

GREEK  
POLITICS



SPECIALIST  
GROUP

**GPSG NEWSLETTER #18**

**MARCH 2010**

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**[www.gpsg.org.uk](http://www.gpsg.org.uk)**

## Greek Politics Specialist Group

### Convenor's Report

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the **18<sup>th</sup> Newsletter** of the **Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)**.

The GPSG is delighted to invite you to a major international roundtable on **Public Policy in Southern Europe** that will take place on 1 April 2010 in Edinburgh, during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual conference of the Political Studies Association.



The GPSG also invites ideas and proposals for the **ECPR's 2011 General Conference**, scheduled to take place at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. More details are included below, along with a range of Calls for Papers and conference announcements.

We are pleased to announce that our latest **Annual Report** has been approved by the PSA, along with our Budget for 2010. This will allow us to further develop and continue our activities. Our draft Action Plan for 2010 is presented below. In this edition of the newsletter you can also find details of the latest papers to be published on our online **Working Paper Series**, as well as featured publications and articles. In the next couple of weeks we will be circulating our **new draft constitution** for members' feedback and approval. Please note that only Full Members who have an active membership will be able to take part in the consultation process. If you are unsure of whether your GPSG membership has expired please contact us.

As always, **your contributions**, ideas and comments are always welcome and crucial to the development of our work. The GPSG is only as good as its **members' input** and there are many ways in which you can contribute, such as submitting a short article for our website, bringing us in touch with potential sponsors and taking part in our competitions and events. Last but certainly not least, if you haven't already done so, please remember to complete the **online membership form**, which helps us stay in touch. By joining us as a Full Member you also get a range of benefits, such as priority access to our events, eligibility for funding support and inclusion to the forthcoming media 'Experts' service.

The **Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)** of the UK's Political Studies Association (PSA) was founded in 2004.

It is one of the largest and most active groups of the PSA and a leading, international network of scholars and researchers of Greek society, government and politics.

**Convenor:**

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The  
**Greek Politics Specialist Group**  
invites you to the  
**International Roundtable**  
**‘Public Policy in Southern Europe’**

9am, 1 April 2010  
Charlotte Suite, The Dome, Edinburgh

*60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
Political Studies Association (PSA)*

The Greek Politics Specialist Group is convening an international roundtable featuring world-leading academics during the 60th annual conference of the Political Studies Association. The roundtable will focus on public policy reforms and challenges in Southern Europe and aims to offer a stimulating, interactive and constructive comparison on practices and problems.

#### **Roundtable convenors**

**Dr Stella Ladi** (Panteion University, Athens)

**Dr Dimitris Tsarouhas** (Bilkent University, Ankara)

#### **Panel**

**Prof. Jacint Jordana**, Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Institut Barcelona d' Estudis Internacionals

**Prof. José Magone**, Berlin School of Economics and Law

**Prof. Leonardo Morlino**, President of IPSA and Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane

**Prof. Claudio Radaelli**, Jean Monnet Chair of European Public Policy, University of Exeter

**Prof. Dimitri Sotiropoulos**, University of Athens and Oxford University

## Aim

This roundtable discussion aims to bring together scholars from South European countries (Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal) to discuss common problems and challenges in policy-making and implementation of state policies.

The economic crisis and the severe financial difficulties that the South of Europe is facing, once more, puts under question the success of their public policy models. South European countries have a lot in common such as authoritarian past and/or a turbulent history but they also have a lot of differences in their organization, institutions and political culture. For, example Spain and Italy have strong regional governments while Greece is a centralist state. All countries are members of the European Union (EU) but they have entered the Union at different times. When compared, the picture that they present is not uniform and differences can be observed.

The goal of the roundtable is to move the discussion forward and to compare similarities and differences between the countries. It aims to avoid the exceptionalism argument that has been widely used in single-country case-studies and to open the debate to common characteristics, problems and solutions. It also aims to explore the usefulness of mainstream public policy theories for the formulation of research hypotheses for the situation in South Europe. The roundtable is envisioned as an open discussion where the participants will present short papers and then they will engage to a debate between themselves but also with the audience.

