CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS
RESHAPING STATE AND SOCIETY IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

Section sponsored by the Standing Group on Southern European Politics

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM OF POLITICAL RESEARCH
8TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW, 3-6 SEPTEMBER 2014

Call deadline: 15 February 2014

The call for papers and panels for this Section is now open. The call is open to all.

We welcome proposals for panels and papers related to the suggested themes below or to the general Section topic as set out in the description.

For any inquiries about the Section, please contact the Section Convenors.

For information on how to submit a proposal, please see below (after the Section description).

Section Convenors
Susannah Verney, University of Athens, deplan@otenet.gr
Maria Kousis, University of Crete, kousis@social.soc.uoc.gr
Senem Aydin-Düzgit, Istanbul Bilgi University, senem.aydin@bilgi.edu.tr

Section Description
Southern Europe is attracting new attention as the scene of accelerated economic, political and social change. In the southern eurozone, the economic crisis is exerting strong pressure for fiscal consolidation and structural reform with far-reaching consequences. At the same time, external surveillance of domestic policymaking is intensifying e.g. through the EU’s fiscal compact. The dynamic is especially intense for bailout countries, committed through agreements with international lenders to achieving an ambitious agenda of radical restructuring in a compressed time period. Here, external actors (European Commission, ECB, IMF) have become directly involved in domestic decision-making. Meanwhile, Turkey since its own economic crisis and IMF intervention in 2001 has been the scene of very rapid economic growth with the formerly banned Islamist movement now at the centre of a developing dominant party system.

In Southern Europe, European integration has an intensifying impact on domestic politics, whether through Enlargement (Turkey) or Deepening (EU member-states). Southern Europe has proved particularly vulnerable to globalisation, especially with China’s rising role in the region as economic competitor and potential investor. Current processes of change in Southern Europe raise questions concerning the changing nature of state sovereignty in an era of bailouts, intensifying EU requirements and expanding globalisation. These questions are particularly interesting given Southern Europe’s traditional reputation for weak state capacity. Is the state in Southern Europe shrinking or alternatively, is it being strengthened in some areas? What types of state transformation are occurring? Is society being weakened or are changing circumstances producing new opportunities for a societal role? This Section
investigates how recent processes of change are impacting on the state, society and the state-society relationship.

The Section offers a forum for innovative empirical research and encourages a range of disciplinary perspectives and methodological approaches. Regarding geographical scope, the Section accepts country case studies of Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta. Intra-South European comparative studies are particularly welcome.

PROPOSED PANEL THEMES

STATE CAPACITY, AUSTERITY AND STRUCTURAL REFORM
Topics include the impact of fiscal consolidation on the state machine and the reordering of policy priorities. Particularly significant is the changing role of the state as a provider of public goods. This includes the nature, extent and consequences of structural reforms, including privatisation programmes.

CHANGING GOVERNANCE PATTERNS, RIGHTS AND CORRUPTION
What procedures are being used to promote structural reforms and fiscal consolidation? What are their consequences for the national constitutional order, fundamental rights and freedoms, and labour rights? How are processes of change impacting on traditional patterns of clientelism and corruption?

POLICYMAKING PROCESSES: EXTERNAL ACTORS AND SOCIETAL INPUT
How are external actors operating in the new context of domestic politics? What kind of patterns are emerging in the intensified Europeanisation process and what are its limits? Is the state becoming more or less receptive to societal demands? Are domestic interest groups being strengthened or weakened? What are the new patterns of influence, for example, of industrial and financial capital and the organised labour movement?

THE EVOLVING INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE
Topics include national executives (experiencing reduced autonomy vis-a-vis international lenders but enhanced freedom of manoeuvre towards other domestic institutions and society?), the decline of national parliaments (‘rubberstamping’ measures agreed between national governments and international lenders?), increased space for judicial activism (e.g. the case of the Portuguese Constitutional Court) and central government attempts to reassert control over other levels of government (whose consequences directly threaten the territorial integrity of the Spanish state).

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY REORGANISATION
Besides new protest movements, from the Indignados to Gezi Park, is there a broader reshaping of civil society, e.g. through volunteering and the emergence of new grassroots groups, or is there a response of apathy and political demobilisation? What is the impact on trust in government across the region? With citizens increasingly frustrated in attempts to express themselves through traditional channels, how is political disagreement expressed?

VIOLENCE, MEDIA, DEMOCRACY
Violence is an increasingly visible characteristic of South European politics, whether originating from the state, from popular movements resisting reform or from vigilante groups of various ideological shades. The relationship of the press, public and private broadcasters,
the internet and new social media both to political activism and to censorship also raises important questions for democracy.

**RESHAPING SOCIETY**

Social mobility both upwards and downwards includes the dispossession of the middle classes under eurozone austerity and the rise of the new Anatolian middle class in Turkey. The changing picture of property distribution includes housing evictions and patterns of land ownership. The process of urban and rural restructuring includes major public works, shopping malls and mining projects. Change embraces lifestyle choices and identity politics, private life and its regulation by the state, and questions of religiosity and political Islam.

**MIGRATION FLOWS AND BRAIN DRAIN**

Immigration is reshaping society demographically, economically and culturally. Immigration and the refugee question provoke reactions from state and society, including the rise of anti-immigrant parties. Changing internal migration flows include a return to the countryside in conditions of economic crisis. Brain drain is a growing phenomenon in Southern Europe, with an outflow of young professionals to northern Europe.

---

**Eligibility**

Please note that the ECPR General Conference is open to all. You do not need to belong to an ECPR member institution in order to submit a proposal or participate in the conference. If you have not already done so, you will need to sign up to “My ECPR” (it takes about two minutes!) Proposals are welcome from both members and non-members of the Standing Group on Southern European Politics.

**To submit a proposal**

Proposals are submitted through the ECPR website.

Panels should consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 papers. Panel proposals need to include an abstract, names of chair and discussant, titles of papers and names of paper givers.

*To propose a panel:*


Paper proposals are welcome on any topic relevant to the Section theme and do **not** need to be proposed in the context of any particular panel.

*To propose a paper:*


*To sign up for a My ECPR account:*


and click on ‘Create new account’