

**Organising
institution**

Università degli Studi di Padova
Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Giuridiche e Studi Internazionali - SPGI
Prof.ssa Marta Ferronato

**Visiting
Professor**

Prof. Pierpaolo Antonello
University of Cambridge - UK

**Course
Description**

**The origins of society, government dynamics and conflict resolutions in
René Girard's perspective of the victim**

First of all this cycle of seminars provides the introduction of the multifaceted figure of R. Girard (1923 – 2015). He was elected to the French Academy and in 2001 the University of Padua awarded him with the Laurea ad honorem in Lettere.

His perspectives are at the centre of a renewed scientific interest that has increased in the past few years in relation to the emergence of new forms of populism and ideological extremism and to religious motivated terroristic attacks.

Consequently, reference will be made to the anthropologist's works and to the critical studies that highlight these tendencies that are relevant for the interpretation of the present political and social landscape where the open conflict dimension affects the experience of the different people and cultures.

Four seminars are planned, each one lasting two hours: three will be held in December 2021, the fourth in January 2022.

The seminars, which will be delivered via Zoom platform, will be interactive: participants will have texts to read, analyse comment and discuss during the meetings, both personally and in group.

The following topics will be developed:

- i. Fundamental anthropology: mimesis, sacrifice and the origins of culture
- ii. The origins and archaeology of sovereignty
- iii. (In)visibility of victims: the sacrificial economy of the government
- iv. Reciprocity and politics: mimesis, identity, conflict

Period

01/12/2021 – 14/01/2022

Course Level

Master degree course in Scienze del Governo e Politiche Pubbliche