

GPSG NEWSLETTER no.13

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Greek Politics Specialist Group Convenor's Report

Dear GPSG Members,

Welcome to another edition of the GPSG Newsletter. It's been a very busy three months since our last newsletter. The 58th Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association took place at Swansea University and our Group presented a number of well-attended panels with stimulating papers and constructive debates (more on that later).



Our 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM) also took place at Swansea. Many thanks to those of you who attended the meeting – it was one of the most productive group meetings in recent history, so much so that we had to re-convene for an additional hour of talks and brainstorming after the day's panels had finished. The AGM was a good chance to catch up on a number of ongoing activities and issues. We are pleased to report that the PSA has approved our Annual Report and, within an extremely competitive climate for specialist groups, has also approved the best part of our 2008 Budget, which will allow us to develop our activities and presence.

The most important item in our budget and in our discussions has been the design and launch of our very own GPSG website, which will be the central reference point for our members, affiliate organisations and external visitors. I am thrilled to confirm that we have secured an appropriate domain name and web hosting; we are currently working on our new branding and site design, which will be unveiled as part of our celebrations for the four years of GPSG. Speaking of which, if you are around Athens in late July please let us know as we are planning a GPSG social gathering to celebrate our successes and catch up.

Speaking of successes, I am very pleased to announce that the PSA Specialist Groups Sub-Committee has approved a joint bid submitted by the German Politics, French Politics & Policy, Greek Politics and Italian Politics Specialist Groups for a two-day specialist conference entitled "The Changing Constellation of the enlarging EU" to take place in January 2009 at the University of Durham. The PSA will award the four groups with £1,320 to help organise the event. Specialist

groups will have to cover some of their delegates' costs. This is obviously a massive success and we are grateful to Dr. Christian Schweiger, who led the bid, for all his hard work.

Meanwhile, we are working on a number of fronts and upcoming activities, such as the reform and development of the Thematic Networks, the launching of a paper competition (to coincide with next year's PSA Conference in Manchester), and the updating of our Members' List. During the next couple of months I will be emailing each and every one of you in order to check that we still have the right contact details for you, and also making sure that you are making the most of our resources through the Thematic Networks etc.

As you can imagine, our continued success and development, coupled with the proliferation of Specialist Groups within the PSA, has meant that our annual funding cannot fully cover our costs. The AGM, therefore, has unanimously agreed to introduce a £5 / €7 annual membership fee payable online through our upcoming website. We will email you to let you know when the fee comes into effect. Members who pay this symbolic amount on time will remain as Full Members. Since we do not wish to exclude colleagues who have supported us throughout these four years on the basis of non-payment, those who do not wish to pay this small amount can still remain as our Affiliate Members (although they will not be able to take part in decision-making or to receive funding support from the Group).

As always, we welcome and depend on your input - views, opinions and comments, as well as written articles, features, conference updates and calls for papers. Several of our members will be taking part in a number of upcoming events such as the 2nd Graduate Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) on 25-27 August 2008 in Barcelona, Spain (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/>). If you are planning to attend this or another event please let us know so that we can provide you with promotional material for the Group as well as explore possibilities for further support.

Yours,

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Review of the 58th Annual Conference of the PSA at Swansea

by **Dimitris Tsarouhas and Antonios Aggelakis**

At the 2008 PSA Conference in Swansea the GPSG was represented through two Panels. Chrysa Lambrinakou, Ioannis Andreadis, Alexia Katsanidou and Maria Zisouli have analyzed issues of Greek politics, domestic political campaign issues and agenda setting processes from a national perspective. In the second Panel of our Group, Anastasios Chardas, Dimitris Tsarouhas and Antonios Aggelakis, offered an analysis of current public policy affairs in Greece and specifically on issues of regional policy, social policy and technology policy respectively.

