SEESOX Workshop
Thursday 28 November, 1:30-6:30 p.m.
Fellows’ Dining Room, Hilda Besse Building,
St Antony's College Oxford

*Summer of discontent:*
*Citizen unrest and the politics of protest in South East Europe*

Convenors: Othon Anastasakis, Kerem Öktem

In the summer of 2013, the region experienced a series of mostly peaceful citizens' protests in places like Istanbul, Sofia and Sarajevo. Earlier in the year Slovenia and Bulgaria had seen protests which had led to the downfall of governments. The reasons for mobilisation differed significantly from country to country, and so did the responses by security services and governments. Yet, these big protest events and their protagonists also had much in common. Protestors organised in comparable fashions, were often inspired by other examples of social mobilization in Spain, the US, Egypt or Brazil and also borrowed from and referred to each other.

This workshop will seek to analyse the reasons, cause effects, actors and dynamics of the 'summer of discontent' in the region and discuss linkages with similar social movements elsewhere such as *Occupy*, the *Indignados* and the *Aganaktismenoi*. How did these movements interact? Was this interaction limited to signs of symbolic solidarity? Or, do we see a form of global politics emerging from the squares of the region, now that the Arab Spring has all but stalled?

More specifically to the region, the workshop will attempt to understand the impact and the possibilities of 'protest politics' particularly for the political life in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, in the context of reaction to neo-liberal transition, reaction to economic crisis or de-europeanisation. Will these protest movements be able to transform themselves into political forces that matter also in the electoral process? To what extent will they be able to withstand the dual challenges of radicalisation and marginalisation? Will this episode in the region's history, and in each country, lead to a more European future and facilitate Europeanization and democratisation or will it lead to further contestation and disengagement from politics? Will the summer of discontent become a watershed of 'revolutionary moments' or will it enter the annals as an inconclusive series of events which petered away before they began to pose a serious challenge to those in power?

Please register your attendance with Julie Adams on 01865 274537, or email *julie.adams@sant.ox.ac.uk*
Workshop programme

1.30 – 1.45 Introduction
Othon Anastasakis and Kerem Öktem

1.45 - 3.30 Session 1: Conceptual and contextual perspectives
Chair: Kalypso Nicolaïdis, St Antony’s College

And end to patience? Economic protest in Eastern Europe
Gwendolyn Sasse, Nuffield College

Discontent and contestation in the Middle East
Michael Willis, St Antony’s College

Comparative perspective on protests in South East Europe, and the case of Bulgaria
Dimitar Bechev, ECFR Sofia

3.30- 4.00 Coffee break

4.00 - 5.30 Session 2: 2013 summer of discontent in Southeast Europe
Chair: Max Watson, St Antony’s College

Living with protests and riots in crisis Greece
Othon Anastasakis, St Antony’s College

Passivity disrupted by occasional protest: The Western Balkans
Milos Damnjanovic, St Antony’s College

What's in a park? The contested nature of protests in Istanbul
Kerem Öktem, St Antony’s College

5.30 - 6.30 Final Roundtable: Oxford younger generation (DPhil Students) reflecting on the future
Chair: Dimitar Bechev, ECFR

Melis Evcimik, DPhil candidate in Politics
Jessie Hronesova, DPhil candidate in Politics
Saliha Metinsoy, DPhil candidate in Politics
Ana Ranitovic, DPhil candidate in Anthropology