



ESA MONTHLY BULLETIN – JUNE 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- **Conferences/Calls for Papers**

- Conference Announcement: Change, Resistance, and Collective Action in Southern Italy - University of Kent, 4 September, 2015.
- Call for Session Proposals: 3rd International ESS Conference - Understanding key challenges for European societies in the 21st century - University of Lausanne, 13-15 July 2016.
- Call for Papers: International conference - European Narratives - Europe and the European Union in the 21st Century as Political, Social and Cultural Constructions - Krakow, 24-25 September 2015.
- Call for Papers: International Conference - Informality in Central and South-East Europe: Linkages between Political and Economic Actors - University of Belgrade, October 30-31, 2015.
- Call for Submissions: Glocalism. Journal of Culture, Politics and Innovation- 2015, 3, On Global Risks - Deadline: August 31, 2015.
- Call for Submissions: Special Issue Arxius de Ciències Socials (December 2015) - Cultural policy, Creative City and White Elephants. Deadline: 15 July 2015.

- **Opportunities**

- The most recent job offers are available in the ESA Jobs Bourse:
<http://www.europeansociology.org/jobs.html>

Conference Announcement

Change, Resistance, and Collective Action in Southern Italy

A Multidisciplinary Symposium

4 September, 2015

University of Kent

Darwin College - Peter Brown Room

<http://inspr.eu/event-info/sisymposium/>

This symposium reopens the debate on the Italian 'Southern Question' through a variety of multidisciplinary perspectives. Challenging conventional narratives of the retrograde South in opposition to the 'civic' North (Schneider, 1992), this symposium is the first to foreground the Mezzogiorno as an important arena for defining processes of cultural signification both at the national and transnational level.

This approach sheds new light on the Southern Italian regions as areas where dynamics of change, resistance, and collective action are constantly at play. It brings together for the first time a wide-ranging set of contributions from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and perspectives including postcolonial studies, social psychology, sociology, history, politics and medicine. The cross-disciplinary angle places Italy's 'Southern Question' at the intersection of a number of situated historicities that consider traditional cultural essentialisms alongside contemporary marginal and subversive discourses.

By establishing a productive dialogue between past and present, this symposium will posit the South of Italy as a paradigmatic example of how potential dynamics of collective actions can promote a better understanding of the social, cultural and political disparities affecting subaltern societies.

Confirmed speakers are:

Professor James Newell, (University of Salford): 'To What Extent is There Still a Southern Question in Italy?'

Professor Iain Chambers (Università L'Orientale): 'The Southern Question'.... Again!'

Professor John A Davis (University of Connecticut): 'Beyond the "Passive Revolution" – Re-reading Gramsci on the Southern Question'

Professor Franco Cassano (Università di Bari): 'Rethinking Southern Thought'

Dr Felia Allum (University of Bath): 'Enablers, Sponsors and Helpers: The Hidden Face of Italian Mafias'

Dr Giovanni A. Travaglino (University of Kent): 'Culture, Passivity, and Resistance: Towards a Social Psychology of Omertà'

Dr Maria Ridda (University of Kent): 'Not the Italy You Expect: The Case of Postcolonial Naples'

Professor Victoria Goddard, (Goldsmiths University): 'Gender, Generation and Enduring Precarities in the Global South'

Dr Saverio Stranges (Luxembourg Institute of Health): 'Italy's Southern Question: Impact on Health Outcomes and Wellbeing, a Public Health Perspective'

Registration & Fees

To register your participation, please use the following link:

https://kentpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5uuGeHDGV0ZfQZD

There is a registration fee for attendees (this can be paid on the day of the event):

Attendees £10

Postgraduate Students £5

Sponsors

The Symposium is sponsored by the [International Society of Political Psychology](#) and by the [Interdisciplinary Network for Social Protest Research](#).

Organising Committee

Dr Giovanni A. Travaglino, School of Psychology, University of Kent

Dr Maria Ridda, School of English, University of Kent, and Birkbeck College, University of London

Benjamin Abrams, Department of Sociology University of Cambridge

For further information [click here](#), or email Giovanni Travaglino (G.A.Travaglino@kent.ac.uk) or Maria Ridda (M.Ridda@bbk.ac.uk).

Call for Session Proposals

3rd International ESS Conference

Understanding key challenges for European societies in the 21st century

13-15th July 2016

Amphimax, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

The 3rd International ESS Conference will showcase research that uses data from the European Social Survey (ESS) to address a range of substantive issues highly relevant to European societies. The conference aims to show the depth and breadth of scientifically rigorous research made possible as a result of the high quality comparative data provided by the ESS. It will bring together ESS data users from around the world and working across a range of disciplines to share ideas.

