Conference program

LESVOS

7-10 JULY

CROSSING BORDERS

The international conference for the refugee crisis
Today, "the West" is facing the worst crisis of human dispossession since the aftermath of the Second World War. Neocolonial exploitation, authoritarian regimes, Imperialist wars, economic crises and ecological disasters have displaced over 60 million people, triggering a huge humanitarian crisis. Thousands of people, many of them children, have lost their lives in the attempt to reach safety. Yet Fortress Europe, whose imperialist actions have driven this crisis, keeps its borders shuttered to the refugees except for a tiny few, and even they must still endure dehumanizing conditions and policies. Meanwhile, ultra-right and fascist parties around the world are manipulating this situation for political gain and many countries, including Australia and the USA, are already considering closed-border policies. Within the EU, border-controls have been reintroduced by more and more member states. By linking terrorism with migration, governments and media are spreading a politics of fear that not only targets refugees and immigrants, but curtails basic democratic rights for all citizens.

These conditions demand that radical scholars and thinkers reimagine our paradigms, our methods and our priorities. How do the border-crossing actions of migrants force us to rethink the power and violence of borders, the definition of "illegal," "forced" vs. "voluntary" migration and the power of "status"? How do these conditions, along with the drama of austerity, necessitate a reconsideration of the power and potential of the state, political parties and the promise of "democracy."?

What can we learn from the transnational solidarity efforts that have arisen in Lesvos, Eidomeni and elsewhere to meet common needs beyond the capacities and imagination of NGOs and the state? How can we find new ways to care for the dispossessed in an age of widespread and deepening inequalities? How can we understand today's crises as continuous with global legacies of imperialism, capitalism, colonialism, racism, ecological destruction and primitive accumulation? How are they deepened and shaped by the dynamics of gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, and other forms of oppression and exploitation? How can we build solidarity networks capable of not only providing the necessities of life but creating the transnational movements of systemic transformation that can overthrow the forces that lead to displacement, neocolonial and imperialist exploitation and austerity?

These urgent questions and conditions necessitate that radical activists, artists, politicians, refugees, scholars and students gather, discuss and debate. We are hosting this conference on Lesvos, where for months now all these urgent questions are being addressed and negotiated in practice, making it a space to share, to learn and to develop a common and collective courage and knowledge for the struggles to come.
Opening
Art exhibition, Halim Bey with local music by Motivasyon.
Music of the East by N. Andrikos

Installations
Afra Dekie
Kostas Tsironis
Vato Fratzoglou
Students of the Dept. of Cultural Technology and Communication under the supervision of Nasia Chourmouziadi

Paintings and sketches
Amanda Priebe
Christina Sgouromiti
Feysal Khodsooz
Fabien Lapounge
Makis Axiotis

Video art
Nikos Bubaris
Kelli Zifou
Ozlem Sarıyıldız

Charts
Balmajovic

Photos
Sotiris Chtouris
Alexandros Katsis
Marios Lolos
Kelly Perrou
Makis Venetas & Cultural Association “Epano Skala” of Mytilene
Dimitrios Bouras

Flyers
Yovanovits

Video projections
Amjad Kawish Farajie,
Missing my Home
Antoine Cassar,
The anti-passport. Examples of creative no-border activism
Marjorie Le Berre
Short movie presentation
Matina Solomakou, Mosaic
Caoimhe Butterly, Eidomen
### FRIDAY, 8TH JULY, SESSION 10.00–11.30

**Amphitheatre**

The state, NGOs and immigration  
Chair: Maria Nikolakaki

Tony Bunyan, Up against the EU state  
Stratos Georgoulas, Refugees and State corporate crime. Lesbos case  
Loïc Jaeger, Protection of the People on the Move vs Protection of the borders  
Sharmine Peries, The global community and migration

**Room A**

Representations of Others through Art  
Chair: Dimitris Papageorgiou

Petr Agha, The art of dissent  
Kynthia Arvanitidi, In this world: Depiction of migration in cinema  
Anthi Kosma, Take the initiative: making communities though the art of everyday life.

**Room B**

Representing refugees  
Chair: Serdar M. Degirmencioglu

Salim Nabi, Borders, Encounter, and the struggle against Neoliberalism. Nouran El-Behairy, Burden or Brothers? Representation of refugees in non-Western media. Ioanna Iliadi, Xanthi Tsourouni, Myrsini Dogani, Athanasios N. Samaras, Games of Terministic Control or the Instrumental Actualization of Events? Defining Immigrants in the Pre- and Post- Paris Terrorist Attack Era In the Aegean News Sites.