**Registration** can be completed online  
via the PSA's conference website:

<http://www.psa.ac.uk/2010/registration.html>

**More information** about the GPSG's other panels  
at the 60th PSA conference can be found here:

<http://www.gpsg.org.uk/edinburgh2010.html>

Join the event on [Facebook](#):

facebook

 GPSG International Roundtable: Public Policy in Southern Europe

Type: Meetings - Convention  
Date: Thursday, 01 April 2010  
Time: 09:00 - 11:00  
Location: The Dome: Charlotte Room, Hotel The George, Edinburgh, UK

GREEK POLITICS |  POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION  
SPECIALIST GROUP

[Invite people to come](#)  
[Promote event with an advertisement](#)

**GPSG Invites Paper Proposals for the  
ECPR General Conference 2011  
University of Iceland, Reykjavik**



The 6th ECPR General Conference will be held at the University of Iceland in 2011. The main academic forum will be organised in the format of sections and panels, with each Section Chair organising a variety of panels in a given field. The programme is intended to be very broad and will be coordinated by the Academic Convenors, Niilo Kauppi (Institut d'études politiques de Strasbourg) and Jonas Tallberg (Stockholm University).

The conference's Academic Convenors warmly welcome **proposals** in any areas of political science of interest to ECPR members. Section Chairs may propose a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 8 panels. The ECPR's deadline for all proposals is 15 April 2010

**The Greek Politics Specialist Group is considering submitting a panel proposal for the ECPR 2011 Conference.**

**We welcome paper proposals and panel ideas on all aspects of Greek politics, policy and government. Proposals with a comparative element are particularly welcome.**

**Internal GPSG deadline for proposals: 31 March 2010**

**Please email your proposals to [rgerodimos@gmail.com](mailto:rgerodimos@gmail.com)**

Further guidance on ECPR panel proposals:

[http://www.ecprnet.eu//conferences/general\\_conference/Reykjavik/documents/Section\\_C\\_hair\\_Guidelines\\_and\\_Deadlines.pdf](http://www.ecprnet.eu//conferences/general_conference/Reykjavik/documents/Section_C_hair_Guidelines_and_Deadlines.pdf)

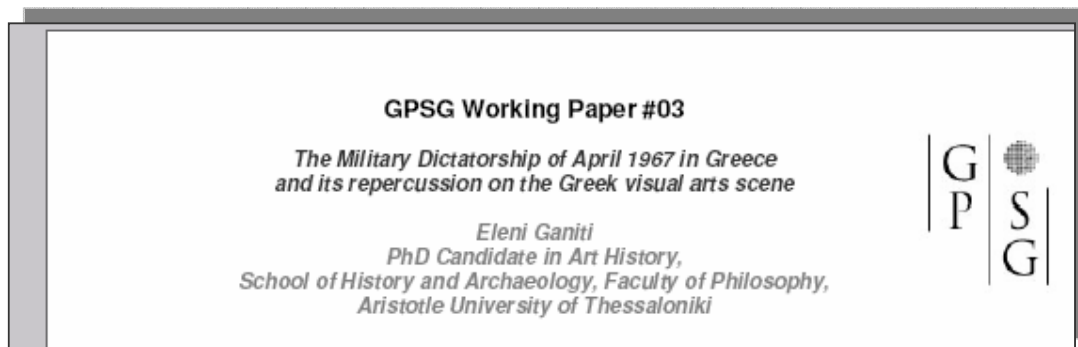
- \* Title of the proposed Section
- \* Name of Section Chair
- \* Institution of Section Chair
- \* Email of Section Chair
- \* Name of Co-chair (if applicable)
- \* Institution of Co-Chair (if applicable)
- \* Email of Co-Chair (if applicable)
- \* Abstract of Section (up to 300 words)
- \* 3 keywords
- \* An indication of how many panels it will have (minimum of 3 and maximum of 8)
- \* List of possible panel titles (if known at this stage)
- \* List of possible panel chairs (if known at this stage)

## Latest Additions to our GPSG Working Paper Series

WP03, November 2009

Eleni Ganiti: *The Military Dictatorship of April 1967 in Greece and its repercussion on the Greek visual arts scene*

