

Email: sofia.marini@ps.au.dk
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0264-1592

Office: Bartholins Allé 7, 1340-234
8000 Aarhus C (Denmark)

Research interests

Political parties and party systems, party competition, party organisation, party change, populism, democracy

Employment

Aarhus University

Post-doc in the [YOUTHPOL](#) project, Department of Political Science

Aarhus, Denmark

Oct 2024 – present

University of Vienna

Pre-doctoral researcher, Department of Government

Vienna, Austria

Oct 2020 – Sep 2024

Publications

Peer-reviewed journals

- Forthcom. **Are populist radical parties in government perceived as more moderate?** Accepted at *European Political Science Review*.
- 2025 **Do more inclusive parties change less? Intraparty democracy and programmatic change.** *West European Politics*, 48(2), 270–296. Accessible [here](#).
- 2025 **Italy's Democratic Quality and the Role of Political Parties: Comparative Empirical Patterns.** *Italian Political Science Review*, 55(2) 138–155. – with Panzano G. Accessible [here](#).
- 2025 **Twenty Thousand Leagues below the Po: Career Patterns and Party Institutionalisation in the Lega (Nord).** *Regional & Federal Studies* – with Piccolino G. Accessible [here](#).
- 2023 **Right-wing victory in the 2022 Italian parliamentary election: territorial patterns and systemic implications.** *Italian Journal of Electoral Studies*, 86(1), 29–50. – with Piccolino G. Accessible [here](#).

Chapters in edited volumes

- 2024 **Populist parties and party competition.** In Huber, R.A. & Jankowski, M. (Eds.). *Populism: An Introduction*. SAGE Publications – with Wagner M. Accessible [here](#).

Others

- 2023 **Fratelli d'Italia nei consigli regionali.** *Il Mulino*, 72(2), 179–186. – with Piccolino G.
- 2022 **The Scale of Trust: Local, Regional, National and European Politics in Perspective.** *GEG Working Paper*. – with Arrighi JS., Battestini JT., Coatleven L., Hublet F., and Queudet V. Accessible [here](#).
- 2020 **Institutions and foreign interferences.** *Study for the AFCO Committee of the European Parliament*. – with Bressanelli E., di Palma A., Inglese G., and Repetto E. Accessible [here](#).
- 2019 **Il Partito Verde Europeo e le sfide dell'europeizzazione.** In Giusti, S. (Ed.) *Idee per l'Europa. Quaderni del Circolo Rosselli*, XXXIX(135).

Public outreach

- 2025 **Regional elections in Liguria, Emilia-Romagna and Umbria, Autumn 2024.** *BLUE*, 5, online first.
- 2024 **Regional election in Latium, 12–13 February 2023.** *BLUE*, 4, online first. – with Hublet F.
- 2023 **Parliamentary election in Italy, 25 September 2022.** *BLUE*, 3, 109–113. – with Plescia C.
- 2022 **Italian municipal elections (Rome and Milan), October 2021.** *BLUE*, 2, 158–162.

Working papers

Submitted articles

“How are political parties’ youth wings organized?”, with Bech Seeberg H. (R&R)

“Voters’ evaluations of party policy shifts”, with Lingier L. Luybaert J. and Wagner M. (under review)

Ongoing research

“Issue representation of the youth in parliament”, with Borghetto E., Carammia M., and Bech Seeberg H.

“The causal effect of parliamentary breakthrough on party supporters’ ideology and attitudes”

“The diffusion of illiberalism across political parties”, with Panzano G.

“Radical right populism: perceptions of threat and affect”, with Heinz E., Hjermlitslev I., and Wagner M.

“Youth wings at party congress” with Kaltenecker M., Ceron A., and Bech Seeberg H.

