

Who We Are

Past and Present Activities
2022



Crossing Cultures
Convening Minds
Circulating Ideas

ConveningMinds

1) The Venice Seminars on Toleration

Our annual international forum and summer school on the prospects for democracy, human rights, secularism and religion across different cultures.

– A gathering of top-level philosophers, sociologists, theologians and political scientists from across cultures providing fresh scientific insight into the global challenges for democracy and pluralism.

– 20 invited international scholars and 50 selected graduate students / young professionals each year from China, India, Lebanon, Northern Africa, Turkey, Russia, the EU and the US.

– A growing project and network since 2017 developed in cooperation with the Università **Ca' Foscari**.

– Last two editions successfully held online via Zoom + Facebook

– Latest Seminar: “Free Speech, its Primacy and Challenges” (May 24/28, 2021)

– 2022 Seminars and Summer School: “Between State and Civil Society: Who Protects Individual Liberties and Human Dignity?” (Venice, May 23/28, 2022)

2) The Reset Seminars on Pluralism in the Middle East and North Africa

An annual international conference and summer school on cultural/religious pluralism and political liberties across the Mediterranean

– A platform to promote local intellectual responses to the rise of rigorist strands of Islamic thought, contributing to the reawakening of pluralistic traditions in Muslim contexts.

– 20 prominent intellectuals / artists from across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and 40 young scholars / leaders trained each summer on the relationship between religion, history and power.

– The last two editions (2020 and 2021) were held virtually in cooperation with the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts – **Beit al-Hikma**) as the Carthage Seminars on Cultural Pluralism and Political Liberties.

– Previously, two editions (2018 and 2019) were held in cooperation with the **King Abdul-Aziz Foundation** for Islamic Studies and Human Sciences, as the Casablanca Seminars.

– Recent Speakers: Mustafa Akyol, Lisa Anderson, Amel Boubekeur, Joshua Carney, Jocelyne Césari, Omar Fassatoui, Zyed Krichen, Peter Limbrick, Bahia Shehab, among many others.



3) The Reset Dialogues on Illiberal Trends

A series of debates in the United States and Europe on the most pressing challenges facing contemporary democracies.

– A cycle of US-focused (virtual) roundtables on the **Fragility of Democracy**: “Exorcizing Democracy’s Demons: Can Populism be Overcome?” (May 2021); “Healing the Public Discussion: Is It Possible and How?” (June 2021).

– A high-level gathering of scholars, analysts, and decision-makers from across Europe and the US on the future of EU integration after the crisis brought on by the pandemic: “**Europe at a Crossroads after the Shock**” (October – November 2020, **Fondazione Corriere della Sera**).

– An initial series of high-level US-focused conferences: “The Trap of Polarization and the Erosion of Democratic Discourse” (March 2019 – **Columbia University**); “Resetting Liberalism: An Inquiry into the Crisis of Open Societies” (November 2019 – **College of William & Mary**); “The Divided Society after November 3rd” (November 2020 – with **Centro Studi Americani** and **Columbia University**).

– A cycle of five lectures on the “**Illiberal Trend**” held in cooperation with the **University of Milan**: Fragility, Cohesion, Vulnerability, Migration/Integration (November 2018 – February 2019).

– A high-level international conference jointly organized with the **Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme** on the **Fragility of Democracy**.

– Recent Speakers: Daron Acemoglu, Giuliano Amato, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Seyla Benhabib, Ian Buruma, Craig Calhoun, Jelani Cobb, Yael Eisenstat, Sergio Fabbrini, James Fishkin, Stanley Greenberg, Bernard Guetta, Mark Lilla, Yascha Mounk, Vivien Schmidt, Michael Walzer, among many others.

4) The Intercultural Lexicon

A political dictionary for cross-cultural engagement.

– Latest conferences: “Toleration in Comparative Perspective: Concepts, Practices and Documents” (January 2021 – Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion at **University of California, Berkeley**); “Comparative Secularisms: Conceptions and Practices of Religious Liberty in the Public Sphere” (April 2019 – **Princeton University**);

– Next Conference (september 2022): “Getting to Reconciliation: A Comparative Perspective”, with the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the **University of Sarajevo**.

– Recent Speakers: Asma Asfaruddin, Karen Barkey, Rajeev Barghava, Mohsen Khadivar, Cécile Laborde, Denis Lacorne, Alberto Melloni, Alan Patten, Ayelet Shachar, and many others.