The conference committee would like to invite leading researchers in their field who are using ESS data to carry out comparative research on substantive topics to submit a proposal to organise a session at the conference. We welcome proposals for sessions around the following themes:

- . Immigration
- . Work and family
- . Wellbeing
- . Health
- . Welfare provision
- . Political evaluations and engagement
- . Social attitudes, norms and values
- . Other societal challenges

For your session to be considered please submit an abstract of up to 400 words (plus 3-5 key words) outlining the focus of your session. Please specify which of the conference themes you would like your proposal to be considered for and whether your session will require presentations only or if you would prefer participants to submit papers for discussion.

Abstracts should be emailed to ESSconf2016@fors.unil.ch by 13th September 2015.

If the conference committee accepts your proposal, your session will be advertised in an open call for papers that will be issued in October 2015 (closing in January 2016). It is expected that all papers will use ESS data to address a substantive topic from a comparative perspective, either cross-nationally and/or across ESS Rounds. Papers which draw out the practical and policy implications of their research will be encouraged.

As a session organiser you will be expected to encourage paper submissions to your session, review paper proposals with regards to their suitability in terms of focus and quality and make a final selection, liaise with presenters and the conference organisers and chair your session during the conference.

For more information about the conference please see the ESS website (www.europeansocialsurvey.org) or email ESSconf2016@fors.unil.ch

Call for Papers

The Institute of European Studies

**Regional European Debate Centre
Krakow Branch of the Polish Association of European Studies**

Have the pleasure of inviting you to the international conference entitled

**European Narratives – Europe and the European Union
in the 21st Century
as Political, Social and Cultural Constructions**

which will take place between the 24-25 September 2015 in Krakow

The conference is being organised by the JU Institute of European Studies and is interdisciplinary in nature, just as others before it. We will be describing and interpreting the processes stemming from Europe as, amongst others, sociologists, political scientists, social anthropologists, historians, lawyers, linguists and cultural studies scholars. We warmly welcome diverse perspectives and methodologies to the conference.

The main subject of our annual conferences are the social, cultural and political processes amidst the changing the face of Europe, which itself has to face many more challenges in the second decade of the 21st century than before. A scenario in which the European Union disintegrates is becoming increasingly realistic. As a result, this has given rise to a series of questions which require careful consideration. Amongst the most important of these are: Can a United Europe in its present shape work effectively? Are the future plans for further integration both realistic and sensible – or merely doomed to remain on paper? If a United Europe is something more than a project on paper, where can it be found and what could stem from its future development?

The “European Narratives” conference will be an opportunity to exchange opinions on the subject of the multidimensional transformation process at play in Europe and the European Union. We are interested not only in analysing the current reality, but also how typical answers and scenarios are constructed depending on which narrative they find themselves in. We believe that every public representation of a “European Narrative” contains a particular aspect of reality, open to interpretation but also forming the basis for the construction of discourse which may bring genuine results.

The conference will begin on Thursday (24.09.2015) at 2 pm in the Michal Bobrzynski Hall of the Jagiellonian University, the oldest part of the university. All those interested may visit the university museum beforehand. The first day will be devoted to two plenary sessions and the evening will see the gala dinner. The second day has been set aside for panel discussions and themed presentations, this time in the home of the Institute of European Studies at Przegorzaly. The third day will hold further plenary sessions and the closing of the conference. After the final meal, all those interested are invited to join us on a tour of the historic attractions of Krakow’s Old Town.

The conference will host invited experts from European universities (as key note speakers during the plenary sessions) and those who wish to register individually. The division into thematic panels will take place after the registration of all participants. Languages to be used in the conference are English and Polish. Thus far the following scholars have confirmed their participation: Thomas Faist (University of Bielefeld), Chris Hann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), Jan Kubik (School of Slavonic & East European Studies, UCL), Parick Lehnes (Interpret Europe), Joanna Nowicki (Political Sciences Institute in Saint-Germain-en-Laye), Maciej Szpunar (Court of Justice of the European Union).