Education

University of Vienna - Doctoral degree in Political Science Vienna, Austria

Supervisors: Professors Markus Wagner and Carolina Plescia. *Graduated with honours*

2020 – 2024

Cumulative dissertation: “Party Policy Shifts: Causes, consequences, and perceptions”

University of Florence - Master’s degree in European Studies Florence, Italy

Supervisor: Dott.ssa Sorina Soare. *110/110 cum laude*

2018 – 2020

Dissertation title: “The Battle for EU Values: EPP’s stances on post-accession democratic conditionality”

Scuola Normale Superiore, Scuola Sant’Anna - Honour MA Diploma in Political Science Florence, Italy

Supervisor: Dott. Edoardo Bressanelli. *100/100 cum laude*

2018 – 2021

Dissertation title: “The Rule of Law Debate in the EU: MEPs’ positions on democratic backsliding”

Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna - Honour BA Diploma in Political Science Pisa, Italy

Full scholarship for both BA and MA studies. *100/100*

2015 – 2019

University of Pisa - Bachelor’s degree in Political Science Pisa, Italy

Supervisor: Dott. Enrico Calossi. *110/110 cum laude*

2015 – 2018

Dissertation title: “Niche Parties Reframed. Concepts and Empirical Analysis in Italy, France and Spain”

Teaching

Aarhus University, MA-level seminar. Course development, instruction, and assessment.

Populist Parties, Party Competition, and Contemporary Democracy

2026

Aarhus University, BA-level seminars. Instruction.

Political Institutions: Western countries, EU and foreign policy

2025

University of Vienna, BA-level seminars. Course development, instruction, and assessment.

Comparative Politics

2024, 2022, 2021

Quantitative Methods of Empirical Social Research

2023, 2022, 2021

Conferences and workshops

DPSA Conference (*Chair, Presenter, Discussant*)

Nov 2025

SISP Conference (*Chair, Presenter, Discussant*)

Sep 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021

EPSA Conference (*Chair, Presenter, Discussant*)

Jun 2025, 2024, 2023

ECPR General Conference (*Presenter*)

Sep 2023, 2022

APSA Annual Meeting (*Presenter*)

Aug 2023

ITANES Young Scholars’ Workshop (*Poster presenter*)

Jul 2023

CES International Conference (*Presenter*)

Jun 2023

MPSA Conference (*Presenter - online*)

Apr 2023

AuPSA Conference (*Presenter*)

Nov 2022, 2021

Training (selection)

Pedagogical Programme (Aarhus University)	2025	Publication strategies in academia	2021
An introduction to GIS with R	2023	Data management for doctoral candidates	2021
Panel data analysis	2022	Causal inference for observational data	2021
Advanced quantitative text analysis	2022	Field experiments	2021
Quantitative text analysis of political speech	2022	Hertie School Data science summer school	2021
Regression models for categorical data	2021	ECPR Summer school on political parties	2019

Research stays

University of Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands
Visiting PhD student, c/o Professor Sarah de Lange April – May 2023

Ghent University Ghent, Belgium
Visiting PhD student, c/o Professors Bram Wauters and Anna Kern February – March 2023

Research experience

Part-time collaboration April – June 2020
Collaboration with Dr. E. Bressanelli (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna) and other contributors for the study “Institutions and foreign interferences” requested by the AFCO Committee of the European Parliament.

External collaboration June – July 2018, Nov – Dec 2018
Collaboration with Dr. D. Morisi (Collegio Carlo Alberto) and Prof. D. Gambetta (European University Institute) collecting data on foreigners resident in Italy from 2002 to 2018.

Traineeship September – December 2019
Traineeship as programme assistant at the European Policy Centre in Brussels, under the supervision of Dr. C. Stratulat. Tasks included: organisation and management of policy-oriented events, preparation of research briefings and reports, assistance with policy analysis publications and funding applications.

Traineeship February – April 2018
Traineeship as student assistant at the Department of Government of the University of Vienna. Tasks included: bibliographic research, proofreading, survey pre-testing and panel documentation, database creation on Excel.

Grants and scholarships

Short-term grant abroad (KWA) from the University of Vienna. 2023
Covering research and living expenses for the research stays at Ghent University and University of Amsterdam.

Honours programme at the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna. 2015-2020
Full scholarship covering living expenses, summer schools and international travel.

Service to the discipline

Reviewer for *Political Behavior*, *West European Politics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, and *Journal of European Public Policy*. Verified peer reviews listed on [Web of Science](#).

Software and language skills

STATA (advanced), R, L^AT_EX, Office
Italian (native), English (IELTS 8), French (DALF C1), German (B2)

Other experiences

Editor of the Electoral Bulletin of the European Union ([BLUE](#))
Editor and contributor of the UNIFI RISE student blog during the MA