

Hybrid Workshop*

Reconfiguring Social Economy Institutions: Cultural Embeddedness, Property Transformations, and Variables of Spatial Governance in the Long Run

Insights from Transitional, Crisis, and Expansionary Periods

Venue: Academy of Athens, Main Library, Panepistimiou 28

17-12-2025, 10.00-15.00 Greek local time (EET)

Organiser: Catherine Brégianni, Research Director, Academy of Athens//Modern Greek History Research Center

Associated Member CRH-EHESS-GrHEco

Workshop in the framework of the projects:

Interwar Greece and the International Financial Centers: Economic Dynamics and Entanglements, held by C. Brégianni, Academy of Athens/Modern Greek History Research Center <https://www.academyofathens.gr/en/basic/dimosionomikes-parametroi-toy-ellinikoy-mesopolemoy-h-ellada-kai-ta-diethni-hrimatopistotika>

Systèmes monétaires transnationaux dans l'Europe de l'entre-deux-guerres et le « pivot » de la Grande Dépression. Modèles de gouvernamentalité par la Société des Nations, held by C. Brégianni, CRH-EHESS/ Groupe d'Histoire Economique GrHEco

Description:

This workshop -being a follow-up to the Session "Generating Institutions of Social Economy. Comparative Insights in the Long Run – Potential Challenges for Sustainable Societies", presented at the World Economic History Congress 2025, Lund University (<https://wehc2025.com>)- examines the theoretical and methodological intersections of social economy institutions as governance “models” at the regional level. It focuses on transitional, crisis, and economic expansion periods. The workshop emphasizes the spatial and multiscale embeddedness of cooperatives and other associative forms of labour and production, highlighting their role as networked institutions that organize both economic and social space. A main objective is to explore how these institutions interact with cultural norms, religious habitus, and evolving property rights linked to productive structures during periods of societal transformation. Emphasis will be given

* Invite-only event.

to contexts of economic asymmetry, where disparities between regions, sectors, or social groups influence institutional performance. In this context, the use or removal of common resources in historical perspective underlines the different phases of the market mechanism's evolution, in intersection to the rural change and the transition from communal and associative practices to monetarized economy (cf. Thomson 1980 etc.).

Objectives:

Drawing on historical and contemporary examples, participants are invited to examine how cooperative organizations mediate local-global relationships and restructure rural and semi-urban spaces. The workshop will explore their historical dependence on state mechanisms and the conditions under which they responded to crises, e.g. provisioning urban populations during WWII. In this respect, particular attention will be given to the League of Nations initiatives that promoted cooperatives as a means of integrating refugee populations during the interwar period -a period in which demographic engineering and refugee settlement prompted corresponding forms of financial engineering implemented by specialized LoN bodies (Brégianni, 2023).

The workshop situates these institutions within broader economic, cultural, and political frameworks, highlighting the impact of spatial heterogeneity, regional disparities, and global governance structures on cooperative performance. Special attention is given to how cooperative and social economy institutions operate in asymmetrical economic contexts, asking whether these institutions can mitigate inequalities and provide territorial anchoring amid uneven development.

Through an interdisciplinary lens, the workshop encourages critical analysis of the long-term trajectories of cooperative economy institutions, their capacity to address structural inequalities and their role in territorial planning, spatial justice, and sustainable development. Discussions will integrate historical, political-economic, cultural, and religious perspectives, as well as the evolution of property rights and their connection to productive structures, to foster a nuanced understanding of the performativity of social economy institutions across multiple scales. A key hypothesis under investigation is whether the efficiency of cooperative institutions contributes to inclusive socioeconomic development.

Language: English, French, Greek

Schedule

Invited Contributors

I. Emerging forms of collective labor and production

Nikos Thedorakopoulos (Heidelberg University), “Economy and Associative Forms of labor in Hellenistic Egypt”

Taxiarchis Koliass (University of Athens), “Collective Economic Practices in Byzantine Rural and Urban Contexts”

II. Atypical collaborative institutions in Early Modern Era: Continuities, Discontinuities and Transitions

Vassilis Adrahtas (Western Sydney University & University of New South Wales), “The Islamic Impact on Formations and Institutions of Social Economy in the Early Modern Period”

Antonis Antoniou (General State Archives [retired]), “Informal Cooperation and Commons in Large Landholding during the Late Ottoman Era: Transition and Transformation in Thessaly”

Pablo F. Luna (CRH-EHESS-GrHEco-Erhimor), “De possession à propriété, dans le monde andin méridional”

III. Between Private and Collective: Hybrid Welfare Forms during 19th-Century Modernity

Christos Desyllas, Hellenic Open University, “Local Formation of Social Economy Institutions and Regional Governance in the Modern History of the Ionian Islands”.

Constadinos Doukakis (Neapolis Paphos University, Cyprus), “Preluding Welfare State. From Workers’ Associations to State Institutions. Greece, end of 19th–beginning of 20th century”

Emmanuel Prunux (Banque de France), “Early Welfare Practices in Financial Institutions: the Case of Banque de France in the Early 19th Century”

IV. Social economy in times of crisis

Jurgen Nautz (Vienna University [retired] & Hochschule Fulda, U. of Applied Sciences), “Structural and Legal Development and Transition of the Cooperative System in Germany, 1918 to 1945”.

Catherine Brégianni (Academy of Athens), “International Institutions and Local Governmental Models: A Spatial Approach of Rural Cooperatives during the Refugee Settlement in Northern Greece (1923-1930)”

Panayiotis Diamadis (Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies), “Efforts of Economic Reconstruction through Cooperative Forms of Production based on the Photographic Archive of George Devine Treloar”

Manolis Arkolakis (Hellenic Open University), “*Black Earth* [1952]: Cinematic Representations of Commons Disintegration in an Insular Community”

Nicos Stravelakis (University of Athens, Department of Economics), “The Interplay Between Market Mechanisms and Environmental Objectives: Exploring the relevance of social economy institutions”

List of invited contributors (in order of presentations)

Nikos Theodorakopoulos

Taxiarchis Kolias

Pablo F. Luna

Christos Desyllas

Constadinos Doukakis

Emmanuel Prunux

Panayiotis Diamadis

Vassilis Adrahtas

Antonis Antoniou

Jurgen Nautz

Catherine Brégianni

Manolis Arkolakis

Nicos Stravelakis

Invited Participants

Aykiz Dogan (Université de Rouen/chaire EQAM)

George Koutzakiotis (National Hellenic Research Foundation/ Institute of Historical Research)

Technical Assistance

Theofanis Salappas, Georgios Tsiplakos (Academy of Athens/Technical Service Departement)

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