Workshop

Alternatives to European Executive Federalism: Civil Society, Social Movements, and Radical Critique

Opening
Paul Blokker, University of Trento

Speakers
Manuela Caiani, Institute for Advanced Studies of Vienna
Ulrike Liebert, Bremen University
Louisa Parks, Lincoln University
Mario Pianta, University of Urbino
Geoffrey Pleyers, University of Louvain

Discussants
Carlo Ruzza, University of Trento
Paul Blokker, University of Trento
The workshop proposes to explore social mobilization, claims-making, and bottom-up critique with regard to the economic austerity policies and non-democratic forms of policy-making that have emerged in EU crisis management, with a particular emphasis on transnational manifestations of critique. The attempt is to combine different scholarly approaches, including (political) sociological, socio-legal, political-economic and constitutional-theoretical analyses of "bottom up" reactions to the economic, financial, democratic, and constitutional crises that the EU seems currently affected by. An important emphasis is on the potentiality of (political) sociology in studying European integration and forms of critique and dissent. The following dimensions are proposed as subjects of debate (but are not at all intended as exhaustive):

- the potentiality of a critical, political-sociological analysis of European integration, the democratic and constitutional deficits, the crisis, and societal mobilization;
- the critical role, claims, and strategies of different types of movements (including those on the radical left and populist right);
- processes of Europeanization of social movements and the analysis of political opportunities as well as different forms of political action and legal mobilization on the transnational level;
- the importance of social movements' claims and action in the context of processes of constitutionalization of the EU (including economic, juridical, and democratic, constitutionalism);
- the significance of social movements in terms of 'counterdemocracy' (vigilance and denunciation), and in terms of social, political and constitutional imagination;
- different narratives of the crisis and different forms of justification of alternative views of a European order (e.g. critique of technocracy, social and political critique of capitalism, critique of political closure);
- the significance of an emerging European public sphere and its relation to institutionalized and non-institutionalized politics;
- the relations between social movements, political actors, and courts/legal actors.

Speakers from different disciplines have been invited, including sociology, political science, and constitutional law, who engage in the analysis of civil society and social movements in the European and global context, and theoretically and conceptually explore and clarify relations between institutions and European society, and/or explore constitutional dimensions of social movement action.

**Friday, 11 July, 2014**

9:15 – 9:30 Opening – Paul Blokker, CoPolis/Trento University

9:30 – 10:15 Ulrike Liebert, Bremen University – [title]

10:15 – 11:00 Paul Blokker, CoPolis/University of Trento – “Transnational Social Movements, Constitutional Claims and Search for the Common”

11:00 – 11:30 Break
11:30 – 12:15  **Geoffrey Pleyers**, University of Louvain – [title]

12:15 – 13:00  **Mario Pianta**, University of Urbino – “In search of European alternatives. Anti-austerity protests in Europe”

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch


15:15 - 16:00  **Louisa Parks**, Lincoln University – “The Right2Water European Citizens’ Initiative – bringing movements back to the EU in crisis?”

16:00 – 16:30 Concluding remarks

*Discussants:*

**Carlo Ruzza**, University of Trento

**Paul Blokker**, CoPolis/University of Trento