Who We Are
Past and Present Activities
2021/2022

Crossing Cultures
Convening Minds
Circulating Ideas
1) The Venice Seminars on Tolerance
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
- Recent Speakers: José Casanova, David Elstein, Alessandro Ferrara, Daniel Gamper, Timothy Garton Ash, Amel Grami, Stephen Macedo, Bhikhu Parekh, David Rasmussen, Nadia Urbinati, Michel Wieviorka, among many others.

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 Cézian, 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). To be continued.
- 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)
- Recent Speakers: Daron Acemoğlu, 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.
- Consolidating new formats and audiences in the “hybrid era” (physical/virtual events)

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 (tba): "Getting to Reconciliation: A Comparative Perspectve", with the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the University of Sarajevo.
- Recent Speakers: Asma Asfaruddin, Karen Barkey, Rajeev Barghava, Mo-hsen Khadivar, Cécile Laborde, Denis Lacorin, Alberto Melloni, Alan Patten, Ayelet Shachar, among many others.

Recent / Ongoing Programs
5) Theologies of Otherness

An interdisciplinary project to provide original insights on the transformations that modern pluralism has forced upon all religions, challenging their theolo-
gy and practices. This partnership between Reset Dialogues on Civiliza-
tions (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, con-
vening workshops and producing an innovative web platform (r-theo.net)

- Preliminary workshops: “Orthodox Christianities” (September 2021); “Plu-
ralism and Christianity: disentangling the concept of otherness” (July 2021);
“Pluralism & Islam: An Interdisciplinary Assessment” (June 2021); “Varieties
of Religions” (April 2021). To be continued.
- Recent Speakers: Jocelyne Césari, Anver Emon, Alberto Melloni, Ebrahim
Moussa, Aristotle Papanikolaou, Kristina Stoeckl, and many others

Convening Minds

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 Graz-
iano, Jürgen Habermas, Mohammed Hashas, Nader Hashemi, Riva Kastor-
ryano, Dilek Kurban, Avishai Margalit, David Rasmussen, Charles Taylor, Mi-
chael 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 Klaus-
en, Will Kymlicka, Olivier Roy, Ananya Vajpeyi, Shiv Visvanathan, 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: Expé-
riences 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 Econ-
omy” (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, Ur-
sula Lindsley, Mehdi Marbouk, Radwan Masmoudi, Ferdinando Nelli Feroci,
Soli Ozel, 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. (Oc-
tober 2018).
- Participants: José Casanova, Gerard Mannion, Judd Birdsall, Katherine
Marshall, and many others.
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)


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 Göl, 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.

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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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