

## **VOICELESS AND INVISIBLE CITIZENS. A NEW SOCIAL DIVIDE?**

Professor: Emanuele Ferragina  
Session: 1  
Language of instruction: English  
Number of hours of class: 2.5

### **Objective of the Course**

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The objective of the course is to provide students with a clear understanding of the economic and social dynamics that influence the labour market and the capacity of citizens to participate in social and political life. Protests and social movements – particularly involving young people – seem to be increasingly related to these dynamics.

### **Summary**

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Protests and social movements are emerging in Europe and across the world. The lecture explores how these movements represent a first reaction from citizens who increasingly experience exclusion on the labour market. We will provide a critical interpretation of this issue, introducing the concept of a ‘rising invisible majority’ that accounts for the combined growth of unemployment, atypical employment and the overall stagnation of income. We will discuss a voiceless, invisible majority to underline the relation that exists between hardship on the labour market and weak social and political participation. We will consider a wide array of global evidence to illuminate a phenomenon that is dramatically changing our societies and particularly affecting young people. Italy is a crucial case to illustrate how global political economy dynamics are contributing to undermining labour market protection and leaving citizens without adequate social support.

### **Main Professor Biography**

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Emanuele Ferragina is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at Sciences Po. He grew up in Catanzaro, deep south of Italy. Prior to Sciences Po, he was a Departmental Lecturer at University of Oxford where he also received his PhD. His main research interest is the political economy of the welfare state. Besides academia, he has established (with a group of Italian researchers) the think tank Fonderia Oxford, which has the objective of raising public awareness about important societal issues, such as the rigidity of the Italian labour market, the lack of social cohesion in the Mezzogiorno, and the Italian brain drain. He also regularly writes for Il FattoQuotidiano about equality, labour market issues, party politics, the welfare state, and lower league football.