Conference subjects and discussion topics

(1) Narratives and rhetoric types for the integration/disintegration of Europe in the context of the political and economic crisis – the discourse of the past and future of the European Union (including Eurosceptic, Eurorealist, Euroenthusiast, crisis and post-crisis, political-institutional, social dynamics

and change, nation-centric, federalist, post and transnational, cosmopolitan, normative, axiological, futuristic, civic);

(2) The process of political, social and cultural change in Europe (Europeanization, its contexts and representations);

(3) Central Europe – the construction in reality, the imagined construction;

(4) European heritage, its cultural transmission and construction;

(5) The architecture and discourse of security in Europe (common security policy in the context of contemporary threats);

(6) The European legal space – directions for development, current debates and controversies;

(7) European identity at the crossroads: migration and the crisis of multiculturalism;

(8) European democracy, its actors and imaginations – at the level of civic associations, urban movements and local, regional, national and European federal government;

(9) The crisis of social trust and the crisis of the political legitimacy of integration;

(10) The evolution and devolution of European institutions.

Abstracts

Abstracts must be no more than 200 words and should contain the following: name and surname, academic title, academic discipline, title of presentation, summary of basic points and conclusions and a description of the methodology employed. Please submit abstracts no later than the **15th of July 2015** to the address europaistyka.konferencja@gmail.com. Please, register at the conference website www.due.uj.edu.pl

Basis of the selection of entries

All proposals will be assessed by the Organising Committee and in some cases they may ask for more details concerning the content or expanding/reducing the proposal. Participants will be informed of the selection by the 31st of July 2015. Please remember that your participation will only be confirmed in the conference programme if registration payment is made by the **10th of August 2015**.

Conference fees

Conference fees, amounting to 400 PLN per person, will be used to pay for the meals, drinks, snacks, gala dinner and conference materials. A lower rate (300 PLN) is available for members of the Polish Association of European Studies and members of The Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies.

Conference participants will receive a list of accommodation options suitable for different tastes and budgets.

The conference account number:

Uniwersytet Jagiellonski

Instytut Europeistyki / Wydział Studiów Międzynarodowych i Politycznych

Bank Pekao SA O/Kraków

IBAN number: PL 98 1240 4722 1111 0000 4858 6669

SWIFT: PKOPPLPW

Please add the following conference code: First name, family name, „Europejskie narracje”

Publication of conference papers

We invite you to submit full papers by the 31st of October 2015. They will be collected after the conference with a view to publishing a volume of reviewed articles in English and Polish.

Call for Papers

INFORMALITY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE: LINKAGES BETWEEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACTORS

International Conference

University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy, Cika Ljubina 18-20, Belgrade, Serbia

October 30-31, 2015

Thematic scope of the conference

Informality represents an important feature of post-socialist societies. Informal and personal networks that predate from the socialist period are an important legacy for development of democratic systems and market economy in former socialist countries. Particularly in the context of weak and blurred institutional and normative framework, individuals tend to rely more on informal institutions and practices. Because of that, patterns of clientelism and question of the 'culture of informality' are important for understanding of contemporary trajectories in political and economic subsystems of former socialist societies.

The aim of the conference is to present the current knowledge and further developments in the debate on informal relations, structures, practices and norms which are established between political and economic actors on central and/or local levels in the states of Central and South-East Europe. Informal practices such as personal and patron-client relations, clientelism, their roots and impacts on social, political and economic structures and behaviors will be in the focus of the conference. Careful attention to informal practices is critical for understanding the incentives that enable and constrain political behavior. Political actors respond to a mix of formal and informal incentives, and in some instances, informal incentives trump the formal ones'. Scientific exploration of informal structures and institutions is especially demanding task which acquires 'a new set of research challenges'. Exchange of knowledge and experiences in employing different methods in investigation of informal linkages between political and economic elites will be as well important thematic area of the conference.

Within this thematic framework, the following topics will be in the focus of the conference:

- Informal mechanisms and practices of interlocking political and economic actors . Roots and impacts of clientelism and patronage . Interplay between formality and informality in interlocking political and economic actors
- Methodological innovation in researching informal links between political and economic elites

Abstracts, papers, language

The organizers invite theoretical and empirical contributions on the topics listed above, or related. Particular attention will be given to empirically based contributions whether comparative or country specific.

Abstracts should be of about 500 words, in English, and must be accompanied by name(s) of author(s), their institutional affiliation, and email(s).

Abstracts must be submitted to conference_informality@secons.net before the 1st of August 2015. Abstracts will be evaluated by members of the scientific committee. Participants will be informed about the acceptance of their contribution no later than September 10th 2015.

Participation fee, Programme, Contact

No participation fee will be charged for this conference, due to the support of Regional Research

Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (<http://www.rpp-westernbalkans.net/en/News.html>).

Detailed conference programme will be distributed before the end of September 2015.

For more information see www.secons.net/conf or contact Nebojsa Pavlovic conference_informality@secons.net or +381 11 412 1257.

