

EDITORIAL

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ACADEMOS 2012 ***Welfare state and social capital***

The conference proposed within our project is deeply integrated into the social and political reality of the decade in which we live in – a reality seen through the lens of political theory, Sociology and theory of international relations. The purpose of this conference is not to draw a definitive conclusion on the current realities, but to put together different perspectives on the social, national and international reality as noticed by specialist and in different paradigms agreed upon in the academic expertise as well as in the national or international research. The conference title ‘Welfare State and Social Capital’ refers to a reality that undergoes a transition from a capitalist type of society to a new one, as shaped by the economic crisis. As we must admit the absorbing social phenomenon of contemporary national and international reality is undoubtedly the economic, social and political crisis we are living.

This crisis has violently hit the deep structures of the global society and drew attention on values that seemed immutable; it overthrew community solidarity and allowed the development of nationalistic political speeches or antiglobalization ones, while the states have changed social and welfare policies affecting large social groups. What we would like to bring in is an analysis of both the causes and effects of the contemporary crisis in its constituent parts in order to understand the possible outcomes of these effects. The problem of values becomes highly important as it leads to a comprehensive analysis of contemporary spirituality that dictates its features in more and more extended areas of social science.

The seven conference panels (*i.e.* Legitimizing Inequalities: Social Justice and the Victims of the Economic Crisis; Privatizing Citizenship: Ethical Citizens; Governments and Markets in the Neoliberal Era; Blaming it on the Global Corporate Finance: Social Movements and Global Indignations; Party Politics and the Electoral Success of the Right/Social Policies and Party Politics; The Euro, Euro-Solidarity and National Sovereignty; Local Governance and Supranational Actors (IMF, ILO, ECB) and Transnational Capitalism and Revival of Localist/Nationalist Politics) will try to unite spheres

of common interest, on changing phenomena such as citizenship, social justice (and injustice as well) or even the key element of the crisis – capitalism. This conference is not on economic issues but one in which the Organizing Committee deemed appropriate to include as many social and political sciences perspectives as possible, trying to ask questions and give solutions at the meeting point of paradigms from different research and analysis spheres.

The conference organization and content structure are possible through the activities undertaken in the national strategic project, financed from the European Social Fund and by the Romanian Government: *‘Training and developing skills and interest in theoretical and applied scientific research for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in social and political science (Formarea si dezvoltarea aptitudinilor si interesului pentru cercetarea stiintifica teoretica si aplicata la nivelul studiilor de licenta si masterat in domeniul stiintelor sociale si politice)’* coordinated by Cristian Parvulescu, associate professor, Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences, National School of Political and Administrative Studies. The project is implemented by the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) as Applicant in strategic partnership with two essential institutions for the national education system in Romania – ARACIS and UEFISCDI.

The accepted papers at this conference have a high standard scientific level as all have been blindly peer-reviewed from a scientific and an academic writing point of view in order to be ISI indexed. Thus, all accepted papers will be ISI indexed through European Journal of Science and Theology, while the volume as a whole will be subject to further analysis from Thomson Reuters, in order to have our conference system indexed in ISI Proceedings system. This double level of analysis allows us to hope that this conference meets highly qualitative standards of scientific research.

The main reason for which EJST became involved in this project is its European dimension. On the other hand, a number of papers, and we mention here just few of them: *Fiscal compact between growth and debt crisis resolution* by Ion Lucian Catrina; *European Union: a polity in search of a mission?* by Radu-Sebastian Ungureanu, *Juridical protection of the Romanian cultural and religious patrimony* by Dana Copoț et al; *Balkanisation of the mind or the new political mysticism* by Vintilă Mihăilescu; *The ‘welfare’ of liberals* by Sabin Drăguliu and *Christian democracy and welfare* by Alexandru Gabor, deal or contain interdisciplinary elements between religious aspects and Political sciences.

Furthermore, our joint efforts, which produced good results in a short period of time, made by persons coming from such different areas as technical sciences and political sciences prove that the Romanian society (at least the academic one) has come to a point where is no longer possible to dissociate values just because they belong to different ‘tribes’.

Convinced that the present volume and the foregoing conference will lead to a new stage in the evolution of what the Strategic Project 36310 calls ‘The National Academic Research Community’, and to a national research

development - part of the Romanian Social Political Research Survey (Activity 8.4), on behalf of the Organizing Committee we wish all a fruitful participation and an useful reading of the analyses presented during the conference!

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