

Private & Public INSTITUTIONS for Good Governance

Sapienza University of Rome
Rome, Italy

22-24 July 2026

WINIR

Call for Papers and Sessions

Governance refers to those rules that clearly bind, define, and enable an organization's scope of action, authority, and objectives. Much recent institutional research has focused on the governance of **private** organizations, most notably the business firm. By contrast, the governance of **public** organizations, such as the state, has received comparatively less attention. Moreover, work in these areas has often remained siloed, treating the two domains separately.

Today, however, we see growing public involvement in **private institutions** alongside an increased private presence in **public institutions**. The boundaries between the two are merging in ways that until relatively recently were almost unimaginable. This development raises important questions about how such blurred boundaries challenge the pursuit of **good governance** and its implications for **human flourishing**.

Addressing these questions requires **interdisciplinary perspectives** that explicitly recognise the influence, power, and role of both public and private actors, and consider the ways that they shape governance within and across national boundaries.

This **Eleventh WINIR Conference** is organized in collaboration with the **Department of Social and Economic Sciences (DiSSE)** at **Sapienza University**.

of Rome. The city of Rome's long history of governance from ancient times to the present, makes it a fitting venue for our inquiry into private and public institutions.

Keynote lectures will be given by **Paul Dragos Aligica** (University of Bucharest, Romania & George Mason University, USA) and **Julia Black** (Oxford University, UK).

The conference will open in the afternoon of Wednesday 22 July and end with a dinner on Friday 24 July during which the **2026 Elinor Ostrom Prize** will be announced. There will be an optional tour on Saturday 25 July.

Individual abstracts and 3- or 4-paper session proposals related to the conference theme or any other aspect of institutional research in line with **WINIR's aims and research priorities are welcome**.

All submissions are evaluated by the WINIR Scientific Quality Committee.

The conference will be preceded by a **WINIR Young Scholars Workshop** on Tuesday 21 July.

ABOUT WINIR The World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research is an open forum for scholars from across the social sciences and the humanities committed to the study of institutions and institutional thought.

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KEY DATES

19 February 2026
Submission deadline

1 March 2026
Notification of acceptance

3 March 2026
Registration opens

1 May 2026
Early registration deadline

20 June 2026
Registration deadline for
accepted authors

21 June 2026
Non-registered authors
removed from programme

21 June 2026
Late fees apply

30 June 2026
Full paper submission
deadline

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