

Workshop “Critical European Studies”: Crisis and New Formation of the EU 16-17 May 2014, VU University Amsterdam

Fri, 16 May, 13:00-14:00: **Welcome and Introduction** (Room Z-009)

Fri, 16 May, 14:00-16:00: **Session I: Theoretical perspectives on Europe** (Room Z-009)

Core text: Ryner, Magnus (2012): Financial Crisis, Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy in the Production of Knowledge about the EU. Millennium 40 (June): 647-73.

- Chair: Angela Wigger (Radboud University Nijmegen)
- Introduction (5 min): Magnus Ryner (King’s College London)
- Comments (5 min):
Sonja Buckel (University of Kassel), Catherine Hoskyns (Coventry University),
Bob Jessop (Lancaster University), John Kannankulam (University Marburg),
Henk Overbeek (VU University Amsterdam), Stefanie Wöhl (University of Vienna)

Fri, 16 May, 16:30-18:00: **Session II: Class and class agency in the EU** (Room Z-009)

Core text: Van Apeldoorn, Bastiaan (2014): The European capitalist class and the crisis of its hegemonic project, Socialist Register 50(1): 189-206.

- Chair: Nikolai Huke (University Marburg)
- Introduction (5 min): Bastiaan van Apeldoorn (VU University Amsterdam)
- Comments (5 min):
Agnes Gagyi (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest), Mathis Heinrich (Lancaster University),
Laura Horn (Roskilde University), Stefanie Hürtgen (Goethe University Frankfurt),
Thomas Sablowski (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Berlin), N.N.

Fri, 16 May, 18:00-20:00: **Dinner break** (private)

Fri, 16 May, 20:00-22:00: **Public Discussion: “Shock Doctrine” Revisited: The Authoritarian Guise of the European Union in the Crisis** (Location, tbc)

- Public Real World Economics event as part of the Europe-wide decentralized days of action and resistance called ‘Solidarity Beyond Borders - Building Democracy From Below! (15 to 25 May 2014). *For more information see below.*

Sat, 17 May, 10:00-12:00: Session III: Democracy and Resistance in Europe (Room Z-009)

Core text: Oberndorfer, Lukas (2012) Crisis of hegemony in Europe. Heading towards authoritarian competitive statism? Unpublished manuscript.

- Chair: Mathis Heinrich (Lancaster University)
- Introduction (5 min): Lukas Oberndorfer (Chamber of Labour Vienna)
- Comments (5 min):
Ian Bruff (University of Manchester), Monica Clua Losada (University PF Barcelona),
Nikolai Huke (University Marburg), Elisabeth Klatzer (Vienna University of Econ&Business),
Ingar Solty (York University Toronto), Angela Wigger (Radboud University Nijmegen)

Sat, 17 May, 12:00-13:00: Lunch Break (sandwiches are provided)

Sat, 17 May, 13:00-15:00: Session IV: EU empire and the division of Europe (Room Z-009)

Core text: Bieling, Hans-Jürgen (2012): European Globalisation and World Order Politics. In: Nousios/Overbeek/Tsokalis: Globalisation and European Integration. NY: Routledge.175-196.

- Chair: Laura Horn (Roskilde University)
- Introduction (5 min): N.N.
- Comments (5 min):
Alan Cafruny (Hamilton College), Marica Frangakis (Nicos Poulantzas Institute Athens),
Johannes Jäger (University of Applied Sciences Vienna), Kees van der Pijl (Sussex University),
Yuliya Yurchenko (University of Greenwich), Leila Simona Talani (King's College London)

Sat, 17 May, 15:00-16:00: Conclusion and Review (Room Z-009)

For all staying in Amsterdam until Sunday and want to spend the evening together, we organise a picnic/dinner (weather dependent) at the Pacific Parc (<http://www.pacificparc.nl>) around 19:00.

REAL WORLD ECONOMICS

Friday, 16 MAY 2014

20:00/21:00 to 22:00/23:00 (exact time and location will be announced in due course)

Public Discussion:

“Shock Doctrine” Revisited: The Authoritarian Guise of the European Union in the Crisis

After almost seven years of global economic crisis, the disruptive impact continues to aggravate, particularly in Southern Europe where unemployment rates, most notably among the young, have reached unprecedented levels, while real wages continue to decline and poverty is reaching perverse heights. The prospects continue to remain gloomy and the perma-austerity imposed by the EU only seems to exacerbate the crisis further. German Chancellor Merkel's recent suggestions for a ‘Competitiveness Pact’ demands that the entire Eurozone has to step up reforms efforts "in areas of lacking competitiveness" - EU-speak for internal devaluation through wage repression and further labour market reforms.

During this Real World Economics evening, we will reveal the authoritarian guise of the EU's responses to the crisis. While the ‘wealthy few’ are blessed with tax reductions and bailouts, the ‘working many’ have to bear the costs for the sake of competitiveness. The assault on democracy and the coercive nature in which crisis packages are imposed very much resemble a shock doctrine. Decision-making is insulated from institutions of political democracy, while ever more discretionary powers are transferred to non-accountable executive or jurisdictional bodies, such as the European Commission or the European Court of Justice. At the same time, the constitutional right of expressive protests is increasingly denied and surveillance and police violence vis-a-vis protestors intensified. How can the EU's onslaught on democratic rights be resisted?

We will start out with brief (5 minute) presentations by a range of renowned international critical political economists, followed by a plenary discussion with the audience.

This Real World Economics event forms part of the Europe-wide decentralized days of action and resistance called ‘Solidarity Beyond Borders - Building Democracy From Below!’ in the week of 15 to 25 May 2014 (go to <http://mayofsolidarity.org>). The evening is supported by an alliance of organisations and groups in the Netherlands.