

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-politics-of-memory-in-the-italian-populist-radical-right/>

The speaker discusses their book, which evolved from a PhD project into a more comprehensive exploration of the relationship between populist radical right narratives in Italy, colonial memory, and fascist history, particularly in the context of immigration and nativist discourse. The motivation behind the work springs from a lack of interest in public debate and academic literature regarding these connections, prompting the speaker to synthesize disparate scholarly works on political parties, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and memory studies.

The theoretical framework presented posits that contemporary nativist discourse aligns with historical colonial narratives, suggesting that populist radical right parties exploit selective memory that idealizes aspects of colonialism while suppressing its negative consequences. The speaker emphasizes that political memory is inherently subjective and constructed to serve political goals.

While exploring Italy's colonial past, they highlight the intertwining of colonial and fascist memories, noting that fascism marked an intensification of Italian colonialism characterized by racist ideologies. The discussion transitions to the present, analyzing how Italy's current political landscape, led by parties with historical ties to fascism, employs nativist rhetoric in a contemporary context where immigration is framed as a threat.

Ultimately, the speaker argues that this historical continuity informs current political dynamics, particularly as Italy's right-wing government, under Georgia Maloney, adopts stringent immigration policies while navigating the complexities of public perception and historical revisionism. This video duality reflects a challenging moment for political discourse in Italy, where expressing alternative viewpoints may be met with resistance amid rising populism.