Round table: The Social Sciences in Greece Approaching the Greek Crisis

**Title: “A Sociological Approach of the Ongoing Greek Crisis”**

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*Abstract*

A crisis, both notionally as well as experientially, is usually conceived as an exception, a “peak”, a turning point, a perhaps catastrophic accident, or an anomaly of an otherwise ongoing, regular and concrete phenomenon or set of phenomena. In fact, there is a degree of notional indeterminacy about crisis. With this in mind, and following on J. Habermas, I propose to look at the Greek crisis as a clash (or contradiction) between systems integration and social integration processes.

The analysis and interpretation of a multifaceted, interlinked and concrete social system and its crisis does necessitate a thorough understanding of the complexity involved. In fact, in sociological accounts of the Greek crisis, scholars did their research by considering diverse aspects of social life and integrating them in their analyses at both the micro-and macro-levels. Several of these aspects may have been correctly identified in the past but were somehow “forgotten” (e.g. clientelism and its overwhelming influence), or not thoroughly understood, (i.e. financialisation and the changes it has brought). Also, shifts in the countries class structure had to be re-considered. Thus, there were a lot of, both, new and catching up work undertaken in ascertaining the specific social complexity.

Besides, the major large-scale changes that have taken place, linked as they are to the EU-led modernization and the Euro, and associated to developments in the welfare system enacted by the post-1974 political settlement, which have led to broad improvements in everyday life, have been studied and drawn upon. More broadly, a rethinking of Greek society has been taking place. The overall objective is to consider the site of crisis, and identify any potential there might be in overcoming it and moving beyond. Accordingly, in my presentation I intend to follow this contextualising path. My aim then is, to consider the effects of crisis and the prospects by focusing into five interaction areas: consumption, social trust, social cohesion, emigration, and to a specific social problem.