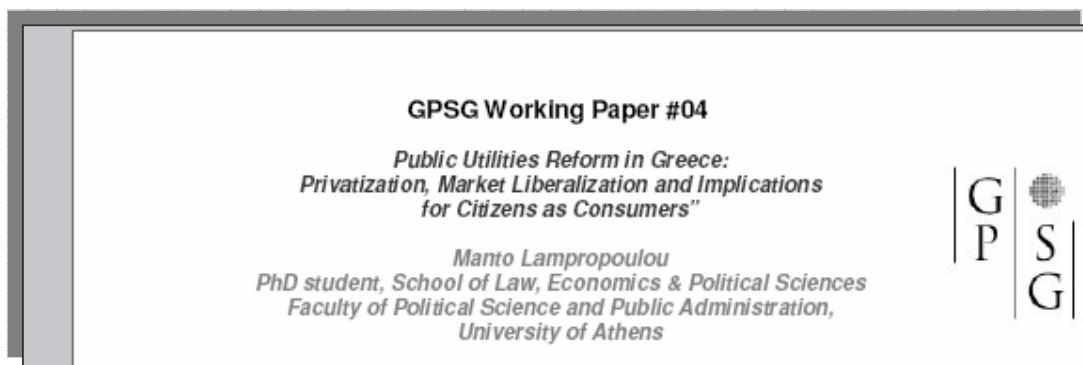
[http://www.gpsg.org.uk/docs/GPSG Working Paper 03.pdf](http://www.gpsg.org.uk/docs/GPSG%20Working%20Paper%2003.pdf)



WP04, January 2010

Manto Lampropoulou: *Public utilities reform in Greece: Privatization, market liberalization and implications for citizens as consumers*

[http://www.gpsg.org.uk/docs/GPSG Working Paper 04.pdf](http://www.gpsg.org.uk/docs/GPSG%20Working%20Paper%2004.pdf)



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*Coming Up in April 2010*

Working Paper 05

Angelos Gkanoutas-Leventis

*Greece and the EMU: the Realignment of an Evolving Public Opinion*

# Action Plan 2010

## GPSG DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2010

[as agreed at the Winter meeting of the GPSG Committee - to be formally agreed at the 2010 AGM]

No	Action Description
1	Develop Working Paper series
2	Launch 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual prize competition for the Graduate Student Conference of Princeton University's Hellenic Program, May 2010
3	Develop the edited volume of the proceedings from the 2009 International Conference on "Images of Nations: Strategic Communication, Soft Power and the Media", organised under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Draft new constitution and launch consultation/approval process (Full Members only)
5	Implement organisational/structural changes including committee membership and appointment of executive positions
6	Launch competition for GPSG-sponsored small research project (fieldwork)
7	Convene panels and roundtable at the 60 <sup>th</sup> annual conference of the PSA (Edinburgh) and prepare proposals for the 61 <sup>st</sup> annual conference (2011).
8	Establish ties with affiliate organisations and develop ties with existing collaborators
9	Introduce "Media Experts" service [Full Members only]
10	Consider the strategic role of the Thematic Networks

## Featured Publications



### Ιωάννης Α. Κωνσταντόπουλος Οικονομία και Κατασκοπεΐα Θεωρία και Πράξη

2010, Εκδόσεις Ποιότητα

ISBN 978-960-7803-52-8

Σελ: 680, €40,00

[http://www.piotita.gr/I\\_Konstantopoulos\\_T.htm](http://www.piotita.gr/I_Konstantopoulos_T.htm)

Το βιβλίο «Οικονομία και Κατασκοπεΐα. Θεωρία και Πράξη» του Ιωάννη Κωνσταντόπουλου, αποτελεί μια πολύτιμη συνεισφορά στη βιβλιογραφία των Διεθνών Σχέσεων. Το έργο αυτό είναι το πρώτο στην ελληνική βιβλιογραφία και ένα από τα λίγα στη διεθνή βιβλιογραφία, που καταπιάνονται με το ζήτημα της οικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας. Σκοπός του βιβλίου είναι να εκτιμηθεί η σημασία της οικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας ως μέσο άσκησης της διπλωματίας. Ο συγγραφέας επιχειρεί

ουσιαστικά μια ολιστική προσέγγιση του φαινομένου της οικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας, εξετάζοντας μεταξύ άλλων ζητήματα διεθνούς πολιτικής οικονομίας, τον ρόλο της τεχνολογίας στην οικονομική ανάπτυξη και τη σημασία των οικονομικής φύσεως πληροφοριών που αποκτώνται με κατασκοπευτικές ενέργειες.

