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The cumulative burden of discrimination and its recognition

Mercoledì 18 Novembre 2026
12:30, Aula Bruno Leoni

Valentina Di Stasio

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While discrimination is typically studied as a single, isolated event, disadvantage can accumulate across different areas of life. Yet the cumulative burden that discrimination places on ethnic minorities remains difficult to measure. In this talk, Di Stasio will present the first cross-domain, cross-national field experiment of its kind, conducted as part of the EqualStrength project (Horizon Europe). Unprecedented in scale, the study measures ethnic discrimination in employment, housing, and childcare across nine European countries. But measuring discrimination is only part of the challenge: despite its pervasiveness, much discrimination goes unnoticed. Findings from her ERC-funded TARGETS project show that information about discrimination circulates within socially segregated networks, leaving these experiences largely invisible to others. Moreover, when victims make claims of discrimination, these can be contested by perpetrators or third parties. Although the recognition of discrimination is embedded in social relations, it has so far rarely been examined from a relational perspective. The talk presents a research agenda that moves beyond measuring discrimination to understanding when, and by whom, it is recognized.

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