Greek Politics and the 2007 General election

Session 5, Wednesday 2 April, Chair: Dimitris Tsarouhas

Chrysa Lambrinakou, Agenda Setting: Press, Party and Public Agendas in the 2004 Greek General Elections

Ioannis Andreadis, Campaign characteristics of Greek parliament candidates

Alexia Katsanidou, History will return to haunt you: The application of the reward-punishment model on cabinet ministers for policy options

Maria Zisouli, Online Campaigning - 2007 Greek Parliamentary Elections

Political economy and welfare in Southern Europe

Session 8, Thursday 3 April, Chair: James Newell, Discussant: James Newell

Anastasios Chardas, 'Bringing the State Back In': The Study of the Greek Political Economy: The European Union's Regional Policy in the Western Macedonia Region

Dimitris Tsarouhas, Social Policy in Greece: continuity and change

Antonios Aggelakis, Space and Innovation in juxtaposition: understanding the relationship in an evolutionary public policy perspective - the case of Greece

The need of addressing common research questions and exchanging knowledge and experiences render academic synergies more important. What the Greek Politics Specialist Group had suggested over the last few months regards the formation of a new high-standard and academically attractive Panels became possible in the 2008 PSA Conference, in close cooperation, with the Italian Politics Specialist Group.

In Swansea, three joint Panels were put together, and have met with a high degree of success and the cross-fertilization of ideas involving members of both Groups and beyond. We very much look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Italian SPG and expand our area of collaboration with other interested Groups of the PSA in the near future.

The main issue in the first Panel related to the investigation of what really matters in the use of the concept of exceptionalism or, in other words, is exceptionalism a concept constructed by political and intellectual actors which pursue their political objectives? A fruitful discussion emerged around this central notion and the debate remained lively throughout the panel session.

The second Panel dealt with issues of institutionalization of party systems in new democracies and specifically with reference to three different regions, namely Southern Europe (i.e., Spain, Portugal and Greece), Western Europe (i.e., Austria, Germany and Italy after WWII), and Central Europe (i.e., Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia). The papers presented analysed both factors affecting the degree of institutionalisation in these countries but also entailed thoughts on the implications the latter has for citizens of those states and beyond.

Last but not least, the last joint Panel focused on issues of foreign and security policy, with particular reference to Italy in a comparative perspective. One of the key issues taken up by the authors referred to a potential convergence of foreign and security considerations in character, tools but also goals. Factors influencing this alleged convergence were elaborated throughout the presentations.

Southern European Exceptionalism and Italy

Session 1, Tuesday 1 April, Chair: Dimitris Tsarouhas, Discussant: James Newell

Ernesto Gallo, From Southern European to Italian exceptionalism?

Alfio Mastropaolo, Italian "exceptionalism": the two sides of a debate

Gianfranco Pasquino and **Marco Valbruzzi**, Southern European politics: an Italian exceptionalism?

Democracy in Southern Europe and Institutional Adaptation

Session 2, Tuesday 1 April, Chair: Antonios Aggelakis, Discussant: Dimitris Tsarouhas

Fernando Casal, Party System Institutionalisation in new democracies Southern Europe in a comparative perspective

Francesco Stolfi, The Impact of Electoral Rules on the Core Executive in Parliamentary Systems: The Case of Italy

Anna Cento Bull, The Italian transition and national reconciliation

Giorgos Charalambous, Un Alternativa per Europa: The Europeanisation of Rifondazione Comunista

Italian Foreign and Defence Policy

Session 9, Thursday 3 April, Chair: Antonios Aggelakis, Discussant: Dimitris Tsarouhas

Dorte Dinger, Southern and northern foreign policy between rapprochement and divergence: The cases of Germany and Italy

Pietro Pirani, 'The Way We Were': Continuity and Change in Italian Strategic Culture

All of the Panels presented have provoked fruitful debates around issues of common interest, brought two academic communities closer in an interactive dialogue but also, and not surprisingly, later synergies have been identified.

