The European spaces of regulation and capital accumulation at the age of globalization
Multidisciplinary and comparative perspectives

Workshop, 16 June 2020
Maison des sciences de l'Homme Paris-Nord
Métro 12, station Front Populaire

Call for Papers

In a period when the global economy is characterized by an unprecedented level of commodities and capital flows, regional and supranational integration tendencies but also by a persistent uneven development and geopolitical tensions, more and more scholars from various fields of social sciences have turned their attention to the questions relative to space and institutions. Today the linkages between the institutionalization of social space and socio-economic dynamics returns to the international front stage with all their destabilizing power – suffice it to think of Brexit, the Juncker Plan/European Future Fund, trade wars between great powers and the revival of military tensions. The goal of this workshop is precisely to problematize the manifold links, tensions and contradictions that appear between the general logic of accumulation of capital, its uneven socio-economic, institutional and cultural unfolding, and socio-spatial transformations. Hence it pursues a resolutely multidisciplinary agenda and is directed towards all researchers seeking to better understand of contemporary international political economy.

The workshop particularly welcomes proposals studying the theoretical and methodological tools allowing to understand the linkages between different scales and regulations, and capital accumulation within a common but differentiated frame. If it wasn’t already the case before, the interruption of the global 2007/08 crisis brought many researchers to stop conceiving national economies as “closed containers” and viewing them instead as differentiated but interdependent spaces of regulation and accumulation. Yet, contemporary national economies aren’t only in interaction but are increasingly characterized by a multi-territorial and multi-scale organization of institutions and regulations. This specific type of organization is built into a hierarchized international space and marked by uneven geopolitical and economic power relations. Fundamentally, the return of space in social sciences entailed questioning the very analytical strength of the notion of “national”, as well as the form and role of the state and political agents in social transformations. Thus, it is necessary to advance analytical approaches that articulate social agency at a given scale with global historical trends and structures, and questions the analytical primacy of the national-state level.
Far from leading to a planetary unification of socio-economic processes, globalization has indeed reinforced clustering and dividing regional dynamics. Therefore, special attention will be paid to the understanding of transformations on regional level. The European region is a particularly relevant case for addressing conflictual social dynamics resulting from transformations of space and accumulation. The European region is characterized by a profound economic integration, concerning not only important commodity, industrial and financial capital flows, but also cross-regional migration movements – and this, even beyond the formal borders of the Economic and Monetary Union and the European Union. However, the multiple divides and axes of the current European “disintegrative integration” are often underestimated in most of the debates on the European integration.

Speakers: Angela Wigger (Radboud University), Joachim Becker (University of Vienna), Hans-Jürgen Bieling (University of Tübingen), Thomas Lamarche (University Paris 7)

This call for papers invites researchers coming from all disciplines, especially historians, geographers, sociologists, political scientists and economists, to present their work compatible with the questions outlined above.
Submit to: ana.podvrsic@uni-graz.at

Organizing committee: Benjamin Bürbaumer (University Paris-13), Ana Podvšič (University Paris-13, University of Graz)