Το ζήτημα της κατασκοπεΐας διερευνάται πολύπλευρα με τη χρήση ιστορικών παραδειγμάτων, και με την ανάλυση των διαστάσεων της μακροοικονομικής και μικροοικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας, αλλά και της οικονομική αντικατασκοπεΐας. Οι ιστορικές περιπτώσεις που αναλύει ο συγγραφέας καλύπτουν, τόσο τη περίοδο του Ψυχρού Πολέμου όσο και τη μεταψυχροπολεμική εποχή, και είναι αυτές των Η.Π.Α., της πρώην Σοβιετικής Ένωσης και της Ρωσίας, της Γαλλίας και της Κίνας. Η σημασία αυτών των περιπτώσεων οφείλεται στο γεγονός ότι επηρεάζουν τη δομή του διεθνούς συστήματος και κατ' επέκταση την συμπεριφορά των κρατών. Οι περιπτώσιολογικές αυτές μελέτες αποτελούν εξαιρετικά παραδείγματα άσκησης οικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας, τόσο μεταξύ συμμάχων, όσο και μεταξύ ανταγωνιστών.

Ο Ι. Κωνσταντόπουλος συμπεραίνει ότι η οικονομική κατασκοπεΐα είναι μια συνήθη κρατική δραστηριότητα, η οποία ενισχύει την οικονομική διπλωματία, τόσο με άμεσο τρόπο μέσω της μακροοικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας, όσο και με έμμεσο, μέσω της μικροοικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας. Ο μεγαλύτερος στόχος της οικονομικής κατασκοπεΐας είναι οι Η.Π.Α, καθώς τόσο σύμμαχοι της όπως η Γαλλία και η Ιαπωνία, όσο και ανταγωνιστές της, όπως η Κίνα και η Ρωσία ασκούν οικονομική κατασκοπεΐα προκειμένου να διατηρήσουν ή να ενισχύσουν τη θέση τους στη διεθνή πολιτική σκηνή.

Η αξία του συγκεκριμένου έργου έγκειται συνεπώς, όχι μόνο στην πρωτοτυπία του θέματος, αλλά και στην τεκμηριωμένη επιχειρηματολογία του συγγραφέα καθώς και στη μεθοδολογική προσέγγιση που υιοθετεί. Το βιβλίο αυτό αποτελεί όχι μόνο έργο αναφοράς για τον σύγχρονο

ερευνητή του φαινομένου της οικονομικής κατασκοπείας, αλλά ταυτόχρονα ένα εξαιρετικό παράδειγμα για την μεθοδολογική προσέγγιση της κατασκοπείας υπό το πρίσμα των Διεθνών Σχέσεων. Συμμεριζόμαστε την ευχή του συγγραφέα και ευχόμαστε το παρόν έργο να ενθαρρύνει την ελληνική ακαδημαϊκή κοινότητα να ασχοληθεί ενδελεχώς με ερωτήματα που αφορούν την δράση των υπηρεσιών πληροφοριών και τη διεθνή ασφάλεια.

Δρ. Ανδρέας Λιαρόπουλος

## Web Bookmarks

### Petition:

## Save the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at King's

*More than 8,000 academics, researchers, students and citizens have already signed this online petition expressing concern over the projected dismemberment of the only combined programme in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies in the UK*

<http://www.petitiononline.com/sdbmgs10/petition.html>



[http://cria-online.org/10\\_4.html](http://cria-online.org/10_4.html)

## RUSSIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY TO 2020: A GREAT POWER IN THE MAKING?

Sophia Dimitrakopoulou\* & Dr. Andrew Liaropoulos\*\*

### Abstract

*The publication of Russia's National Security Strategy in May 2009 provoked a discussion regarding the security challenges that Moscow is facing. This article reviews, firstly, the security context that defined the Putin era and then relates the analysis of the latest national security strategy to the broader dilemmas that Russia will encounter in the next decade. The purpose is to identify the priorities and threat perceptions that are outlined in the latest national security strategy and to question whether Russia will become a great power in the near future.*