**Room C**

Representing the crisis  
Chair: Janell Watson

Federica Rossi, Migration is a Feminist Issue

### FRIDAY, 8TH JULY, SESSION 12.00–13.30

**Amphitheatre**

From climate change to solidarity for refugees  
Chair: Aimilia Voulvouli

Maria Sakellari, Unprotected climate refugees: The culmination of a growing migration crisis  
Gökhan Orhan, Global Climate Change and Immigration Patterns: A New Agenda for Global Justice  
Nikos Sergis, Dimitris Papageorgiou, The borders of Humanism: Seeking total social changes through Solidarity  
Eric Kempson, North shore response

**Room A**

Borders and Sexualization  
Chair: Francesca Coin

Andreas Onoufriou, Syrian experiences of Immigration in contemporary Cyprus and its relation towards gender - masculinity and immigration  
Marta Della Libera, Sex with the other: anxieties and representations of gender in Europe during the refugee crisis  
Maddalena Tacchetti, Marco Checchi Pride Without Borders: Experimenting resistance with LGBT+refugees and asylum seekers.

**Room B**

Educating for equality  
Chair: Mike Neary

Orestis Didimiotis, Radicalizing democracy in schools  
Aristotle Tympanas, Spyros Tzokas, Emroni Fresouli, Border-Crossing and Technology: Perspectives from the ‘History of Technology’ and ‘Science and Technology Studies’  
Andrew Finlay, Undoing the Master’s Tools

**Room C**

Dimensions of migration I  
Chair: Mike Cole

Myriam Fotou, Xenophobia business: migratory controls in the intersection of the ethical and the political. Niki Kubaczek, The potentiality of encounter: questions on the precondition of a broad political anti-racist movement  
Panagiotis Ignatiadis, Social innovation(SI) in smart specialization strategies
FRIDAY, 8TH JULY, SESSION 14.00-15.30

Amphitheatre

The migrant, the state and the commons
Chair: Maria Nikolakaki

Hawzín Azeez, Govand
Khalid Azeez, The Migrant: Between Liberal Capitalist-Parliamentarianism and Democratic Federalism
Dilar Dirik, A Hundred Years of Violence: Refugees between Nation – States, Statelessness and Freedom
Raquel Gutierrez, Producing the Common and reproducing the life. (video)

Room A

Solidarity to refugees I
Chair: Jarrold Kachur

Afra Dekie, Blending research, social work and activism in migration studies: an effective strategy for social change?
Anthi Pazianou, Maria Louka, Solidarity to refugees as a structural aspect of a potential redefinition of democracy
Eirini Gaitanou: ‘Solidarity practices: starting from the case of the Stone Building in Piraeus port’

Room B

The end of human rights?
Chair: Janell Watson

Evy Yannas, Greece. The birthplace of a new cultural revolution.
Dimitris Koros, The madness of working as a human rights lawyer in times where rights are (treated as) useless.
Raluca Bejan, The ‘East/West’ divide and Europe’s relocation system for asylum seekers.

Room C

Creating the crisis
Chair: Feyzi Ismail

Maria Vittoria Salvatori, Laetitia Sanchez Incera, Preventing asylum through law.
Frances Grahl, One among thousands: narrative representations of individual humanity in the ‘Refugee Crisis’.
Matija Vlatkovic, Immigration detention in the UK and the intersectional activist movement against it: (Shut Down) Yarl’s Wood IRC.

FRIDAY, 8TH JULY, SESSION 16.00-17.30

Amphitheatre

Refugees in Greece and austerity
Chair: John Rees

Vicki Macris, Selective Philoxenia Revisited: The Plight of the Refugees in Greece
Aspasia Velissariou, Refugees in Greece, the Greeks as ‘Refugees’
Francesca Coin, Unveiling Europe: debt as political destitution
Zoe Konstantopoulou, Debt audit and crisis

Room A

Solidarity with the refugees
Chair: Alexandra Politaki

Kostas Fourikos, Live together, fight together! Refugee crisis and collective forms of mutual aid and struggle
Iossif Konstantinou, Migration, family relations and communication at a distance: refugees in Greece
Christina Sakali, Solidarity economy and the refugee crisis: exploring bridges and expanding spaces of social solidarity
Ekaterini Nikolareas, Refugee Crisis on the island of Lesvos: Sharing experiences and reflecting upon the current state of affairs

