

Southern Europe, New Southern Europe or PIGS?

Friday, 7 May 2010

Aud. Afonso de Barros – ISCTE-IUL

Organizers:

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Riccardo Marchi (Institute of Social Science, University of Lisbon – ICS-UL)

The concept of “Southern Europe” is widely used to distinguish it from that of “Western Europe”. Southern Europe is held to be characterized by «distance from unresponsiveness to ordinary citizens; its frequent use of police and administrative coercion to ‘maintain order’; its ‘social-safety-valve’ function, providing employment (largely along clientelistic and/or patronage lines)» (Diamandouros and Gunther; 2006: 338).

However, this is a particularly elusive concept. Diamandouros himself states that there are few common elements between Southern European Countries and therefore introduces a new concept: the “New Southern Europe”. He states that, “There are [however] many important differences among these countries that we must conclude that [there are] no single ‘model’ of Southern European State that can be regarded as a valid description of structures and practices today”.

The concept of Southern Europe seems to be related to a specific idea of democracy. Hence, comparison is usually made between Southern European models of Democracy and Anglo-Saxon models, which are based on conflict.

It is important therefore to discuss whether there indeed exists an ideal type of democracy and whether it is advantageous for Southern European Countries to follow it. On the other hand, it is equally important to assess whether the choice between different models of democracy enables these countries to reconstruct heavily fragmented frameworks.

By considering different scholarly perspectives, this workshop intends to evaluate the type and quality of democracy in contemporary Southern Europe.

Programme

9.00-9.30 Opening Session

José Manuel Leite Viegas (President of the Department of Sociology, ISCTE-IUL)

9.30-11.00 Session I

Piero Ignazi (University of Bologna) – *The Nordic Breeze of a South European Country: role and perspective of the Lega Nord*

Catherine Moury (CIES/ISCTE-IUL) – *Italian Coalitions and Electoral Promises: Assessing the democratic performance of the Prodi I and Berlusconi II governments in comparative perspective*

11.00-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-12.45 Session II

Duncan McDonnell (University of Turin) – *Italian Apples and Southern European Oranges? Exceptionalism and Facile Comparisons*

André Freire (CIES/ISCTE-IUL) – *Right and Left in the new Democracies and Established ones: Southern Europe in a comparative perspective*

14.15-15.45 Session III

Ana Belchior (CIES/ISCTE-IUL) – *Assessing MPs Perceptions on Voters' Ideological Positions: The Portuguese Case*

Riccardo Marchi (ICS-UL) – *Changes in the Extreme-right Subcultures: Some reflections on South Europe from the Portuguese case*

Goffredo Adinolfi (CIES/ISCTE-IUL) – *Patterns of Political Recruitment in Southern Europe: From authoritarianism to democracy*

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-17.30 Session IV

Marina Costa Lobo (ICS-UL) - *Leader Effects and Weak Partisanship in Southern Europe*

António Costa Pinto (ICS-UL) – *Authoritarian Legacies, Politics of the Past and Quality of Democracy in Southern Europe*

17.30-18.30 Conclusion remarks

Alfio Mastropaolo (University of Turin)

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