Who We Are
Past and Present Activities
2022

Crossing Cultures
Convening Minds
Circulating Ideas
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

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 last two editions successfully held online via Zoom + Facebook
- Previously, two editions (2018 and 2019) were held in cooperation with the King Abdul-Aziz Foundation for Islamic Studies and Human Sciences, as the Reset Seminars and Summer School: “Between State and Civil Society: Who Protects Individual Liberties and Human Dignity?” (Venice, May 23/28, 2022)
- Previous Speakers: Asma Asfaruddin, Karen Barkey, Rajeev Barghava, Mohsen Khadivar, Cécile Laborde, Denis Lacorne, Alberto Melloni, Alan Patten, Ayelet Shachar, 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);
- 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 Fabbri, 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, among 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 theologies 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).

Circulating Ideas
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:

Recent Dossiers:

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).
**Our Publications**


- **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)

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**Reset Dialogues**

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, Nilufer Göle, Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, Avishai Margalit, Otto Schily, Karl von Schwartzenberg, 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.