**Keywords:** *Russian security policy, Russian foreign policy, National Security Strategy to 2020, great power, national interests, threat perceptions*

# Democratic Governments in a Power Vacuum

by Roman Gerodimos\*

*The executive power of national governments has been limited dramatically during the last thirty years... The opposite of powerful and accountable democratic institutions is not some kind of “invisible democracy of the markets”, but the cruel and arbitrary domination of the powerful over the weak.*

The continued pressure facing the Euro as well as the weak economies of Southern Europe is both an expression and a symptom of the political weakness of the European Union. The lack of central EU policy-making and policy-implementation mechanisms allows the markets to do what they are best at, i.e. make money for themselves.

This incident is only the latest in a series of crises and failed attempts to co-ordinate governments at the international level. Both the G20 London Summit on the global economic crisis (April 2009), and the UN's Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change (December 2009) failed to produce specific commitments and tangible measures.

Huge global challenges are emerging, while a lack of political leadership and divisions between developed and developing countries are also discernible. However, the most fundamental root cause of these patterns may be an emerging power vacuum at the heart of liberal democracies – the political weakness of the (democratically elected) leaders and governments to implement solutions that we all know are necessary.

It is interesting that, despite the Democrats' increased majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, President Obama has so far failed to receive a complete bill on healthcare reform; let alone to push a bill on climate change or impose any substantial restrictions to banks and financial markets (in spite of the huge bail-out packages). The loss of the 60<sup>th</sup> (Massachusetts) seat in the Senate puts Obama's entire legislative agenda at risk and dampens hopes for quick and effective progress in a range of crucial issues.

The same could be argued for several other European governments facing a crisis of effectiveness, survival or popularity (e.g. France, Spain, Britain, Germany etc). Despite the cultural and political differences, a common pattern has emerged across the US and Europe: the newly elected government starts with a strong popular mandate for change and the will to make substantial reforms. After a period of six months or one year – and after both the government's symbolic initiatives and the electorate's enthusiasm have subsided – the governing party progressively loses its power leading to a crisis of legitimacy, having also failed to visibly change citizens' “everyday life”. Sadly, this failures does not only affect individual political parties but the political system as a whole, including the standing of democratic processes and institutions.

One fairly simplistic explanation for this phenomenon might attribute this generalised frustration with politics to the lack of capable individuals, i.e. strong leaders who are not afraid of sacrificing their personal political capital in order to serve the common good. Another factor may be the mismanagement of society's expectations, which often demands drastic change within the "first hundred days", six months or two years without being willing to make the necessary sacrifices in a context of media "presentism".

However, there is also a third parameter: the executive power of national governments, including the role of the state in the management of the economy, has been limited dramatically during the last thirty years. At the same time, the economic, environmental and social challenges are becoming ever more complex, pressing and in need of better co-ordination. The deregulation of markets, the privatisation of strategic development sectors, the emergence of systemic or external obstacles (e.g. globalisation of power networks, media segmentation etc) have stripped governments of key power tools. These developments did not happen randomly. They were the result of conscious and ideological choices. They were founded on a populist rhetoric, which suggests that "the government (or the state) is the problem", thus de-legitimising the role of democratic institutions.

Yet, those who systematically took key policy tools out of the public sphere forgot to mention that the opposite of powerful and accountable democratic institutions is not some kind of "invisible democracy of the markets, but the cruel and arbitrary domination of the powerful over the weak. The same applies to those who thought that the rejection of any reasonable attempt of reform would lead to a glorious revolution or anarchy. If the right-wing model of Thatcher and Reagan bears the bulk of responsibility for the weakening of democratic governance, then the blanket rejection of every meaningful reform proposal by the self-proclaimed guardians of the people does nothing more than maintaining the present crisis and social inequality.

\* \* \*

*Roman Gerodimos is a lecturer at Bournemouth University and founder of the Greek Politics Specialist Group.*

*This article was originally published in the Greek newspaper To Vima on 10 February 2010.*

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## Conferences, Events & Opportunities

### Call for Papers

## South East European Research Centre (SEERC) Doctoral Student Conference 2010

**Deadline for Abstracts: 15 March 2010**

The South East European Research Centre (SEERC) is an international, multidisciplinary, not-for-profit research centre based in Thessaloniki, Greece. It was established jointly by the University of Sheffield (UK) and CITY College (Greece) in March 2003. In February 2010, CITY College became the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield.

