

'Academia in Dialogue' Series

RADICAL POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Athens, 21-22 November, 2019

Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences
Department of Political Science and History

Thursday, 21 November 2019

Venue:

DESKoi Building, 5th Floor, 1 Charilaou Trikoupi Str. & 22 Lagoumitzi Av.

17:00

Registration

17:15

Welcome by

Ulrich Storck, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Athens

Petar Bojanić, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory Belgrade

Christina Koulouri, Panteion University Athens, Host-Professor of AiD

17:30-19:30

Panel Discussion: **Radicalization and radical political engagement – Between necessity and danger for society**

Marilena Koppa, Panteion University Athens

Kostis Karpozilos, Director of the Contemporary Social History Archives (ASKI)

Oszkar Roginer, University of Rijeka/CAS SEE

Edina Bećirević, University of Sarajevo

Moderation: Vedran Džihic, University of Vienna

20:00

Dinner

Restaurant tba

Friday, 22 November 2019

10:00-12:00

Panel Discussion: **Reacting to right-wing radicalization: spaces for radical democratization**

Venue:

DESKoi Building, 5th Floor, 1 Charilaou Trikoupi Str. & 22 Lagoumitzi Av.

Dušan Spasojević, University of Belgrade

Isidora Stakić, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy

Tijana Rečević, University of Belgrade

Thanos Vlachogiannis, Thessaloniki Pride

Kitty Panourgia, EKO Greece

Moderation: Vedran Džihic, University of Vienna

12:00 -12:30

Coffee Break

12:30 -13:30

Keynote address and public discussion: Costas Douzinas on (add)

Venue:

Amphitheater Sakis Karageorgas II, New Building, 136, Syngrou Avenue

13:30 -15:30

Lunch debate:

Exchange between academics and civil society representatives

Venue: tba

19:00 -20:30

Public Discussion (agora debate):

Confronting radicalization the radical (democratic) way?

Venue:

Amphitheater Sakis Karageorgas II, New Building, 136, Syngrou Avenue

Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Katerina Kolozova, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities Skopje

Đurđa Trajković, University of Belgrade

Someone prominent from Greek civil society (tba)

20:30 – 21.30 Closing Remarks and Reception

About the workshop

The region of Southeast Europe (SEE) has for a long time been in focus as a realm of potential political radicalization. The stability inherent in the concept of "stabilocracy" was recently challenged by political trends that drew on tensions surrounding political and national identities: the situation regarding Kosovo, the North Macedonia 'name issue', the Prespa agreement, hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and even disputes between Croatia and Slovenia over territory.

In the summer of 2018, a novel political moment threatened the stability of the region and threatened to foment further political radicalization and even potential violence. Namely, this crucial moment was the renewal of the discussion about redrawing the region's borders – proposals for territorial exchanges between Serbia and Kosovo, and the secession of Republika Srpska and its unification with Serbia. The border debate came as the finale of a long and destructive nationalist regression that has taken place in all SEE countries. Issues around names and borders radicalized the political and mass media agendas and threatened a violent escalation of extreme political nationalist and ethnoreligious beliefs.

The consequences of this regression may not be immediately visible, but they can last for a long time. Radicalization takes the form of rising ideological exclusivism and corresponding intolerance towards Others, which can periodically escalate into violence. The process occurs on various levels, affecting everything from ethnic and race relations, regional identities, gender relations, and even relations between age groups. Perhaps the most incendiary is ethnic and religious radicalization, as they have the potential to lead to violent extremism, and a history of doing so. The rise of populism and ethnonationalism in contemporary European politics across Europe sets the stage for profitable political mobilization strategies that use ethnic divides and can lead to further radicalization (Rydgren 2008).

Given the high stakes of the rise of radicalized political engagement, this issue is one that must be tackled in the academic community more thoroughly. This workshop will bring together representatives of academia, civil society, and political parties to discuss the phenomenon of radical political mobilization in SEE and strategies for addressing it.