



Brown Bag Seminars of POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Public Political Philosophy in theory and practice

Jonathan Floyd

University of Bristol

Chair

Davide Saracino

NASP - University of Milan

Discussant

Ilkin Huseynli

NASP - University of Milan

14 December 2022

h. 11.00-13.00

SPS Seminar Room (Passione Side)

Public political philosophy is increasingly encouraged yet little understood. This is ironic, given our professional attachment to conceptual clarity, but also important, given the risks involved with getting it wrong. Here I start to remedy that situation by (1) defining it, (2) mapping out the dangers it needs to avoid, and (3) providing general guidance for future endeavours. In all of this, I argue, judgement and balance are central. Our public work should draw on our professional work without occluding it; should avoid both excessive conservatism and excessive radicalism; and should be mindful of the dangers posed by both illiberal authoritarianism, on the one hand, and so-called 'liberal cancel culture' on the other. If public political philosophers are to succeed with 'PPP' in the age of 'post-truth', 'populism', and 'polarisation', they will need to watch their backs, and words, very carefully indeed.