EAEPE 2023 Conference
Power and Empowerment in times of multiple crisis
The 35th Annual EAEPE Conference
13-15 September, 2023

Call for papers for Research Area I: Comparative political economy

The theme of this year’s EAEPE conference falls directly into the subjects of Research Area I, which focus on economic and political dynamics of contemporary capitalist systems, and in particular on their institutional systems. In line with the theme of the EAEPE conference, Research Area I (Comparative political economy) invites submissions related to the relationships between existing political and economic powers and empowerment of the States and civil society. The economic, social and political situations we are living now clearly provide a broad scope of potential reflections.

The current economic and political landscape is shaped by strong economic, social and political challenges, of a scope not seen for years. The war in Ukraine imposes its inescapable consequences (rise of fuel and gas prices, breaking down of global supply chains, migrations of millions of Ukrainians). European societies live under the shock of inflation and decreasing revenues and also the potential risk of unemployment. Additionally, the States recognise a need to develop their armies.

These mostly short-term pressures distract the attention of societies from longer-term challenges, such as climate change, the growing power of the globalised economy and also the quality of democracy. There is a high risk of sacrificing the fight against climate change in order to solve shorter-term problems. This has already been observed during the COVID pandemic as some countries (for instance in Eastern and Central Europe) favoured higher mortality rates in order to suffer from a milder recession and limited unemployment. This choice was accepted by those societies, and it shows their preferences.

We would like to discuss in the panels of Research Area I Comparative Political Economy the impact of short term contemporary challenges on political and social long term choices.

The attitudes of different social groups to the contemporary challenges are differentiated. Younger citizens are more sensitive to climate change, because they will live in deteriorated conditions, contrary to older citizens. But the demographic situation, with the growing proportion of the elder, does not enable empowerment of the society to reshape the structure of the market.

We call for papers in comparative political economy which will enhance the understanding of the attitudes and choices of States and social agents with respect to the following problems, but other broadly related issues may also be addressed:

- How does the attitude of societies, and of their constitutive social groups, evolve with respect to long term challenges (climate change, democracy, health, social inequalities)? To what degree are societies ready to sacrifice their short-term wellbeing to solve long-term problems?
- What are the relationships between the evolution of social attitudes, social mobilisations, and changes in public policies, in particular economic and social policies (eg. with respect to the labour market, pensions, inflation, international competition)? Through which mechanisms and under which conditions can movements of empowerment influence public policies?
- What may be the influence of the movements of empowerment on the future shape of democracy?
- Do societies display any appetite to wisely reshape control of the market and its big, multinational, participants?
- What institutional instruments could help us absorb (temporarily or in the long run for) migrations from Ukraine? How do societies feel about these migrations, are they perceived as a cost and a nuisance, or as a chance for the labour market and for demographic growth?
- If we think about the necessary transition of the current institutional and structural setting of our economies and societies in order to answer these contemporary challenges, what drivers of change can we identify or recommend?

In line with the general scope of this Research area, we also welcome papers which address similarities and differences in institutional systems across countries, and/or study their evolution over time, in countries of the global North and/or of the global South.

Abstract Submission: Related abstracts (300-750 words) should be submitted electronically on the conference website before 1st April 2023:

https://eaep.org/?page=events&side=annual_conference&sub=abstract_submission

Authors are reminded to select the option Research Area I

Sent on behalf of coordinators of Research Area I: Caroline Vincensini and Maria Lissowska

For additional information:
lisso@sgh.waw.pl

caroline.vincensini@ens-paris-saclay