<http://www.city.academic.gr/>

Below is a call for papers for the SEERC Doctoral student conference.

<http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010>

Building on the success of the four previous Doctoral conferences which each attracted over 100 papers from countries all over the SE European region and beyond (UK, France, Germany, Holland, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland and as far as Ukraine), we are pleased to announce the organisation of the **5th SEERC Doctoral conference** on **13-14 September 2010**, in **Thessaloniki**, Greece.

The **aim** of the conference is to further facilitate the exchange of knowledge between young researchers and to consolidate the established network of scholars currently undertaking research in and around the topic of South East Europe. Having identified academic isolation as a problem that many doctoral students face today, SEERC aims to bring researchers together with the purpose of establishing collaborative links between disciplines, for testing the ground with innovative ideas and for engaging the wider academic community.

The Conference is open to young researchers currently undertaking doctoral study, or in the early years of their research career (up to 2 years following the award of their PhD degree). It has an inter-disciplinary focus and the themes and topics reflect the organisation of research by tracks of interest within SEERC. More information on the topic areas covered by the conference can be found on the URL links below.

The following **topics** are encouraged, but are not exclusive:

Research Track 1 Enterprise, Innovation & Development

URL: <http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010/rt1.html> Contact: [RT1@seerc.org](mailto:RT1@seerc.org)

Research Track 2 ICT and the World of Services

URL: <http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010/rt2.html> Contact: [RT2@seerc.org](mailto:RT2@seerc.org)

Research Track 3 Democratic Governance, Education and Society

URL: <http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010/rt3.html> Contact: [RT3@seerc.org](mailto:RT3@seerc.org)



Research Track 4 Psychology: Risk, Cognition and Well-being  
URL: <http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010/rt4.html> Contact: [RT4@seerc.org](mailto:RT4@seerc.org)

**Important Deadlines:**

**Abstract submission (500 words): 15th March 2010**

Full paper submission (3,000 words): 15th April 2010 (\*RT2 only)

Notification of acceptance: 25th May 2010

Submission of FULL - camera ready paper: 15th June 2010

Publication of Conference Programme: 30th June 2010

Fee: €50 including attendance, coffee and lunch, paper copy of the proceedings

For further inquiries, please contact the SEERC organisers.

Aki Tsuchiya, Faculty of Social Sciences Assistant Director for Research and Innovation (PGR)

Information related to this message is available at <http://www.seerc.org/dsc2010>.

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## Call for Papers

### Second International Conference on Science in Society

**Deadline for Current Round: 11 March 2010**



Carlos III University

Madrid, Spain

**11-13 November 2010**

[www.ScienceinSocietyConference.com](http://www.ScienceinSocietyConference.com)

This conference addresses the social impacts, values, pedagogies, politics and economics of science. It is an inclusive forum that welcomes a breadth of perspectives on science from practitioners, teachers and researchers representing a wide range of academic disciplines.

The Science in Society Conference is held annually in different locations around the world. The Conference was inaugurated in 2009 at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK. We are pleased to hold this year's conference at Carlos III University in Madrid, Spain.

In addition to Plenary Presentations from leading speakers in the field, the Science in Society Conference includes parallel presentations by practitioners, teachers and researchers. We invite you to respond to the conference Call-for-Papers. Presenters submit their written papers for publication in the peer refereed "International Journal of Science in Society". If you are unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in the journal as well as the option of uploading a video presentation to our YouTube channel.

The **deadline** for the next round in the call for papers (a title and short abstract) is **11 March 2010**. Future deadlines will be announced on the conference website after this date. Proposals

are reviewed within two weeks of submission. Full details of the conference, including an online proposal submission form, may be found at the conference website:

[www.ScienceinSocietyConference.com](http://www.ScienceinSocietyConference.com)

In 2011 the conference will be held in Washington D.C. at American Catholic University, 5-7 August.

