



Call for Papers:

Crisis and (re)Definition: Exploring the impacts of the 2008 global financial crisis on pan-Europeanism, nationalism, and political identity in the European Union and North America

A one-day interdisciplinary conference hosted by the European Union Center of Excellence and the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Dr. Stefán Ólafsson, Professor of Sociology, University of Iceland

In 2008, a serious collapse of the global financial market set off a series of cascading fiscal crises across North America and Europe. While there is considerable scholarship on the economic causes and impact of the 2008 global financial crisis, there has been comparably less work on its political and social ramifications. This seems an important oversight, however, in light of recent world events, such as the Greek economic meltdown and the Syrian refugee crisis, that suggest that the normative principles and political coalitions that sustained pan-Europeanism were key victims of the 2008 financial crisis.

In Europe and in Canada, the global financial crisis of 2008 has also marked a watershed moment in the relationship between ideologies of the left and the right, and their political manifestations. The sorts of social and political action that emerged out of the crisis and continue to characterize post-crisis political discourse suggest that an epistemological rupture between political and social movements and their traditional ideological concerns is emerging. Austerity and fiscal responsibility have gained traction even among traditionally leftist political parties, while social movements and political groups on the right have become further entrenched into identity and constituency based politics. In Europe, a seeming unmooring of left and right ideologies from traditionally left and right wing politics has been accelerated by a resurgence of nationalistic, and in some cases explicitly xenophobic politics, that have attached themselves to social movements and grassroots politics across the spectrum. These developments suggest that there is not only a pressing need to re-examine the meanings of left and right in the post-crisis era, but also to look more closely at how these new meanings may be giving new currency to nationalistic and Eurosceptic ideologies.

The aim of this conference is to use a cross-disciplinary and comparative perspective to investigate the nature of these epistemic ruptures, and to explore the geographies of new, post-crisis politics, identities, and activism. We seek theoretical and empirical papers from established and new scholars as well as advanced graduate students that address one or more of the following themes, or topical variations on these themes:

- Did the financial crisis lead to a reshaping or a re-articulation between left and right-wing politics from their ideological roots? In what ways?
- How has the global financial crisis instigated new identity politics across the political spectrum? How do these new identity politics play out in relation to the European Union principles of solidarity and pan-Europeanism?
- How did the crisis influence the emergence and growth of both progressive anti-austerity protest movements and reactionary or xenophobic movements within the European Union and

Canada? What relationships exist between the promotion of austerity politics and xenophobic sentiments or policies?

- How has Euro-scepticism benefited from the crisis? What kinds of co-articulations of austerity politics and euro-scepticism (and/or xenophobic politics more generally) have emerged out of the financial crisis?

Select papers from this conference will be invited to contribute to an edited volume which will explore the themes of this conference in more detail. Accepted papers will be eligible for travel grants.

Key dates:

Abstract submission deadline: 15 February 2016

Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2016

Registration: April to May, 2016

Conference dates: May 24th (Evening Keynote) and May 25th

For further information, please contact: Edwin Hodge, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
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