Who We Are
Past and Present Activities
2020/2021

Crossing Cultures
Convening Minds
Circulating Ideas
1) **The Venice Seminars on Toleration**
An international forum and summer school on the prospects for democracy, human rights, secularism and religion across different cultures.
- Next Seminar: “Communities and the Individual: Democracy’s Building Blocks”; **May 25/30, 2020.**
- In partnership with **Universita Ca’Foscari.**
- Recent Speakers: Giuliano Amato, Albena Azmanova, Karen Barkey, Seyla Benhabib, Sheri Berman, José Casanova, Alessandro Ferrara, Nilüfer Göle and many others.
- Participation of 60 top international scholars and 120 young professionals from Indonesia, China, India, Northern Africa, Turkey, Russia, the EU and the US, since 2017.

2) **The Reset Dialogues School on Pluralism**
An international conference and summer school on religious pluralism, education and political liberties.
- Next Summer School: “Cultural Pluralism and Political Liberties”; **Carthage, Tunisia.** In partnership with the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts (Beit al-Hikma), University of Carthage; **June 29/July 10, 2020.**
- Previous Summer Schools: **Casablanca, Morocco** (July 2018/2019). In partnership with the King Abdul-Aziz Foundation for Islamic Studies and Human Science, and the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Recent Speakers: Asma Afsaruddin, Massimo Campanini, Jocelyne Cesarri, Khalid Hajji, Aziz Mechouat, Abdulaziz Sachedina and many others.
- Participation of 40 top international scholars and 71 young professionals from Turkey, Northern Africa, the Middle East, the US and the EU, since 2018.
3) Reset Dialogues on Illiberal Trends

A series of debates in the United States and Italy.

- Meetings: on themes of Fragility, Cohesion, Vulnerability and Europe/Migration at the University of Milan (2018/2019); on “The Trap of Polarization, and The Erosion of the Democratic Discourse” at Columbia University (March 2019); and “Resetting Liberalism: An Inquiry into the Crisis of Open Societies” at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia (November 2019).
- Speakers: Giuliano Amato, Anthony Appiah, Karen Barkey, Seyla Benhabib, Sheri Berman, Stanley Greenberg, Mark Lilla, Yascha Mounk, Chiara Sarceno, Michael Walzer and many others.
- Participation of Young Scholars and General Public.

4) The Intercultural Lexicon

A political dictionary for cross-cultural engagement.

- Next Conferences: “Toleration in Comparative Perspective: Concepts, Practices and Documents” at the University of California, Berkeley, April 3/4, 2020; “Getting to Reconciliation: A Comparative Perspective” in collaboration with the Faculty of Islamic Studies of the University of Sarajevo, October (2020); “Comparative Secularisms: Conceptions and Practices of Religious Liberty in the Public Sphere” at the Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University (2019).
- Recent Speakers: Joseph Chan, Mohsen Kadivar, Cécile Laborde, Stephen Macedo, Alan Patten, Michael Walzer and many others.
- Participation of two dozen top international scholars and 30 Young Professionals from the US and Europe.
Convening Minds

Istanbul Seminars: Bridging Cultural Borders between East and West (currently suspended)
- In partnership with Bilgi University and the journal Philosophy and Social Criticism.
- Recent Participants: Lisa Anderson, Akeel Bilgrami, Amr Hamzawi, Manlio Graziano, Jürgen Habermas, Mohammed Hashas, Nader Hashemi, Riva Kas-toryano, 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 (continuing)
- In partnership with Seminar magazine.
- Recent Participants: Rajeev Bhargava, Rachel Dwyer, Ramin Jahanbegloo, Jytte Klausen, Will Kymlicka, Olivier Roy, Ananya Vajpeyi, Shiv Visvanathan and many others.
- Around 250 attendees, including 100 young professionals, since 2010.

Euro-Arab Forum for Democracy: inclusive secularism and human rights
- Rome (2014); Tunis (2019).
- Exiting Violence: The Role of Religion
- In partnership with Berkley Center and Bruno Kessler Foundation.
- Recent Participants: José Casanova, Gerard Mannion, Judd Birdsal, Katherine Marshall.
In addition to providing information on Reset Dialogues' latest programming and events, the website serves as a forum for original articles, video interviews as well as curated translations of cutting-edge international authors. New content is uploaded weekly, and around seven articles are published monthly in addition to a bimonthly thematic dossier, and an e-magazine. The videos and short snapshot interviews of prominent intellectuals & specialized researchers focus on compelling topics such as the evolution of democracy, human and women’s rights, and cultural and religious pluralism. These products share an approach to current events through the lens of pluralism and toleration in theory and historical practice.


Almost 25 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the process of ‘re-composition’ of a Moscow-dominated political space is still under way. Under the influence of different traditions, factors, events and interests, Russia seems to have developed a new version of the ‘power state’ that dominated European history until the 20th century’s tragedies.

What was the weight of the Soviet legacy and of the crises of the 1990s in this development? What has been the influence of political leaders and intellectuals, siloviki, and economic elites on the current Russian political thought? To what extent have external factors contributed to shape this thought? What place for minorities and cultural differences does this political trend leave?

This volume is based on the proceedings of ‘The Evolution of Russian Political Thought After 1991’ workshop organized by Reset-Dialouges on Civilizations (Berlin, 22-23 June 2015) and collects the essays written by Pavel K. Baev, Giancarlo Bosetti, Timothy J. Colton, Riccardo Mario Cucciolla, Alexander Golts, Lev Gudkov, Stephen E. Hanson, Mark Kramer, Marlene Laruelle, Alexey Miller, Olga Pavlenko and Victoria I. Zhuravleva.
Reset Dialogues on Civilizations (DOC) has been convening experts, scholars and young professionals, sharing ideas across borders, cultures, religions and languages since 2004. Founded in Rome by Nina zu Fürstenberg and Giancarlo Bosetti and a small committee of dedicated supporters. Its Founding Committee was chaired by US philosopher Seyla Benhabib and former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato until 2019, and was composed of its strongest early backers such as Abdou Filali-Ansary, Fred Dallmayr, Vartan Gregorian, Nilüfer Göle, Nasr Hamid, 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.

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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.

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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.