



## Call for Papers

### **Workshop: The Role of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in Counteracting and Reducing Vulnerabilities to Foster Social Change in the Global South**

#### **Organizers:**

Augusto Gamuzza (University of Catania), Marco Caselli (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Milan)

In recent times, the world has faced numerous acute and persistent crises, resulting in an increased sense of vulnerability across various domains such as human, technical, ecological, economic, political, and societal systems. This concept of vulnerability has gained traction in academic and public discourse, prompting moral and political action to prevent and address harm and social injustices. This workshop aims to critically examine the role of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in countering and reducing vulnerabilities to drive social change in the Global South.

The workshop will focus on specific vulnerabilities experienced by communities in the Global South, aiming to identify how sociology and related disciplines can aid in comprehending, tackling, and mitigating these vulnerabilities. Scholars, practitioners, and INGO representatives will be invited to address key questions during the workshop discussion.

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

1. Analyze the significance and potential of vulnerability in sociological theory, particularly concerning its relevance in understanding vulnerabilities in the Global South.
2. Examine empirical forms, causes, dynamics, and consequences of human and non-human vulnerabilities in the Global South, with a specific focus on the impact of acute crises and persistent challenges.
3. Explore how individuals, groups, organizations, social movements, governments, and supranational organizations comprehend and respond to vulnerabilities in the Global South, and assess the effects of their interventions on fostering social change.
4. Investigate the functions of concepts like vulnerability, resilience, and related terms in public, media, and political discourses, and their implications for INGO engagement in the Global South.

5. Discuss methodological issues related to empirically operationalizing and measuring vulnerabilities while addressing ethical questions in studying vulnerable populations.

deadline for submitting abstracts: 5 January

- length of abstracts: max. 2000 characters

- language of the workshop: English

- email addresses to which proposals must be sent: [augusto.gamuzza@unict.it](mailto:augusto.gamuzza@unict.it);  
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