science — Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Supervisor: Prof. Liesbet Hooghe

University of Siena — **Dec. 2014 – Jul. 2017**
M.A. in International Sciences (European Studies) — Siena, Italy

Programme: European Studies, taught in English
Thesis: Opposition in the EU? Analysis of Parliamentary Behaviour in the Case of Eurosceptic Parties during the 8th European Parliament
Supervisor: Prof. Sabrina Cavatorto
Co-supervisor: Prof. Luca Verzichelli
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude
Qualification: EQF Level 7

University of Siena — **Aug. 2011 – Dec. 2014**
B.A. in Political Science and International Relations — Siena, Italy

Programme: Political Science
Thesis: Eurosceptic Parties in the 8th European Parliament: A Comparative Analysis of Nine Countries
Supervisor: Prof. Maurizio Cotta
Final grade: 110/110 cum laude
Qualification: EQF Level 6

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Martini, S., & **Marzi**, P. (2026). Citizens' preferences for representation styles: Exploring the mandate–independence controversy in eight European countries. *Politics and Governance, 14,* Article 12015. 10.17645/pag.12015

Marzi, P., & Scotto di Vettimo, M. (2026). Whom do you serve? A comparative analysis of congruence between party representatives, voters, and economic elites (2007–2017). *European Political Science Review*, 18(3), 410–428. 10.1017/S1755773926100472

Marzi, P., & Pareschi, A. (2025). Italy, the EU-9, and the double-sided gap: A longitudinal analysis of mass–elite congruence on European integration (1979–2016). *Italian Political Science Review / Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica*, 55(2), 121–137. 10.1017/ipo.2025.9

Gouglas, A., **Marzi**, P., Maddens, B., Brans, M., & Verzichelli, L. (2025). More equal than different? Gender and legislative turnover in the European Parliament and West European legislatures. *European Union Politics*, 26(1), 167–184. 10.1177/14651165241299117

Marzi, P. (2025). Euroscepticism: A meta-analysis. *Acta Politica*, 60(4), 704–722. 10.1057/s41269-024-00351-9

Marzi, P., & Verzichelli, L. (2025). Professionalised or not? An analysis of career patterns in the European Parliament (1979–2019). *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, 31(3), 696–718. 10.1080/13572334.2023.2257551

Improta, M., & **Marzi**, P. (2024). The Meloni-Casellati institutional reform: Towards a new government system? *International Journal of Parliamentary Studies*, 4(2), 161–181. 10.1163/26668912-bja10091

Marzi, P., & Sessa, M. G. (2021). If you cannot rule them, misinform them! Communication strategies of Italian radical right-wing populist parties during the pandemic. *Interdisciplinary Political Studies*, 7(2), 167–196. 10.1285/i20398573v7n2p167

Other publications and research outputs

Verzichelli, L., Improta, M., Mannoni, E., Marangoni, F., Martini, S., **Marzi**, P., Papp, Z., Góra, M., Thevenin, E., Zielińska, K., Fossum, J. E., Russo, F., De Simone, E., Mannarini, T., Rochira, A., Severs, E., Kavadias, D., Mansour, E., & Meyvaert, K. (2025). The REDIRECT survey dataset [Data set]. OSF. 10.17605/OSF.IO/EDM75

Marzi, P., & Verzichelli, L. (2019). La classe politica italiana e l'istituzionalizzazione del Parlamento europeo: Prime riflessioni dopo il voto del 2019. *CIRCaP*. Link

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Siena

Sep. 2017 – present

Siena, Italy

Teaching Assistant

Department: Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences (DISPOC)

- Political Science (2023–present), course convenor: Prof. Luca Verzichelli.
- International Relations (2019–present), course convenor: Prof. Pierangelo Isernia.
- Italian Political System (2017–2023), course convenor: Prof. Luca Verzichelli.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Sep. 2026	20th ECPR General Conference — Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland
Sep. 2026	39th Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP) — University of Trento, Italy
Jul. 2026	13th Biennial Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on the European Union — University of Catania, Italy
Sep. 2025	38th Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP) — University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Aug. 2025	19th ECPR General Conference — Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Jul. 2025	28th IPSA World Congress of Political Science — Seoul, South Korea
Sep. 2024	37th Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP) — University of Trieste, Italy
Aug. 2024	18th ECPR General Conference — University College Dublin, Ireland
Sep. 2023	36th Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP) — University of Genoa, Italy
Sep. 2023	17th ECPR General Conference — Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
May 2023	EUropean Political Careers Workshop — University of Bamberg, Germany
Sep. 2022	35th Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP) — Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Jun. 2022	Political Careers Conference — University of Basel, Switzerland
Sep. 2021	34th Conference of the Italian Political Science Society (SISP) — Online
Jul. 2021	26th IPSA World Congress of Political Science — Online; hosted by the University of Lisbon
Sep. 2019	13th ECPR General Conference — University of Wrocław, Poland
Apr. 2019	ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops — Catholic University of Louvain, Mons, Belgium

ADVANCED TRAINING

Jul.–Aug. 2020	ECPR Virtual Methods School: Python Programming for Social Scientists — Central European University, Budapest (online)
Jul.–Aug. 2019	ECPR Summer School on Parliaments — University of Lisbon, Portugal
Aug. 2018	ECPR Summer School on Democratic Innovations in Europe and in the EU — Saint-Louis University, Belgium

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

2022–present	Italian Political Science Society (SISP)
2022–present	SISP Standing Group on Candidate and Leader Selection
2022–present	SISP Standing Group on Government, Parliament and Representation
2022–present	SISP Standing Group on the European Union
2024–present	Center for the Study of Political Change (CIRCaP), University of Siena
2026–present	COST Action CA23102 – EUPopLink, Working Group 3 member (since September 2026)

RESEARCH METHODS AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Research design and methods: Questionnaire development; mass and elite surveys; survey and conjoint experiments; quantitative data analysis; regression analysis; multilevel and longitudinal modelling; comparative research designs; qualitative interviews; focus groups; and mixed-methods research.

Quantitative analysis: Stata (advanced); Microsoft Excel (advanced); IBM SPSS Statistics (basic); R, RStudio and R Markdown (basic); Python (basic).

Qualitative analysis: MAXQDA; ATLAS.ti; qualitative coding and transcript analysis.

Digital collaboration: Microsoft Office; Zoom; Microsoft Teams; Webex; Skype.

LANGUAGES

Italian	Native
English	C2
Spanish	A2