

# Call for Applications

## Early Career Researchers in Economic Sociology, European Public Policy, Geoeconomics, Industrial Policy, and Political Economy

Deadline for applications: January 10, 2025

The Villa Vigoni conference, **'Europe and the Geoeconomic Challenge,'** will be held from **22 to 24 April 2025** in Lovenno di Menaggio, Italy.

Organized by Donato Di Carlo, Timur Ergen, Anke Hassel, Kate McNamara, and Manuela Moschella, this event offers an exceptional platform for early career researchers to join leading experts in a critical dialogue on the future of Europe in a rapidly changing geoeconomic landscape.

### Event Overview

The **Villa Vigoni-Gespräch on 'Europe and the Geoeconomic Challenge'** will address the ongoing re-evaluation of neoliberal orthodoxy that defined global policies from the mid-1980s to early 2000s. The conference will delve into emerging concepts such as 'de-risking,' 'strategic autonomy,' 'friendshoring,' 'strategic competition,' and 'weaponized interdependence,' which signify the evolving boundaries between states, markets, and transnational institutions.

The event will bring together a diverse range of perspectives to explore how these shifts are impacting European institutions, societies, states, and businesses. Special focus will be given to Italy and Germany, whose growth models play a central role in current European industrial transitions. The conference format will include individual presentations and bridging panels designed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue across three major themes:

1. European institutions and geoeconomic governance
2. The evolving role of the state in global industrial transformation
3. Opportunities and challenges for European growth models amid the twin transition and shifting geopolitical landscape

## Benefits of Participation

Selected early career researchers will:

- Present their work alongside practitioners and senior scholars in a collaborative setting.
- Gain exposure to cutting-edge debates on Europe's economic and industrial policies.
- Network with leading thinkers from various fields and institutions.

## Application Details

We especially encourage **applications from female early career researchers** to support diverse perspectives in the discussions. Limited funding for travel expenses is available. Accommodation will be covered for selected applicants.

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Please submit the following documents via email to [manuela.moschella@unibo.it](mailto:manuela.moschella@unibo.it); [te@mpifg](mailto:te@mpifg); [d.di-carlo@lse.ac.uk](mailto:d.di-carlo@lse.ac.uk)

- **Cover letter** outlining your motivation for attending and how your participation will contribute to the conference discussions
- **Current CV** (2 pages)
- **Research summary** (max 500 words), highlighting its relevance to the conference themes

Join us at Villa Vigoni to help shape the conversation on Europe's role in a changing global economy.