



3rd UNSW RESILIENT DEMOCRACY LAB WORKSHOP

UNSW Sydney, 26-27 February 2026

Note: Each presenter is invited to **present for 30 minutes**, including questions and comments.

DAY 1, 26 FEBRUARY

AFTERNOON (UNSW Business School Lounge, West Lobby, 6th Floor)

12:30 – 13:45 *Welcome and lunch*

13:45 – 14:15 **Weijia Li (Monash)** *An Economic Theory of Salvation Religions* (with Shaoda Wang)

14:15 – 14:45 **Alessandro Saia (Bologna)**, *When We Rebel: Clashing Narratives and the Making of Subversive Identities* (with Elena Esposito, Matteo Cervellati and Giacomo Plevani)

14:45 – 15:00 *Coffee break*

15:00 – 15:30 **Thiago Nascimento da Silva (ANU)**, *Clarity of Alternatives: How Perceived Party Policy Differences Shape Economic Voting* (with Laron Williams)

15:30 – 15:45 *Break*

15:45 – 16:45 *Resilient Democracy Lab public lecture with Massimo Morelli (Bocconi)*
Populism: Global Causes and Global Consequences

17:00 – 18:30 UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab Reception and Official Launch

Location: UNSW Teaching Commons

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1977849639514?aff=oddtcreator>

19:00 Workshop dinner at TBA (by invitation)



DAY 2, 27 FEBRUARY

MORNING (UNSW Business School Lounge, West Lobby, 6th Floor)

9:30 – 9:45 *Breakfast*

9:45 – 10:15 **Chris Bidner (SFU)**, *A Theory of Illiberal Democracy and Political Transitions with Heterogeneous Policy Preferences* (with Shirleen Manzur)

10:15 – 10:45: **Laurenz Guenther (Toulouse)** *Do Political Representation Gaps Cause Populism? Evidence from the 2025 German Election* (with Salvatore Nunnari)

10:45 – 11:00: *Coffee break*

11:00 – 11:30: **Gabriele Gratton (UNSW)**, *Adding Fuel to the (Gun)Fire: How Politicians Polarize the Public Debate* (with Lehan Zhang, Pauline Grosjean and Hasin Yousaf)

11:30 – 12:00: **Nina Bobkova (Rice)** *Why Anecdotes?* (with Arjada Bardhi)

AFTERNOON (UNSW Business School Lounge, West Lobby, 6th Floor)

12:00 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30 – 14:00 **Jacob Edenhofer (Oxford)**, *Levelling Up by Levelling Down? The Economic and Political Costs of Brexit* (with Eleonora Alabrese, Thiemo Fetzer, and Shizhuo Wang)

14:00 – 14:30: **Federico Masera (UNSW)**, *Political Influence during Childhood* (with Gianmarco Daniele, Marco Le Moglie and Sergio Galletta)

14:30 – 14:45: *Coffee break*

14:45 – 15:15: **Francesco Bailo (Sydney)**, *Measuring Information Disorder: Concept, Method, and Application to the 2020 US Election* (with Justin Miller and Rohan Alexander)

15:15 – 15:45: **Simona Fabrizi (Auckland)**, *Belief-Behavior Feedback, Cascade, and Optimal Platform Intervention* (with Lydia Li and Steffen Lippert)