Scientific committee:

Alena Ledeneva, Univeristy College London, United Kingdom
Petr Kopecky, Institute of Political Science, Leiden University, the Netherlands
Peter Rodgers, Sheffield University Management School, United Kingdom
Angelo Salento, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy
Davorka Matic - University of Zagreb, Faculty of Philosophy, Croatia
Mladen Lazic, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia
Vladimir Vuletic, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia
Zoran Stojiljkovic, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Political Sciences, Serbia
Slobodan Cvejic, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia

Call for Submissions

Glocalism. Journal of Culture, Politics and Innovation

2015, 3, ON GLOBAL RISKS

The concept of risk poses itself as the new paradigm for analysis of the glocal society. The rapidly changing 'thresholds' of techno-scientific innovation – from the infinitely large to the infinitely small, from big data to nanotechnology and manipulation of the genome – challenge the predictability and the very idea that reduction of risk can be pursued by applying present-day models to future scenarios.

The explosion of what Hans Jonas defines in *The Imperative of Responsibility* as "The Prometheus unbound" – modern technology – the scope of which is unpredictable and the consequences only visible in the long term, has implications in moral terms: with respect to simple 'technique' – neutral in an ethical sense, respectful toward the generating forces of nature – technology, the result of the boundless manipulative power of modern man, cannot declare itself to be ethically indifferent. It is Jonas himself who calls awareness to the fact that "the promise of modern technology has transformed into a threat". Ulrich Beck likewise highlighted the economic pervasiveness of this type of innovation, revealing how it operates above and beyond any possible form of insurance.

The acknowledgement of the centrality of the "risk factor" in every global social action and its local – or, in a broader sense, individual implications (consider the molecular vision that permits intervention on the genome) – emphasizes the role of expert knowledge in recognising, assessing and managing risk despite the intrinsic randomness it is associated with. Opposing this centrality of risk, we find trends and dynamics that radicalise it and aspire to creating a zero risk society, even in contexts not strictly technological or environmental from which awareness of the issue developed: consider the most intimate of individual choices, for example procreation or euthanasia.

The argument of risk develops along these parallel interpretative lines and, from there, the deepest reflection on the possible constitutive values of social action in the extreme plurality of a global society.

Online: May 5, 2015

Papers deadline: **August 31, 2015.**

This issue is scheduled to appear at end-October 2015.

Call for Submissions

Special Issue Arxius de Ciències Socials (December 2015)

Cultural policy, Creative City and White Elephants

Gil-Manuel Hernández (University of Valencia)

Joaquim Rius Ulldemolins (University of Valencia)

Introduction to the subject of the special issue and context of academic debate

The aim of this special issue is to study the genesis and development of the so-called "white elephants in cultural policy." The expression, white elephant, common in Spanish or English, refers to cultural facilities that have a maintenance costs higher than benefits, or to those that provide benefit to others, but only cause problems for the owner (in the case of public sector).

In cultural policy, we define white elephants as those cultural projects, especially major facilities but also major events or cultural clusters have been the focus of public action of the culture for a long period since the mid-nineties to the late two-thousand - coinciding with the economic expansion; now they have become problem and a cultural symbol of this period. In Spain, regarding the regional government, we can find examples of white elephants: la Ciudad de las Artes in Valencia, La ciudad la Luz in Alicante, La Ciudad de la Cultura in Santiago de Compostela. As for the Central government, white elephants were characteristic of socialist governments (Rubio Aróstegui 2003). However, other examples and cases can be found around the world, especially in countries with a recent urban and cultural development, which do not have networks or developed cultural infrastructure.

This special issue should be framing in the debate on the relationship between models of local development and cultural policy. This debate highlighted some cities and major facilities or events, such as Glasgow (García, 2004), Liverpool (Connolly, 2011), Bilbao (Gonzalez, 2011) or Barcelona (Muntaner, 2007), among others. These cases have been considered models for other cities wishing to project themselves as a global cities (Sassen, 1991) or creative cities (Landry and Bianchini, 1995). In the frame of these analyzes has been highlighted after policy the growing importance of instrumental orientations in local cultural policy (Belfiore, 2002; Gray, 2007) and the definition of cultural policy has taken new prominence (Connolly, 2011).

In the last decade, there has been a considerable body of critical literature on the virtues and defects of the generation of models of urban and economic development based on culture (Balibrea, 2001; White, 2009; Degen and Garcia, 2012; Delgado 2007.). These views focus on the tensions and negative potentialities in relation to the process of urban regeneration branding strategy and the role that local stakeholders have played in this process in terms of participation (Barber and Romance Eastaway, 2010; Gouldner, 1957; McKinnie 2006, . Morris Hargreaves McIntyre 2009).. In this context, white elephants appear as one element or a product of a neoliberal model of urban development. However, less attention has been paid to the debate in the academic field regarding causes and effects by the same cultural politics of the generation of white elephants. We consider that this topic has not been sufficiently developed.

