

**PhD Thesis**

A personalistic transformation of democracy?

**Abstract**

In my research I intend to analyze the complex notion evoked by the current formula «personalization of politics» decomposing it into its elements and undertaking a conceptual comparison with the different figures of "singular power" that have been elaborated in the history of political culture. In a first phase of the research, I intend to conduct a census of the formulas that have been adopted in contemporary literature to indicate the complex of phenomena concerning the emergence of the "personal factor" as a decisive and distinctive element of political competition and exercise of power, as well as the establishment of (essentially) monocratic institutional arrangements in contemporary democracies. In a second phase of the research, my purpose is to undertake a reconstruction and comparison of the distinct figures of personal-monocratic power on which Western political culture has been focused, from the pre-classical archaic tyranny up to the Weberian charismatic power. Along this path, the notions of Caesarism, Bonapartism, and plebiscitarian democracy will have an eminent position; each of which is the center of rich and dense theoretical elaborations by illustrious thinkers. The working hypothesis is that this analytical-conceptual research can shed light on the useful categories that will help us face and understand current phenomena often confusingly mixed into the formula «personalization of politics».