

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Biblioteca della libertà - Special Issue - JUST AGE

[Biblioteca della libertà](#) – an open-access international peer-reviewed journal in political and moral theory, social and political sciences, and legal theory is now accepting original papers to be published in Winter 2023.

#### JUST AGE - The political challenges of aging societies

All countries are undergoing an historically unprecedented process of aging, due to declining mortality and fertility rates. According to WHO Fact Sheet on Ageing 2022, by 2030 1 in 6 people will be 60 years old and over, to reach the number of 1.4 billion. By 2050, this number will almost double to 2.1 billion. Currently, in Italy the elderly represents already the 24% of the population (OECD Elderly Population Indicator 2023). Given these numbers, population aging creates many social and political problems that are in dire need of diagnosis and solutions.

There are questions of **justice**, on how the divergence of both interests and values among younger and older generations should properly be balanced. For instance, in aging societies the ratio between contributors and beneficiaries is unbalanced in favor of the elderly, and so pension schemes might overburden the young. However, it seems fair that each cohort gets back what it has put into the system through contributions. Furthermore, due to climate change, the young will have to pay disproportionate costs to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to adapt.

There is then the issue of **sustainability**, as it stands open to question how much a society with an increasingly skewed age distribution can function at all. Many sectors of the Welfare State, for example, require a more balanced age distribution (healthcare, pensions, etc.) and an aging population increasingly strains the tension between the social and economic dimensions. In short, after a certain point aging societies may simply collapse.

Finally, aging also poses many questions for **democracy**. An aging electorate might pose representational issues for the young. In fact, they constitute a smaller proportion of the electorate year by year, which causes an important imbalance in political, economic, and social power. Additionally, an aging electorate accentuates democratic short-termism, compromising the long-term viability of policy outputs.

This call for paper aims to assess the social and political challenges that aging societies face - of justice, sustainability, and democracy, broadly conceived, by diagnosing what is problematic and formulating normative proposals. The kinds of papers we are interested in address these and similar questions:

- What principles of justice should govern inequalities such as those mentioned?
- How should we reform welfare systems (e.g., pensions or healthcare) as to ensure sustainability?
- Why is the decreasing political relevance of young voters problematic for political and social justice?
- How should we try to increase the electoral participation of younger generations and their ability to shape the political agenda?
- Can youth quotas be justified?
- Is there a relation between age and political polarization?

The journal welcomes submissions on this topic in all fields of **political philosophy, political science, political theory, and applied ethics**.

Special Issue Guest editors

Carlo Burelli (University of Piemonte Orientale)

Davide Pala (University of Piemonte Orientale)

Gloria Zuccarelli (University of Piemonte Orientale)

### **Submission Deadline**

Long Abstract (**1,000 words** max): **June 30, 2023**

Full paper (**8,000 words** max – notes and biographical references included, upon acceptance): **September 30, 2023**

### **Submission Details**

Please send a (.odt, .doc or .docx) file containing a long abstract (1,000 words max) and a title, prepared for blind review with all revealing references to the author removed. All personal information (name, affiliation, and contact) must be submitted separately, along with a short abstract (250 words max). Deadline for abstract submission is June 30, 2023. Decisions will be made within two weeks.

Long Abstract should be submitted sending an e-mail to: [carlo.burelli@uniupo.it](mailto:carlo.burelli@uniupo.it)

Upon notification of acceptance, you will be invited to submit the full paper (8,000 words max, notes and biographical references included) no later than September 30, 2023 via the submission website (a registration to the website is required).

### **Review Process**

BDL uses double-blind review, where both reviewers' and author's identities are concealed, throughout the entire review process. To ensure a blind review, authors must anonymize their manuscripts before submitting, avoiding any self-identifying reference.

### **Further Inquiries**

Please direct any queries about this call for papers to [carlo.burelli@uniupo.it](mailto:carlo.burelli@uniupo.it)

More information on the Journal and authors guidelines can be found here: [https://www.centroinaudi.it/images/bdl\\_guidelines-for-authors\\_eng.pdf](https://www.centroinaudi.it/images/bdl_guidelines-for-authors_eng.pdf)