Prof. Karim Gherab Martin, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA and Bibliotecas Digitales, Madrid Spain

Prof. Carlos Elias, Carlos III University, Madrid, Spain

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## Call for Papers

### First International Conference in Political Economy: “Beyond the Crisis”

Deadline for Proposals: **31 March 2010**

**10-12 September 2010**

Rethymno, Crete, Greece



The global economic crisis has now entered what is arguably its third phase. Following the acute financial crisis of September 2008 and the ensuing economic depression, we are now experiencing the debt crisis stage where whole nations face the threat of bankruptcy (with Greece currently at the forefront following the troubles of Iceland, Ireland and Dubai among other countries) and the EU project facing its toughest challenge yet. At the same time, neo-liberalism is losing (or has already lost) much of its confidence, with Keynes, Minsky and Marx gaining currency, and Richard Posner, leading Chicago proponent of the economics of law, telling the world "how he became a Keynesian". So where is the global economy going following the crisis, and what are the reactions to the crisis both intellectual and in material developments? And, chiefly, what are the alternatives opening up before us?

These are the main questions that the **First International Conference in Political Economy co-organised** by the **International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy** ([www.iippe.org](http://www.iippe.org)) and the **Greek Scientific Association of Political Economy** will address, following the three previous highly successful IIPPE annual international workshops in Crete, Naples and Ankara. It is to be held at the **University of Crete in Rethymno, Crete, Greece**, between **10-12 of September 2010**. The Conference will be open for interventions across all areas of political economy even though the crisis and its aftermath are its focus. The indications so far point to a successful, fruitful and oversubscribed event. **Tony Lawson, Gerald Epstein** and **Jayati Ghosh** have already accepted our invitations to serve as keynote participants. Participation of IIPPE Working Groups will be prominent.

**Reminder: The deadline for submission of both abstracts of papers and proposals for panels is the 31st of March** (submissions should be sent to [iippe@soas.ac.uk](mailto:iippe@soas.ac.uk)). Early submissions, even if only provisional, are essential both to avoid disappointment and to help in the appropriate allocation of papers to designated panels and streams that will themselves be strengthened through solicited contributions and the plenaries.

## Call for Papers

### *Party Politics: Still Relevant?*

## Political, Social and International Studies Postgraduate Research Conference

Deadline for Abstracts: **17 March 2010**



University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

**Thursday 10 - Friday 11 June 2010**

Debates about the health and relevance of political parties abound. The trend towards much lower levels of public participation in party politics is highlighted by falling party membership, and declining electoral turnout. Do these trends necessarily mean that people are becoming less 'political'? How central are political parties to political participation, and how we look to improve our lives?

What role do 'new' actors such as single issue, lobby and other third sector groups play? Do new technologies such as the Internet exacerbate or mitigate these trends? And what does this mean for democracy and power? Is this a positive move 'beyond party politics' and 'beyond ideology', or an obfuscation of necessary antagonisms that should inform the genuinely political questions?

### **Conference Themes and Issues**

Some questions that this conference seeks to address, include, but are not limited to:

- \* Why has public participation in party politics fallen?
- \* How do 'old actors' (such as political elites, trade unions, professional groups, religions) act in new ways?
- \* What role and function do new political actors play?
- \* Do media concepts and terms still shape political debate and structures?
- \* What role for Britain in the new European structures post the Lisbon Treaty?
- \* Does the emergence of Respect and the British National Party mark a new development in identity politics in Britain?
- \* How well has the United Kingdom reacted to the greatest economic challenge for a generation?
- \* Is it the case that the liberal democratic model that characterised 'the end of history' is under pressure, or is it merely a restructuring of how citizens involve themselves in the political process?
- \* How has an emerging British Islam been treated by the UK's existing party political and state structures?
- \* Is our work and role as postgraduate researchers in anyway affected by a change in who holds the keys to Number 10?

The conference is open to all post-graduate researchers. While this is an election year in the UK, the conference will not focus exclusively on UK-related questions. The organisers therefore welcome papers relating to other countries that are relevant to the issues under consideration.

**Send a 300-word abstract of your proposed paper, and your contact details to Henry Allen and Paul Stott at [ueapostgradconference@googlemail.com](mailto:ueapostgradconference@googlemail.com) by 5pm on Wednesday 17 March 2010.**

Successful applicants will be notified by the beginning of April and are required to submit their final papers of 8,000 words by 4 June 2010. Possibilities for publication of presented papers will be discussed during the conference.