

Alberto La Malfa

orcid.org/0009-0001-5006-4737

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jun 2024 – present **PhD Researcher in Political and Social Sciences**
Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy
Supervisor: Prof. Filippo Tronconi
Dissertation: *The Political System of Misinformation: A Systemic Comparative Analysis of Informational Power Dynamics in Europe*

EDUCATION

Oct 2021 – Jul 2024 **Master’s Degree in Politics, Institutions and Market**
University of Florence, Italy – 110/110 cum laude
Thesis: *The Impact of Digitalization on the Organization of Populist Radical Right Parties: The Case of Brothers of Italy*

Sep 2022 – Feb 2023 **Erasmus+ Exchange**
Political Business and Administration, Uniwersytet Wroclawski, Wroclaw, Poland

Oct 2017 – Oct 2021 **Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science**
University of Florence, Italy
Thesis: *Organization of Populist Parties: The Case of Vox*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political disinformation and misperceptions · Democratic legitimacy and backsliding · Populist radical right parties · Party organization and digitalization · Political communication · Comparative European politics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Feb – May 2025 **Teaching Assistant**
Middlebury University, Florence, Italy
Course: History of Political Movements (30 hours, compulsory, BA level, Italian)

Mar 2023 – Jun 2024 **Teaching Assistant**
University of Florence, Italy
Courses: Political Science; History of Political Doctrines; (200 hours, compulsory, BA level, Italian)

2025 **Guest Lecture – University of Bologna**
Course: Comparative Politics in the Digital Age (MA level, compulsory, Italian)
The evolution of radical right party organization in the digital age

2024 **Guest Lecture – University of Florence**
Course: Elections, Parties and Public Opinion (MA level, compulsory, Italian)
Populist radical right party organization and digital strategies

2023 **Seminar: “How to Write a Bachelor’s Thesis at Cesare Alfieri”**
University of Florence – Compulsory, BA level

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2026 – present **Organizer, Early Career Researchers Roundtables**
University of Bologna. Organization of conferences and academic events for early career researchers.

2024 **Academic Tutoring Coordinator**
University of Florence, Italy

2022 – 2023

Orientation Tutor

University of Florence. Designed and led orientation activities and PCTO pathways for prospective undergraduate students.

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2024 – 2028

PhD Fellowship – Ministry of University and Research (MUR)

€71,220 – Full doctoral fellowship, University of Bologna

2023/2024

International Mobility Fellowship – MEIJI University, Tokyo

€2,800 – Six-month Extra-EU exchange programme

2018 – 2024

Regional Scholarship – Regione Toscana, Programma FSE

€14,135

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

La Malfa, A., & Lucidi, S. (2026). *Is there life to the right of the radical right? Vannacci's Futuro Nazionale in the rebirth of the Italian extreme right*. *Frontiers in Political Science*.

Research Reports

La Malfa, A., Nunziata, F., & Tronconi, F. (2025). *Giornalisti in Italia: informazione, percezioni, atteggiamenti politici*.

La Malfa, A., Nunziata, F., & Tronconi, F. (2025). *Politici in Italia: informazione, percezioni, atteggiamenti politici*.

Press and Public Commentary

La Malfa, A. (2024). “Giusta la proposta sull’Autonomia Differenziata?” *Il Riformista*, pp. 8–9.

La Malfa, A. (2023). “Cos’è il populismo?” *Il Riformista*, online edition.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Upcoming

Sep 2026

SISP Annual Conference – “Multilateralism Contested”

Trento, 3–5 September 2026

Paper: *Are Elites Better Informed? Factual Misperceptions among Citizens, Journalists, and Politicians in Italy*

Sep 2026

ECPR General Conference

Kraków, 8–11 September 2026

Paper: *Inside the Party: Digitalization and Intra-Party Democracy in Brothers of Italy*

Paper: *Distorted Views from the Top? Investigating Misperceptions among Italian Journalists and Politicians*

Delivered

Jun 2026

European Political Science Society (EPSS) Inaugural Conference

Belfast, 18–20 June 2026

Paper: *Unpacking Digital Intra-Party Democracy in the Populist Radical Right: A Comparative Study of Alternative für Deutschland, Fratelli d'Italia, Rassemblement National and Vox*

Sep 2025

SISP Annual Conference – “Political Science in the Digital Age”

Naples, 4–6 September 2025

Paper: *Perceptions vs. Reality: Misinformation and Polarization among Citizens, Elites, and the Hybrid Media System*

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2024	Cyberpolitics – AI and the New (Dis)Order Summer School on Politics and Technology, Favignana, Italy
Sep 2023	“Deserving Europe” – Political Training School European Democratic Party / Renew Europe

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2026 – present	European Political Science Society (EPSS)
2025 – present	Italian Political Science Association (SISP)
2025 – present	CONNECT Research Center – Transnational Connections and Global Governance
2025 – present	ICSE (International Centre for Southern Europe)

LANGUAGES

Italian (native) – English (C1) – Spanish (C1, B2 written)

METHODS AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative: statistical analysis with Stata, R/RStudio, Excel. Qualitative: case study design, content analysis. Mixed-methods research design. Academic writing in Italian and English.