Room B

From Calais and Mexico to Canada: policies on refugees
Chair: Antigoni Memou

James Ellison, ‘Solidarity not narcissism! Social media and freedom of movement struggles in Calais, France
Guillermo López Varela, Social violence against Central American migrants and the Expansion of Capital in Mexico. State crime and immigration
David White, Tactical Displacements: Contested Neighborhoods in a North American Border City
Zohra Faize, Detention Experiences of Asylum Seekers in Canada: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Room C

The right to asylum
Chair: Aimilia Voulvouli

Burcu Togral Koca, Securitising the Relationship between Welfare State and Migration: Reflections on the EU
Christina Svana, Developments on Greek Asylum Law after the EU-Turkey deal
Petros Violakis, Turkey’s role as a distinct divergence force of CFSP and CSDP Europeanisation
Amphitheatre
(in greek language)

Μεταναστευτική πολιτική στην Ελλάδα και οικονομία
Προεδρείο: Μαρία Νικολακάκη

Γιώργος Πλειός
Αλεξάνδρα Πολιτάκη
Στράτος Γεωργούλας
Ζωή Κωνσταντοπούλου
SATURDAY, 9TH JULY, SESSION 10.00–11.30

Amphitheatre
Empowering the immigrant
Chair: Dilar Dirik
Ozan Kamiloğlu, Can the immigrant speak?
Andrej Grubacic, On Exile and Mutual Aid.
Moira Hille, Cruising Crossing Commoning.

Room A
Μεταναστευτική πολιτική στην Ελλάδα
Chair: Πώργος Πλειός
Φιλιώ Κουροζούλο, Η μεταναστευτική πολιτική στην Ελλάδα
από το 1990 ως σήμερα
Αθανάσιος Καλαμάτας, Νάσος Κοκκινάκης, Προσφυγικές και μετανάστευση. Πρός μια κοινωνία ισότητας.
Sotirios Chtouris, Refugee Flows and Volunteers in the Current Humanitarian

Room B
From hotspots to solidarity centers
Chair: Aspasia Velissariou
Xeni Alexiou, Ana Micheli, Elena Katseniou, Elena Artemi, Christy Petropoulou, Urban landscapes, common places of inhabitants and new comers: the case of Mytilene.
Charalampos Tsavdaroglou, The migrants’ common space as a transnational threshold: the case of Idomeni borderscape.
Serdar M. Değirmencioglu, As Syria Walked By: Nojın’s Arrival on Lesvos.

Room C
Dimensions of migration II
Chair: Antigoni Memou
Eleonora Roldán Mendivil, Matthias Hinkeimann, Back to Practice: Possibilities of Revolutionary Academic Engagement. A Dialectical Materialist Proposal.
Zaruhi Baghdasaryan, Beyond Human Rights: Being a refugee in the 21st century.
Eleonora De Majo, Borders of CIVIS OECOCOMUS.

SATURDAY, 9TH JULY, SESSION 12.00–13.30

Amphitheatre
Dimensions of migration in USA, Canada, South Africa
Chair: Vicki Macris
Dimitris Lascaris, USA and Canada’s migration policies.
Jerrold Kachur, Defensive Nationalism and the Limits of Tolerance and Solidarity: Left-liberalism and Lessons from Canada on Class and Nation.
Michael Neocosmos, Thinking anti-xenophobic politics in the neo-colony: the case of South Africa.

Room A
Αναπαραστάσεις προσφυγικού ζητήματος
Chair: Πώργος Πλειός
Vicky Skoumbi, The name and the image: the function of representations in European migration thanatopolis (in Greek).
Δημήτρης Παρασκευόπουλος, Η ακροδεξιά ρητορική περί εθνοτικής αλληλεγγύης: ανεπανόρητα είναι αθηναϊκές οπαδικές ταύτατες.
Χρήστος Αβραμίδης, Αλέξανδρος Μινωτάκης, Δετία της ΕΡΤ στα αραβικά: χειροφτυπική πρακτική ή χειρωνάγωνα.

Room B
Subjectivity of the refugee
Chair: Aimilia Voutoulou
Heath Cabot, Tragic Ethics and the Possibility of Radical Action in Asylum Politics.
Stavros Moutsios, The ‘Other’ in European cultural history.
Kenneth Surin, Being/Becoming Minoritarian.
Janell Watson, Instrumentalization of borders.

