

# UNIMC on academic mission to South Korea: debate focuses on the challenges posed by disinformation and artificial intelligence to the model of the democratic state

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A delegation from the **University of Macerata** recently took part in one of the most important global events in the field of political science: the **International Political Science Association (IPSA) conference**, held in Seoul from **12 to 16 July 2025**. Professors **Angela Cossiri**, **Benedetta Giovanola**, **Selena Grimaldi** and **Simona Tiribelli** represented the University of Macerata, organising an interdisciplinary thematic session that was selected to be hosted within the congress dedicated this year to the theme “Resisting autocratisation in polarised societies”. The initiative took place as part of the RightNets research project (funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU) and the research constellation “The new challenges of democracy in the digital ecosystem”, both coordinated by Prof. **Giovanni Di Cosimo**. The panel addressed the highly topical issue of the impact of digital campaigns, disinformation and artificial intelligence on the democratic model from an ethical perspective, attracting considerable interest among the numerous scholars in attendance. In addition to the Macerata professors, the speakers included Professors **Elzbieta Kuzelewska**, **Ewa Lotko** and **Radosław Puchta** (University of Białystok); **Rosanna De Rosa** and **Annarita Criscitiello** (University of Naples Federico II); **Ainhoa Novo Arbona** and **Simón Peña Fernández** (University of the Basque Country).

Professors Cossiri and Grimaldi were also invited to **Chung-Ang University (CAU)**, one of South Korea’s most prestigious universities, to participate as speakers at an international symposium, coordinated by Dr **Miriam Bartolozzi**, dedicated to political and institutional transformations in Europe in response to recent geopolitical crises. The symposium was attended by Professors **Sung Kyun Kim** (Director of the CAU Institute of Legal Research), **Jeong-hoon Lee** (Dean of the CAU School of Law), **Vian Rhee** (of the Law School of Chungbuk National University), **Jean Young Lee** (Director of the Centre for International Studies INHA University), and **Gyoocho Lee** (Director of the CAU Institute of Culture, Media, and Entertainment Laws). The meeting represented an important opportunity for academic exchange and for strengthening scientific relations between UNIMC and the South Korean university context.

This mission confirms the University of Macerata’s commitment to promoting the internationalisation of research and scientific dialogue on a global scale, strengthening its presence in major international academic networks.

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