The GPSG goes to Durham
by **Dimitris Tsarouhas and Antonios Aggelakis**



Our Group's initiative to pursue its stated aims and objectives through collaboration across the PSA's SGs bore fruit much sooner than expected. Based on the rationale of broader cooperation and widening of academic dialogue, the Greek Politics Specialist Group was invited to a call for the co-organising of a Conference in Durham, UK in January 2009 together with the French Politics and Policy, German Politics and Italian Politics Specialist Groups.

The underlying principle of this initiative has been based on the recent waves of enlargement towards Central and Eastern Europe in 2004 plus Bulgaria and Romania in 2007. These waves of enlargement have fundamentally altered the size and nature of the European Union. The Single

Market of 27 member states now represents the largest and most densely populated integrated economic area in the world, and the EU has become one of the major international organisations with increasing levels of policy coordination amongst its member states. Further waves of enlargement towards the Balkan countries, Turkey and (potentially) former Soviet Union states, such as the Ukraine, would substantially increase the political and socio-economic diversity of the EU.

The conference will consequently examine in which way the new member states are influencing the EU policy agenda and how the EU-15 member states respond to this process. At the same time, individual panels will reflect on the diversity of national attitudes towards the speed and the extent of further waves of enlargement.

A draft list of conference panels has been already built up as follows:

Panel 1: The impact of the 2004 and 2007 waves of enlargement:

Perspectives from the EU-15 member states

- Germany
- France
- Italy
- Greece

Panel 2: The CEE countries and the EU policy agenda

- Domestic transformation processes in the CEE countries
- The new member states and the EU acquis

Panel 3: The future of enlargement – towards an EU without borders?

- Future candidates for enlargement
- The limits of enlargement – views from the member states

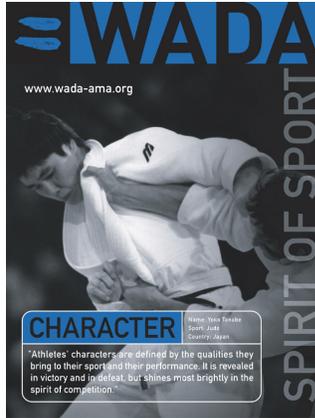
The conference will be co-sponsored by the Political Studies Association, the School of Government and International Affairs at Durham University and from the Offices of the European Commission in London or Edinburgh.

A Call for Papers will be soon disseminated around these topics.

no comment...

Polity, Anomie and Collective Amnesia

by Roman Gerodimos



How many of us are thinking about – or still remember of – the wiretapping scandal? The alleged suicide of K. Tsalikides? The pension fund bonds scandal? The Zorbas report? Last year's fires, which destroyed a good part of the country's natural reserves? The Zahopoulos scandal? The Siemens scandal? How many citizens are actually doing something about these "systemic faults"? I suppose not many. I suppose that not many people will be thinking about the latest doping scandal which has – once again – marred Greek sports and the Olympic movement. The reports will be filed away, the reforms will allegedly go on and the rest of us will move on to the next episode of

the collective soap-opera that is Greek politics – until that one is over too.

These few examples remind us that it is polity, above all else, that breeds and protects anomie. We do not correct our mistakes because it looks like we never learn from them. And I argue that we never learn because we forget easily. Many things were said regarding the doping scandal within a few days in the Greek public sphere. The former sports minister Mr. Lianis very candidly admitted that we have to choose between medals (with doping) and "clean, amateur sport competitions" that are true to the original values and principles of the Olympic movement. How many of us paid any attention to that statement? And, really, what are the chances that we will act to alter the sick state of international sports? I suppose the chances are minimal – as was the case after the wiretapping scandal, the bonds scandal, the fires and the various suicides (attempted, successful or staged).