5) Theologies of Otherness

An interdisciplinary project to provide original insights on the transformations that modern pluralism has forced upon all religions, challenging their theology and practices. This partnership between Reset Dialogues on Civilizations (US and Italy), the [University of Birmingham](#) (UK), the [Berkley Center](#) at Georgetown University (US), and the [Foundation for Religious Sciences](#) in Bologna and Palermo (Italy), will investigate pluralism within the context of religion's changing presence and influence in contemporary public life, convening workshops and producing an innovative web platform ([v-theo.net](#))

– Preliminary workshops: “Orthodox Christianities” (September 2021); “Pluralism and Christianity: disentangling the concept of otherness” (July 2021); “Pluralism & Islam: An Interdisciplinary Assessment” (June 2021); “Varieties of Religions” (April 2021).

– Recent Speakers: Jocelyne Césari, Anver Emon, Alberto Melloni, Ebrahim Moussa, Aristotle Papanikolaou, Kristina Stoeckl, and many others

– Coming next: Workshop on Islam, University of Birmingham (14-15 June 2022); Academy of Religions 2022 (Bologna, 20-23 June 2022).

ConveningMinds

Istanbul Seminars: Bridging Cultural Borders between East and West

– In partnership with [Bilgi University](#) and the journal *Philosophy and Social Criticism*.

– Participants: Lisa Anderson, Akeel Bilgrami, Amr Hamzawy, Manlio Graziano, Jürgen Habermas, Mohammed Hashas, Nader Hashemi, Riva Kastoryano, Dilek Kurban, Avishai Margalit, David Rasmussen, Charles Taylor, Michael Walzer, and many others.

– Around 1,000 attendees, including 200 young professionals, from 2007-2016.

Venice-Delhi Seminars: Democracy and Pluralism between Europe and India

– In partnership with *Seminar* magazine

– Participants: Rajeev Bhargava, Rachel Dwyer, Ramin Jahanbegloo, Jytte Klausen, Will Kymlicka, Olivier Roy, Ananya Vajpeyi, Shiv Visvanatahn, among others.

– Around 250 attendees, including 100 young professionals, since 2010.

Euro-Arab Forum for democracy: inclusive secularism and human rights

– A series of cross-cultural encounters on democratic consolidation across the Mediterranean including “Transitions démocratiques: Regards croisés. Expériences et culture du compromis de l'Europe de 1945 à la Tunisie de 2015” (December 2014 – January 2015, [Italian Institute of Culture in Tunis](#) and [LUISS University](#), Rome); “The Resilience of Democracy in a Troubling Economy” (September 2019 – Tunis, with [CAREP](#)); “An Arab Winter? The Tunisian Exception in Context” (December 2020 – with [Mominoun Without Borders](#)).

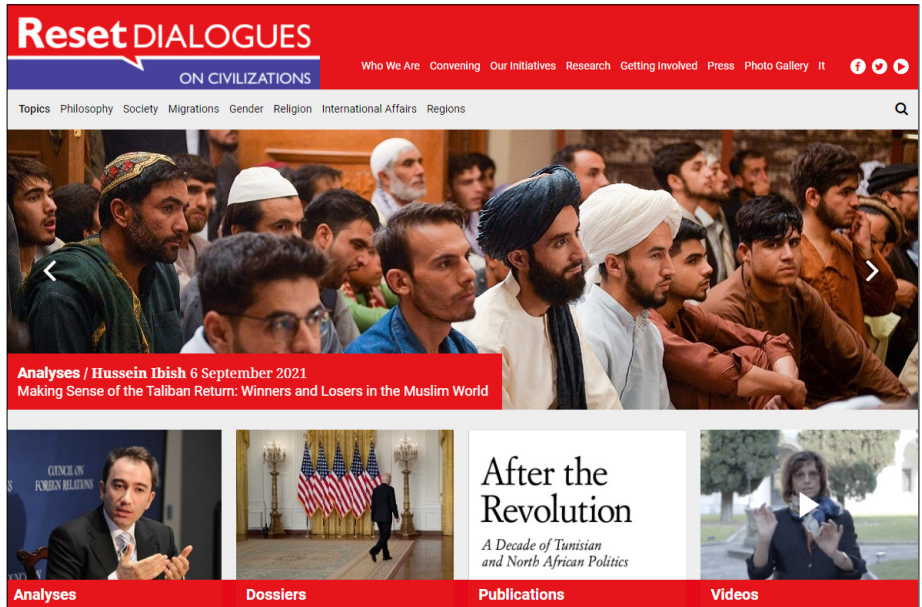
– Participants: Yadh Ben Achour, Emanuele Felice, Mohammed Haddad, Ursula Lindsley, Mehdi Mabrouk, Radwan Masmoudi, Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, Soli Özel, Mohamed, Salah Kherigi, and many others.

Exiting Violence: The Role of Religion(s)

– In partnership with the [Berkley Center](#) at Georgetown University and the [Bruno Kessler Foundation](#).

– A two-seminar cycle, in Trento (October 2017), and Washington D.C. (October 2018).

– Participants: José Casanova, Gerard Mannion, Judd Birdsall, Katherine Marshall, and many others.



