

# **THE IMPACT OF CONSERVATIVE DISCOURSES ON LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITIES IN ITALY AND THE LIBERATORY POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL WORK**

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
Maria Consigliere

This thesis explores the impact of conservative discourses on LGBTQIA+ communities in Italy, focusing on the role of emotional language. The research employs a qualitative approach to analyse speeches and legal texts from the current main conservative parties, Fratelli d'Italia and Lega; a harmful rhetoric frames LGBTQIA+ identities as threats to traditional values, ultimately justifying oppression and discrimination. Drawing on the theories of, among others, Judith Butler and Sara Ahmed, the study examines how ritualistic language and narratives of fear, hate, disgust, and anger perpetuate populist power structures. In comparison, through the analysis of the queer collective Prisma's manifesto, this work highlights the crucial role of counter-narratives. Lastly, social work's potential in creating alternative ways to organise the community is explored. This research aims to unveil the constructed nature of societal divisions while advocating for social change, demonstrating how emotions are mobilised to maintain power.