

## Conference

### **“Crisis, State and Democracy. Working with Nicos Poulantzas’ theory to confront authoritarian capitalism”**

#### **Location**

Athens – Panteion University Athens

#### **Date**

12-13 December 2014

Nicos Poulantzas has been one of the most important scholars in the field of theory development in the areas of the state and its development. His contribution linked in a creative way different strands from the Marxist discourse. Being a passionate activist, his contribution is especially meaningful as he aimed on making theoretical reflections relevant for the further development for emancipatory politics. Nevertheless, his work has been underexposed in the context of debates on European (dis-)integration. In the light of the crisis and the process of increasingly authoritarian politics it is even more important to utilise this pool of knowledge, in order to better understand the contradictory character of the process and to elaborate alternatives that opens perspectives towards a radical transformationsocialist democratic society.

The following provides the list of main topics, some key questions and the speakers.

#### **Structure/Timeline**

##### **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> of December**

##### **9 – 10 AM (EET): Welcome**

##### **10 AM – 12 AM (EET): Session 1**

##### **Making Nicos Poulantzas theory fruitful for a critical reflection on the current development of European integration and the euro-crisis management**

- European integration post-WWII: essence; a moment in history?
- Euro-crisis – Main components
- The handling of the crisis by the European elites: the narrative of austerity

#### **INPUT**

Konstantinos Tsoukalas, University of Athens

Frieder Otto Wolf, Freie Univeritat, Berlin

#### **Facilitator**

Kenneth Haar, CEO Brussels

##### **12 AM – 2 PM (EET): Session 2**

- The changing class structure of Europe
- Formation of old and new class subjectivities under the crisis
- The dynamic of class alliances and the forms of tension between classes, their fractions, political actors and the social movements of civil society

## **INPUT**

Georgios Daremas, Nicos Poulantzas Institute; Attac Hellas

Martin Konecny, CEO Brussels

## **Facilitator**

Hanna Lichtenberger, University of Vienna

## **2 - 3 PM: LUNCH BREAK**

## **3 PM - 5 PM: Session 3**

### **The transformation of the “power bloc”**

- The (frictional) configuration of power relations on the national level and on the EU level since the 1980s – The concept of class operationalised.
- Which role has financial capital played?
- What has been the role/position of labour

## **INPUT**

John Kannankulam, University of Marburg

Giorgos Chondros

## **Facilitator**

Alexandra Strickner, Attac Austria

## **5 – 5.30 PM: BREAK**

## **5.30 PM – 7.30 PM: Session 4**

### **Nicos Poulantzas’ concept of “authoritarian statism”**

- Authoritarian statism as a reaction to the European crisis – a new phase of neoliberal transformation?
- European (dis-) integration –between national interests and the emergence of a new supra-national entity: The political debate
- The role of the Left

## **INPUT**

Lukas Oberndorfer, Chamber of Labour, Vienna

Haris Golemis, Nicos Poulantzas Institute

## **Facilitator**

Akis Leledakis, Panteion University; Attac Hellas

## **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> of December**

## **10 AM – 12 AM (EET): Session 5**

### **Country-related perspectives and consequences of the transformation of power structures in the EU**

- Is Germany the new ‘hegemon’ in Europe? Current hegemonic structures in the EU
- What are the implications for Southern Europe and the CEEs (e.g. nationalism and separatist movements)

- The Greek experience
- Which path is conducted in the EU with respect to global relations? The new trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA

#### **INPUT**

Makis Kouzelis, University of Athens; Nicos Poulantzas Institute

Alexis Passadakis, Seattle to Brussels Network, Cologne

#### **Facilitator:**

Peter Herrmann, Scientific Council Attac Germany, Corvinus University, Budapest

#### **12 - 2 PM: session 6**

##### **Global Analysis**

- How was transnationalising capital inscribed into dependent economies through the process of "interiorisation"
- What did this mean for different class factions?
- Which role does financial capital and financialisation play?
- How are different groups of the subaltern classes integrated into and excluded from the power bloc

#### **INPUT**

Morten Ougaard, Copenhagen Business School

Vasso Kanellopoulou, Attac Hellas; Seeds movement

Ilker Atac, University of Vienna

#### **Facilitator**

Etienne Schneider, University of Vienna

#### **2 - 3 PM: lunch**

#### **3 - 5 PM: Session 7**

##### **Nicos Poulantzas' perspective of a "democratic socialism"**

- Challenges for the European Left and the social movements
- Confronting authoritarian capitalism: Change through institutional pressure from within and without
- The democratic way to socialism

#### **INPUT**

N.N.

Eleni Portaliou, Technical University of Athens, Athens BoroughCouncillor

#### **Facilitator**

Armin Puller, University of Vienna

#### **5 – 5.30 PM: BREAK**

#### **5.30 PM – 7.30 PM: session 8**

**CLOSING SESSION: Crisis, state and democracy - Working with Nicos Poulatzas' theory to confront authoritarian capitalism**

- Summing up the sessions
- How to continue working with Nicos Poulantzas' concepts and ideas
- Toolkit in social theory and activist strategy

## INPUT

Aristidis Baltas, Technical University of Athens; Nicos Poulantzas Institute

Ulrich Brand, University of Vienna, Scientific Council Attac Germany

### Facilitator

Marica Frangakis, Nicos Poulantzas Institute; Attac Hellas

## Language

English

Greek

## Logistics and other relevant information

Conference languages are English and Greek – translation will be provided. The debates will be videotaped. It is also planned to utilise the work in different ways for publications and documentations.

There are no conference fees to be paid. However, donations are welcome.

## Organised by

- ✓ Nicos Poulantzas Institute Athens <http://nicospoulantzasinstitute.wordpress.com>
- ✓ Attac Germany, [www.attac.de](http://www.attac.de)
- ✓ Attac Hellas, [www.attac-hellas.org](http://www.attac-hellas.org)
- ✓ Scientific Council of Attac Germany, [www.attac-netzwerk.de/das-netzwerk/wissenschaftlicher-beirat](http://www.attac-netzwerk.de/das-netzwerk/wissenschaftlicher-beirat)
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