



Presentation of the plenary sessions

Villa Finaly, room: Richelieu

Plenary session 3:
Finding a new way Forward:
possible responses to the rise of the radical right
July 11, 2017, 11:00 – 13:00

The growth of finance-led capitalism and subsequent rise in inequality has gone hand in hand with a «disciplining» of state budgets and decline in welfare protections. While the radical right has been shockingly effective at leveraging fault-lines between socio-economic classes that have developed as a result, opposing parties have failed to mobilize a sufficient plea for solidarity, leaving democratic institutions to erode, further delegitimized under the weight of criticism. This vicious cycle and lack of vocal alternative has led some to ask whether democracy will prove capable of meeting today's social, economic and ecological crises head-on. This panel will focus on paths to a new way forward when equality, social cohesion and public responsibility have become politically difficult to defend. We will take the example of what left-leaning social movements have learned from various successes and failures - including Syriza in Greece, Podemos in Spain, Occupy Wall Street and Bernie Sanders in the US - to chart possible responses to the rise of the radical right and the capacity for change in today's political and economic climate.

Speakers:

Gary Dymski (Professor of economics,
Leeds University, UK)

Kostas Nikolaou (Hellenic Open University and President
of People's University of Social Solidarity
Economy «UnivSSE Coop »)

Ann Pettifor (Director of Policy Research in Macroeconomics (PRIME) network,
Economic advisor of Jeremy Corbyn and British Labour Party,
Fellow of the New Economics Foundation, London)

Chair:

Jeffrey Althouse (EPOG, Cohort 2015)
and Glenn Moore (EPOG, Cohort 2015)

Conception : service de la communication - impression : reprographie centrale Université Paris 13 - juillet 2017

EPOG

MASTER'S THESIS CONFERENCE
and Students and Alumni
Association meeting

Villa Finaly
Florence, Italy
July 9-12, 2017
Via Bolognese, 134 R
Firenze, Italy.

Presentation of the “Economic Policies in the age of globalisation” (EPOG) Erasmus Mundus Master’s course

The main objective of the EPOG Master’s Course is to give birth to a new generation of international experts for public and private sectors, able to define and assess economic policies, and evolve within different political, social and regional contexts. It thus aims to provide not only an expertise in a specific field of economic policy (as usually done in existing Masters in economics) but also to enable students to get a global perspective on interdependencies and interactions between economic policies.

Most Master’s degrees in economics focus on very narrow fields or specific regions of the world. The added value specific to the EPOG Master’s course is its provision of the dual skill of expertise in a particular field and the ability to deal with the complex and systemic dimensions of economic policies, which to our knowledge is not provided by any other European Master’s course in economics.

EPOG programme is based on the specific institutional and holistic approaches of economic policies and achieved thanks to the collaboration and complementarities of eight prestigious universities, which offer complementary, excellent, recognised and well established Master’s courses:

- **Universités Paris 13 and Paris 7 – Sorbonne Paris Cité (France)**
- **Università degli studi di Torino (Italy)**
- **Berlin School of Economics and Law (Germany)**
- **Kingston University (United Kingdom)**
- **University of Witwatersrand (Wits) (South Africa)**
- **University of Massachusetts – Amherst (USA)**
- **Seoul National University (South Korea)**
- **Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)**

Students choose among three options, which partly determine the mobility between the institutions:

- Option A – Knowledge and innovation policies**
- Option B – International macroeconomics and financial policies**
- Option C – Development policies**



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Plenary session 1: Recent changes and challenges for economic science July 10, 2017, 16:45 – 18:45

Almost 10 years after the so-called Great Recession, world economic stability remains tenuous: equity prices near all-time highs, China’s increased indebtedness, Trump, Brexit, geopolitical risks and a European economy that has yet to fully recover. While hegemonic countries seem to be sinking, there is no greater hope for developing economies. Instabilities in the Middle East have increased and Latin America is witnessing a new recession and resurgence of populist governments (including the impeachment in Brazil).

With such a hostile context, many analysts claim that it would be wise to prepare for another economic downturn, especially when interest rates are far below pre-2008 levels. In this context, one must ask: How has the mainstream adapted to or learned from the changing economic landscape in the aftermath of the crisis? Is economics prepared to deal with the problems we currently face? How can we, as young economists coming from different parts of the world, contribute to the development and diffusion of heterodox economics?

Speakers:

Juan Graña (Professor of economics,
University of Buenos Aires, CONICET)

Marc Lavoie (Professor of economics,
University of Paris 13, CEPN CNRS UMR 7234)

Chair:

Carolyn Ortlepp (EPOG, Cohort 2015)
and J. Christopher Proctor (EPOG, Cohort 2016)

Plenary session 2: Causes and consequences of the rise of the radical right July 11, 2017, 8:45 – 10:45

The rise of radical right movements, along with their common claims for a reorientation of economic policies towards more conservative agendas, are gaining strength at a global level, immersed in a discourse that presents protectionism, xenophobia, and militarism as ways to restore political sovereignty and stimulate economic growth. This recent trend, however, is not a novelty for contemporary capitalism, presenting worrisome resemblances with the antecedents of one of the darkest periods of modern history during the 2nd World War. Then and now, these episodes followed years of intense economic crisis and loss of political autonomy in many countries, with steep increases in income concentration, poverty, unemployment, and others socioeconomic tensions, from which populist-oriented movements gained strength offering “ways out”.

The current moment, however, comes at the expense of the spread of faith in globalization and technological progress as the bearers of a new phase of unambiguous development and integration, or in the expectations deposited on the elections of various progressive parties across the globe in the last decades.

Taking into consideration the importance of economics to understand the current scenario, and amidst such resemblances and paradoxes, the aim of this session is to discuss the causes of the rise of the radical right and related movements at the beginning of the 21st century, as well as its potential consequences for the future. At a moment where a vast and influential part of technical analysis seem captured by vested interests and ideological blindness, we aim to debate how transformations in the global economy could have contributed to the present situation, especially from a long-term, systemic perspective. We believe such debate provides a unique opportunity to deepen our comprehension of the current situation, an indispensable step for developing alternative, more progressive and long-lasting solutions.

Speakers:

Ben Fine (Professor of economics,
SOAS, University of London)

Lena Lavinás (Professor of economics,
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

Chair:

Ana Carolina (EPOG, Cohort 2016)
and Joel Rabinovich (EPOG, Cohort 2016)