CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

Homeland–Diaspora Relations in Flux:
Greece in Crisis and Greeks abroad

Date: 22-23 June 2018
South East European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX)
University of Oxford

Greece’s long drawn out economic crisis is by now an indisputably pivotal event in the country’s history and as such, it cannot but redefine the nature and role of Greece’s diaspora. The modern Greek state was constructed by and for a trans-territorial national community and since its establishment the proclaimed aim of its diaspora policy has been the strengthening of ties between the Greek ‘national centre’ and Greeks abroad. The latter have historically demonstrated high levels of homeland orientation and have had a major input in Greece’s evolution in economic, political, social and cultural terms. But how is the interrelationship between Greece and its diasporic communities shaping up in the current context and conjunction of the crisis? To what extent are Greeks abroad willing and able to contribute to the crisis’ resolution and, more importantly, to Greece’s long term transformation? Aiming to answer these questions the Greek Diaspora Project at SEESOX is organizing the conference “Homeland-Diaspora Relations in Flux: Greece and Greeks abroad at times of Crisis” on June 22-23, 2018 at the University of Oxford.

The conference invites advanced research from researchers from Greece and around the world and in accordance with the project’s mission, aims to explore the impact of Greek diaspora communities on the trajectory of their homeland through interactions in the domains of the economy, politics, philanthropy and in the sociocultural field. Furthermore, the conference seeks to place the Greek case within a comparative perspective. In so doing it not only aims to assess better the Greek experience but also shed light on the determinants of diaspora engagement in the developed world at times of crisis, diversifying attention from the developing world which has thus far monopolised the attention of scholars in the field of diaspora and development.

The topics that the conference seeks to address may be summarized in six thematic categories:

1. Greek diaspora and development in a comparative perspective: policy paradigms and national experiences.
3. Diaspora philanthropy and volunteerism in the age of austerity.
4. Interactions in the domain of politics: state policy and diaspora politics; church, state and the diaspora; policy and technocratic engagement of diaspora elites in Greece; political participation in the age of crisis-driven emigration, social media and electronic votes.
5. Interactions in the domain of economy: monetary remittances; Greek entrepreneurship and diaspora networks, expertise and capital; the Greek economy’s crisis-driven opportunity structure and diaspora FDI.

6. Interactions in the socio-cultural domain: constructions and expressions of Greekness; sociocultural values; social remittances and knowledge exchange.

The proposals (pdf or word), are to be sent to manolis.pratsinakis@politics.ox.ac.uk by 15 January 2018

Proposals should contain:

- Author name and institutional affiliation of the candidate
- A paper title and an abstract (no more than 300 words) in English
- A short CV (up to 200 words)

The selection will be made by 1 February, 2018.

Expected contribution: We ask invited participants to prepare papers of around 5000 words by 1 June. A peer reviewed edited volume will be published with a selection of papers. In addition, the proceedings of the conference will be published by SEESOX.

Format and costs: The conference will be open to the general public. There is no participation fee. Coffee, lunch and dinner will be provided by the conference organizers. Financial support could be considered for some selected cases.

Venue: St Antony’s College, University of Oxford

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