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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Research program:</b><br/><b><i>“De Gasperi and liberal World from the years of antifascism to 1948”</i></b></p> |
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**Annex Code 5**

**Department of Letters, Philosophy, Communication**

Tutor: **Prof. Roberto Pertici**

**Description**

The project aims to focus on the comparison between Alcide De Gasperi and the Italian liberalism, considering not only the Liberal Party but also the historical tradition to which influential areas of intellectuals and of the antifascist ruling class referred. Starting from the biography of De Gasperi, the path of “liberal apprenticeship” he made in the last thirty years of his life will be reconstructed, highlighting both the ideological and cultural convergences and the friendships and collaborations with liberal exponents, from the «long eve» of Fascism to the second post-war period. The De Gasperi’s Centrism should be similarly connected to previous contacts between the democratic catholicism and the laic liberalism, which passed the ancient pre-fascist divisions (already partially tempered by the Aventino agreement) and the contrasts restarted from the Lateran Treaty of 1929. For this purpose the applicant should find archives groups and correspondences proving, since Thirties, the reconciliation between catholic and liberal antifascists, which arose behind the institutional and concordatory Conciliation between the Church and the fascist State.

The political reflexes of that reconciliation will be the research issue with respect to the Italian transition from 1943 to 1948, in which the De Gasperi’s interaction with liberal forces became more crucial. It will need to study, through the political and opinion press, as well as through personal and party archives, the institutional and programmatic options which allowed Christian Democracy to acquire since 1946 the centrality maintained by the various constitutional-governmental world before Fascism. In this turning point De Gasperi was again approached and legitimated by high personalities of the liberalism, declining as party organization. From here derives the hypothesis, which should be carefully verified, according to which both the “old” liberals (Luigi Einaudi, Benedetto Croce, Alberto Giovannini) and the liberal movement refounders (above all Leone Cattani and Nicolò Carandini) chose to delegate to De Gasperi the direction of political processes and the defence of the liberal tradition.