Use and development of the concept

The term white elephant has been used in some articles such as O'Connor (2012), but its conceptualization has not been developed. In this issue we intend to advance this conceptualization, provisionally characterized as:

- A characteristic feature of the model adopted by cities that have invested in the global culture without a sustainable balance, or without being linked to the local culture (Bianchini, 1993) and found a creative justification for undertaking large projects without planning or without previous detection of the citizen's in the creative city paradigm and class elements (Novy and Colomb, 2013; Peck, 2005).
- These projects generate buildings and / or public spaces that quickly lose the use they were built (either because they were designed for an important event or because they were finished to have a current use different from the originally intended ones). In this regard, Augé (2003) defines these facilities as modern and degraded ruins. White elephants are the product of a strategy that aims to attract the public (in this case local and global citizens). This can generate euphoria in some sectors in the population but in many cases it has negative effects on the most excluded sectors (segregation and gentrification). The legitimizing discourse mixes culture and its intrinsic benefits without showing the final social impact (Belfiore and Bennett, 2007). On the contrary, they are not the product between the previously defined by performance contract and agency (Rius and Rubio, 2013) and their mission is not defined until after the start of the project.
- In this type of action, the cost estimate in relation to social custom is abandoned by assumptions or beliefs about indirect impacts and the intangible benefit of city branding. However, although in the short term a white elephant manages to generate fascination in the local population and impact on the global media, the fact that it becomes an expensive facility, impossible to monetize and difficult to maintain, could generate in the long term waste and a decaying image. Sometimes also, in its genesis and development we find corruption phenomena that generate a crisis of legitimacy in the cultural sector.
- Finally, white elephants generate significant problems of sustainability and repayment, such as remaining as present and future resources to the local cultural system while they are often hardly reusable for the uses they were designed. Therefore, white elephants pose a serious political problem in the medium and the long term, and a challenge to find solutions that bring value to the local system and to the national cultural policy.

Monographic proposal and call for papers

The proposed monograph is organized as open call for papers, which will be evaluated by peer reviewers. Papers may refer to the following topics or issues:

- The genesis, development and economic, social and cultural impact of white elephants. These can be large cultural organizations dependent on the local, regional or central public administration as well as art festivals, art fairs or big cultural events (European Capital of Culture, world exhibitions or Olympic Games).
- The development of cultural and urban strategic planning as a form of discourse and political legitimacy of creating white elephants and deactivation of the criticism of these projects and their urban and social effects.
- The development of artistic neighborhoods, creative districts, clusters of creative industries or science parks from the generation of white elephants as vector refunctionalization of the city and the instrumentalization of culture and knowledge as a tool for urban change and urban city branding.
- The discourse on creative city, the promotion of the creative economy and attracting creative and enterprising city strategy and urban development neoliberal turn just creating white elephants.
- Experiences of resistance to the generation of white elephants and strategic creative city. Conceptualizations of social, sustainable and participatory post creative cities and other paradigms of cultural policy.

The monograph aims to cover case studies in different geographic areas (European Countries and other international cases) to assess the level of awareness of this phenomenon. It is also encouraged to conduct comparative exercises. The editors would encourage to the authors to develop deep and

structural analysis of the causes of white elephants (factors relating to economic, political, model development, governance structures, performance lobbies, etc. system) that allow understand the size of the white elephants.

Proposals, work plan and timetable

The proposal shall consist of a clear and precise definition of the subject of the paper, as well as theoretical references and the framework of analysis used. In the case of containing an empirical research, proposal must clearly establish the methodology and expected results. The proposal must be written in a text processor (MS Word or compatible), it can be written in Valencian-Catalan, Spanish or English and it would have a length between 500 and 1000 words (including footnotes and excluding references).

The timetable for the preparation of the monograph is as follows:

- Receipt of proposals (July 15, 2015)
- Notification of acceptance or rejection of proposals (July 20, 2015)
- Deadline first submission: (September 15, 2015)
- Completion first review round (October 2015)
- Deadline revised manuscripts (November 2015)
- Completion of the review and revision process (December 2015)

Proposals for articles should be sent until 15 July 2015 to:

- Gil-Manuel Hernández (University of Valencia): Gil.hernandez@uv.es
- Joaquim Rius Ulldemolins (University of Valencia): Joaquim.rius@uv.es

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