

## **Greek party system transformations in the crisis context. An approach on the establishment of a new party system in Greece.**

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The voting of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2010 signaled the beginning of a complete new era in Greece. The Third Greek Republic, since 1974, has been characterized by stability both in a socioeconomic and a political level. However, the dysfunctional characteristics of the Greek economy during the specific period (bureaucracy, clientelism, lack of investments, tax evasion, corruption), as well as the austerity policies implemented during the last five years, within the crisis context, resulted in the creation of a complete new political environment.

The current paper, drawing heavily on the notions of political elites and populism, focuses on the political aspect of the crisis, which took place in parallel with the financial one and lead the Greek political system into a series of significant transformations during the last six years. Under this rationale we seek to examine whether the elections of September 20<sup>th</sup> 2015, stand as the end of the political crisis, through the establishment and crystallization of a new party system and a political scene more open to new insurgents. This main research aim can be further analyzed by the following questions:

1. How strong was the pro/anti-memorandum political cleavage in the last pre-electoral period of September? Were there any differences to this cleavage compared to the January 2015 elections?
2. To what extend do political elites accept specific changes in the function of the political system? (coalition governments, frequency of elections, strict party discipline)
3. Are there any differences in the articulation of the political discourse (i.e populism) on the crisis between the two electoral periods of 2015?
4. Does a new system of political powers appear to be crystallized?

For the scopes of the current research we are going to conduct a thematic analysis. The analysis will be conducted in the political discourse of Greek political parties' members in the TV news bulletins of three major Greek TV stations (the private MEGA and ALPHA, and the public NERIT/ERT), broadcast during the pre-electoral periods of January and September 2015.