CirculatingIdeas

ResetDOC.org / ResetDialogues.org

A lively forum for cross-cultural analysis, commentary and scholarship

In addition to providing information on the latest programs and events organized by the two affiliated organizations – ResetDOC and Reset Dialogues – the website serves as a platform for transnational debate, through the publication on our digital magazine of high-level contributions – essays, analyses, thematic dossiers and video-interviews – at the crossroads between academic production and journalistic coverage on a range of topics at the core of Reset's mission: tolerance, pluralism, cross-cultural dialogue, the quality of democracy, and the multiple threats / obstacles to all of the above in a global perspective.

– Over 100 articles, a dozen videos, and 6 dossiers published each year

– Hundreds of thousands of readers every year, from across the globe – primarily the US, Italy, Turkey, India and the UK.

– A bi-weekly newsletter freely distributing our best content to readers and event participants

– **Recent Pieces:** S. Moskowitz, “One Year Later, American Democracy is Still in Trouble”; M. Franchini Koffi, “Comparing and Competing. Africans Weigh the EU and China's Investment Strategies”; B. Milanovic, “How Everything Started. Putin's Century of Betrayal Speech”.

– **Recent Dossiers:** “Russia-Ukraine: Is There Any Room for Compromise?”; “Framing America's Retreat and the Taliban Takeover. A Cross-Cultural Perspective”; “Freedom of the Press in Turkey: Challenges and Implications”.

– **Recent Video Interviews:** Micheline Ishay, “Rerouting the Levant Express into a Future with Human Rights” (July 2021); Massimo Campanini, “Reading the Qur'an as a Philosophical Book” (October 2020); Yael Tamir, “Liberals need to Engage in the Nationalism of the Vulnerable” (December 2019).

Past Events /
Programs



OurWebsite



Circulating Ideas

Our Publications

The fruits of Reset's international conferences and seminars have for years been turned into high-level scientific publications – with its own series of monographs, in cooperation with cooperation with the journal *Philosophy and Social Criticism* as well as in partnership with other publishers.

- Volumes of selected essays ([Springer Publishing](#))
- Special yearly issues of *Philosophy and Social Criticism* dedicated to our Istanbul and Venice Seminars (2009-)
- ResetDOC Monographs (hard copies and e-book)
- **Latest Volumes:** F. Zoja, “After the Revolution. A Decade of Tunisian and North African Politics”; M. Hashas, “Pluralism in Islamic Contexts - Ethics, Politics and Modern Challenges”; V. Kaul, A. Vajpeyi (eds.), “Minorities and Populism: Critical Perspectives from South Asia and Europe”; M. Haddad, “Muslim Reformism – A Critical History: Is Islamic Religious Reform Possible?”; R. Cucciolla, “Dimensions and Challenges of Russian Liberalism”, and many others.
- **Forthcoming Volumes:** J. Laurence (ed.), “Secularism in Comparative Perspective: Religions across Political Contexts”; J. Laurence and A. Alibašić (eds.), “Tolerance in Mediterranean Societies: History, Ideas, and Institutions”; D. Tonelli and G. Mannion (eds.), “Exiting Violence: from Texts to Theories”.

Reset Dialogues on Civilizations (DOC) has been convening experts, scholars and young professionals, sharing ideas across borders, cultures, religions and languages since 2004. It was founded in Rome by Nina zu Fürstenberg and Giancarlo Bosetti together with a Founding Committee of dedicated supporters, chaired by US philosopher Seyla Benhabib and former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato until 2019, and composed of its strongest early backers such as Abdou Filali-Ansary, Fred Dallmayr, Vartan Gregorian, Nilüfer Göle, Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, Avishai Margalit, Otto Schily, Karl von Schwarzenberg, Nadia Urbinati and Michael Walzer, who have made vital contributions alongside scores of others. The Committee is currently chaired by José Casanova of Georgetown University.

ResetDOC gratefully recognizes the continued support of the Nomis Foundation.

Reset Dialogues is an American non-profit organization created in 2009 to promote cultural and religious pluralism, the rule of law and human rights in various contexts. Initially established to support its Italian partner organization, Reset Dialogues now works together with ResetDOC to commission and publish research in the human and social sciences and to convene conferences at American universities, in addition to administering the annual Seminars and School on Pluralism in North Africa.

Reset Dialogues gratefully acknowledges the support of the Carnegie Corporation, the Talbot-Hillman Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Luce Foundation, and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Advisory Board

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Reset Dialogues on Civilizations, founded in 2004 by scholars with different backgrounds is committed to the goals of **generating** scientific insights on cultural pluralism, **analyzing** the root causes of cultural, religious, ethnic conflicts, **connecting** different viewpoints in scholarly research, **promoting pluralism**, toleration and human rights in different civilizational environments

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