

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Split regional office and Department of Sociology, University of Zurich announce a call for papers for the international conference

“FREEDOM & NECESSITY: CLASS DIFFERENCES, LIFESTYLES AND COPING STRATEGIES IN THE TIMES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS”

OCTOBER 3RD AND 4TH, 2015, SPLIT, CROATIA

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE PROJECT “LIFE-STRATEGIES AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN SOCIETIES IN THE TIMES OF CRISIS” CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SCOPES PROGRAM OF THE SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

CONFERENCE THEME

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, the earlier preoccupation with the process of individualization in the “second modernity” context has gradually been replaced with a focus on social stratification and new guises of social exclusion. In other words, one could say that a theoretical and empirical interest in the study of individual strategies of social differentiation has been replaced with an increased interest in the study of collective mechanisms of social structuring.

The reasons for such a reorientation of academic priorities are obviously connected with a dramatic increase of the new forms of social inequality in contemporary societies. That is why, in contrast with the earlier preoccupation with market-driven optative lifestyles, the new focus of social researchers revolves around class differences.

There is no doubt that the concept of class has made a big comeback on the contemporary sociological scene and is again being viewed as important in the analysis of reproduction of inequality. However, this does not mean that the concept of lifestyle has been superseded: on the contrary, the new understanding of the importance of class as an analytical concept includes the constituents of lifestyle in Bourdieu’s class theory. This means that class is no longer approached primarily in economic terms, but rather as a dynamic category related to the interplay of economic, social, cultural and other capitals in a given social field.

The aim of this conference is to explore the strategies on which different actors base their coping with the current economic hardship in different social contexts across the European continent and beyond. Conference papers exploring how attention to various dimensions of inequality changed over time in specific socio-cultural contexts and how they were connected to political, social and economic developments in these contexts are welcome. However, the main focus of the conference is on the post-2008 developments, as well as on methodologies employing the concepts of class, lifestyle and strategy. Of special interest also are papers dealing with the situation in the former “transition countries” of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in the current EU candidate countries in the South East Europe.

Members of the Conference Organizing Committee are: Jörg Rössel (Department of Sociology, University of Zurich), Inga Tomić-Koludrović (Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Split Regional Office), Predrag Cvetičanin (Faculty of Tourism and Sport, TIMS, Novi Sad), Ismet Kumalić (Economic Institute, Sarajevo) and Miran Lavrič (Department of Sociology, University of Maribor).

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Claire Wallace, Chair in Sociology at the University of Aberdeen,
former president of the European Sociological Association
(<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/socsci/people/profiles/claire.wallace>)

Tally Katz-Gerro, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and
Anthropology, University of Haifa and the member of the Executive
Committee of the European Sociological Association
(<http://soc.haifa.ac.il/~tkatz/>)

APPLYING AND OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONFERENCE

We would ask all those interested in taking part to send an abstract no longer than 300 words to the e-mail address of the organizers (conference@pilar.hr) with “conference” in the subject line. Abstracts should include keywords, the names, contact details and short biographies of all authors. The working language of the conference will be English.

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS JULY 15TH, 2015. AUTHORS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ACCEPTANCE BY JULY 31ST, 2015. Participants should prepare a 15 to 20 minute presentation, while the submission of completed papers is welcomed, but not obligatory. **THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE PREMISES OF THE MEDILS – MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE FOR LIFE SCIENCES, MEŠTROVIĆEVO ŠETALIŠTE 45, HR – 21000 SPLIT, REPUBLIC OF CROATIA** <http://www.medils.org/basics/medils/>

There is no conference fee. Conference participants will need to arrange travel and accommodation, while the organizers will provide refreshments for the duration of the conference.

Please feel free to circulate this call for papers to anyone you think might be interested.

For any additional information, please send an E-mail to the organizers.

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