



Conference

Philoxenia, Xenophobia and Violence

4 November 2011

In Greece, the deep economic and political crisis, the growing unemployment rate and the absence of social policy in relation to migration are often arguments for targeting and discriminating migrants. Regularly violent events against migrants take place in the centre of Athens, police action against migrants is violating, in several cases, their constitutional and human rights, and concentration camps have been proposed as a solution to deal with unwanted migrants. Similar attitudes are encountered also in other European countries, most of them are reinforcing their migration strategies as well. While ideas of philoxenia and receiving guests have been prominent in Greek discourse, the foundations of this relationship between host and migrant are deeply hierarchical. By taking as a starting point the cultural notions of philoxenia, this symposium will be examining various approaches towards cultural difference and “otherness” with a focus on the forms of violence experienced by migrants. Questions that inform our discussion are: how the communities of various migrants view such processes and how they experience philoxenia, xenophobia or violence? What are the forms of this violence and how they become expressed and manifested?

PHILOXENIA aims to inform our audience about the life experiences of migrants especially in times of crisis, the State migration politics and their relationship to IMF and EU and the views of these strategies from various cultural perspectives. By bringing together social anthropologists, sociologists and migration scholars we expect to discuss contemporary qualitative research in Greece as well as in other Mediterranean or European areas in a comparative perspective.

Central questions (with a regional focus on Greece and Europe in general) to be addressed are:

- How is philoxenia conceived in social and State actors?
- How migration is experienced in times of crisis?
- What types of violence do migrants experience in contemporary Greece and Europe?
- What are the shifting meanings of xenophobia and how do they change?

This symposium is organized by Dr Tryfon Bampilis (PhD Leiden University).



Programme

- 09.30 – 10.00 Registration.
- 10.00 – 10.15 Welcome by Dr Christiane Tytgat – Director NIA.
Dr Tryfon Bampilis, NIA & Leiden University.
- Introduction*
- 10.15 – 11.00 Prof. Jane Cowan, University of Sussex.
- Session 1: Philoxenia and Otherness*
- 11.00 – 11.40 Dr Pinelopi Topali, University of the Aegean, *Kinship and racism: Limits in the spectrum of Greek 'hospitality'*.
- 12.10 – 12.50 Dr Katerina Rozakou, University of the Aegean, *Constant guests: Afghan refugees on the move.*
- 12.50 – 13.30 Dr Gerasimos Kakoliris, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, *Jacques Derrida on unconditional and conditional hospitality.*
- Session 2: Immigration and the Burden of Integration*
- 15.20 – 16.00 Dr Dimitris Christopoulos, Panteion University, *Migrants within the Greek political community: Does crises make a difference?*
- 16.00 – 16.40 Dr Flip Lindo, University of Amsterdam, *Amoral nationalism and the law of hospitality. Dutch reactions to a minority's aspirations for religious homemaking.*
- 16.40 – 17.20 Dr Giorgos Tsimouris, Panteion University, *The task of critical educator in the era of globalized immigration: A view from the European periphery.*
- Session 3: Xenophobia and Manifestations of Violence*
- 17.50 – 18.30 Dr Dimitris Dalakoglou, University of Sussex, *The xenophobic city.*
- 18.30 – 19.10 Dr Jutta Bacas, Academy of Athens, *Immigrant children behind bars: The detention of children and unaccompanied minors in Greek holding centers for irregular migrants.*
- 19.10 – 20.00 End Discussion and Conclusions.