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Members' Activities

◆ **Dora Giannaki**, a Doctoral Researcher at Queen Mary-University of London, has participated, as a youth expert, in a major study on the socio-economic scope of youth work in Europe which has been commissioned by the *Youth Partnership* between the European Commission and the Council of Europe. The main aim of the study was to provide a comparative overview and analysis of youth activities in Europe, and especially regarding:

- the sectors of specific and related youth activities;
- the money and time invested in them;
- the number of people employed and
- the young people participating in these activities.



These areas were investigated by an international consortium of researchers/institutions coordinated by the Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik. They covered the following 10 countries: Austria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Spain. It should be noted here that another member of our group has taken part in this study. In particular, **Roman Gerodimos**, a Lecturer at the University of Bournemouth-Media Department, has given an extensive interview on a variety of youth issues. The study can be downloaded as a whole and consulted by chapter at the website of the Youth Partnership:

<http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/research/socioeconomicsofwork.html>

◆ **George Koukoudakis**, a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Athens, has been invited to present a paper at the 7th Annual Conference in International Relations organized by the Department of International Relations of the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. This year's METU Conference is entitled 'Hegemony or Empire? Prospects for the Contemporary World Order, and will take place in Ankara on 18-20 June.

◆ **Dimitris Tsarouhas**, Assistant Professor at the Middle East Technical University (METU), has been invited to give a paper at the 4th Pan-European Conference organized by the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) in Riga, Latvia on 25-27 September.

Recent Publications



- Banoutsos, A. (2008) 'Mapping the Development of Anti-Terror Legislation in Greece in the aftermath of 9/11' *RIEAS Research Paper*, no. 120.
- Dimitrakis, P. (2008) 'British Intelligence and the Cyprus Insurgency, 1955-1959', *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, vol.21, no.2, pp.375-394.
- Grigoriadis, I.N. (2008) 'On the Europeanization of Minority Rights Protection: Comparing the Cases of Greece and Turkey', *Mediterranean Politics*, vol.13, no.1, pp.23-41.
- Rizas, S. (2008) 'Atlanticism and Europeanism in Greek foreign and security policy in the 1970s', *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, vol.8, no.1, pp.51-66.
- Panagiotou, R. (2008) 'FYROM's transition: On the road to Europe?', *Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans*, vol.10, no.1, pp.47-64.
- Stergiou, A. (2008) 'Greece during the Cold War', *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, vol.8, no.1, pp.67-73.
- Tsarouhas, D. (2008) *Social Democracy in Sweden: The Threat from a Globalized World*, London and New York: IB Tauris.
- Tsarouhas, D. (2008) 'Social Partnership in Greece: Is there an Europeanization effect?' *European Journal of Industrial Relations* (forthcoming).

Upcoming Conferences



3rd ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, 30 July - 16 August 2008



In 2008, the European Consortium for Political Research will organise its third Summer School in Methods and Techniques in cooperation with the University of Ljubljana. It is targeted at post graduate students, teachers and researchers in political science and related disciplines.

Please visit <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/summerschools/ljubljana/index.aspx> for more information.

2nd ECPR Graduate Conference

Universitat Autònoma Barcelona, 25 - 27 August 2008



european consortium for political research

Please visit <http://www.ecpr.org.uk/conference/> for further information.



Southern Political Science Association's 80th Annual Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana, United States,

Thursday, January 8th - Saturday, January 10th, 2009

Please join the SPSA for our 80th Annual Conference in New Orleans, January 8-10, 2009. Proposals from all fields of political science are encouraged. Historically, the meeting has had strong participation in the areas of: Political Theory, International Relations, Judicial Politics, Comparative Politics, Elections and Voting, and Women and Politics. The deadline for submission of proposals is July 25, 2008. Preliminary program information will be available in early October. Travel grants are available for students, junior faculty, and international scholars who are accepted on the program. Child care will be provided by Kiddie Corp (pre-registration is required). Program Chair, Carol Weissert, or other members of the Program Committee can be contacted directly.



Please visit <http://www.spsa.net> for further information.

Contact Details



Please send us your news and views.

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