Room C
Intervening the crisis
Chair: Feyzi Ismail
Mina Kazemi, Crossing borders through activism.
Jitka Kralova, Student organisation and activist networks: supporting migrants and refugees.
Federico Annibale, From Volunteering to Political Change.
Tahir Zaman, Humanitarianism’s malaise and social solidarity.
Amphitheatre

**Imperialism and refugee crisis**
Chair: Dimitris Lascaris

Tariq Ali, Brexit and migration
John Rees, Refugees and political crisis of the EU
Maria Nikolakaki, Imperialism and migration: from the state of emergency to the state of exception
Feyzi Ismail, Imperialism, the refugee crisis and the EU
SATURDAY, 9TH JULY, SESSION 16.00-18.30

Amphitheatre

Claiming human rights
Chair: Francesca Coin

Mike Cole, “Refugee Crisis” or “Crisis Born of Imperialism”? A Twenty-first Century Antiracist Socialist Solution.

Amy Bartholomew, Reigniting the Right to have Rights in the Twenty-First Century to Demand Democratic Border Politics

Mike Neary, Educative Power: transnational co-operatives for higher education in an era of global civil war.

Room A

Ἀναπαραστάσεις από τη Λέσβο
Chair: Στράτος Γεωργούλης

Χρήστος Κουρουτζάς, Όμειρα Κοινωνιολόγος του Θανάτου: Από το «υγρό νεκροταφείο» στους «τάφους των αριθμών».

Δημήτρης Μάντζορης, Χώροι και Κέντρα Κράτης Προσφύγων και Μεταναστών: Η περίπτωση της «Παγανί» στη Λέσβο, ως χώρος «ετεροτοπίας» και άσκησης βιοπολιτικής εξουσίας κατά τον Μ. Φουκους.

Λίζα Μουρζίδου, Αναστασία Τσακάλογλου
Το Ταξίδι, η Κράτηση και η Τοπική Κοινωνία, μέσα από τα μάτια των Προσφύγων.

Room B

Borders making - Limited by bodies
Chair: Kenneth Surin

Rosalba Icaza, Decolonial Feminism, Border Thinking and Vulnerability in Global Politics.

Aila Spathopoulou, Anna Karastathi,
Resistance in/to bordered reality.

Sebastian Weier, Crossing the border that therefore I am.

Room C

Dimensions of migration I
Chair: Antigoni Memou


Aleksandra Savanovic, Beyond Activism – Citizen as the Instrument of Control.


SATURDAY, 9TH JULY, GEORGIADIS MANSION, 20.45

Documentary «Janus’ Legacy: Refugee Passage to Europe»
SUNDAY, 10TH JULY, SESSION 10.00-11.30

Amphitheatre

Syria and the Middle East
Chair: Stratos Georgoulas


Ali Behran Ozcelik, Turkey’s Role in the Plight of Syria: Case for the Primacy of “Internal Factors” over External Ones.

Radmila Nastić, The Middle East Refugee Crisis and the Foundations of Solidarity.

Room A

Border crisis
Chair: Stavros Moutsios

Dogus Simsek, Between Integration and Transnationalism: The case of Syrian refugees in Turkey
Cemile Gizem Dinçer, Between Activism and the “Field”: Production of Knowledge in the time of Border Crises.
Themistoklis Tzimas, The EU- Turkey agreement about refugees and its impact on the implementation of international law: turning a blind-eye to international legal norms in the name of securitization? (Skype)

Room B

Dimensions of policies in Germany, UK, Turkey
Chair: Heath Cabot

Matthias Hinkelmann, Eleonora Roldán Mendivil, Post-migrant identity formation and anti-racist resistance in contemporary Germany
Natasha Howard, Elham Rafighi, Shoba Poduval, Helena Legido-Quigley, National Health Service (NHS) principles as experienced by vulnerable migrants: a qualitative study of rights, entitlements, and civil-society advocacy.
Eda Elif Tibet, Learning as Agency among the Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers in Turkey.

Room C

Arts and the refugees
Chair: Francesca Coin

Antigoni Memou, Beyond humanitarian photography: Critical notes on photography and the refugee crisis.
Myrto Tsilimpoundi, Containers As Social Landscapes.

SUNDAY, 10TH JULY, SESSION 11.30-13.00

Amphitheatre

Round table: Tariq Ali, John Rees, Maria Nikolakaki, Stratos Georgoulas, Francesca Coin, Dimitris Lascaris, Feyzi Ismail

Special event