A Consortium on Social Movement Studies

(Cosmos)

Inaugural speech
By
Sidney Tarrow

“Occupying America: Lessons for Social Movement Theory”

Chaired by Donatella della Porta
Welcome address by Laszlo Bruszt
On April 30 2012, 3-5pm
in the Theatre

The Consortium on Social Movement Studies (Cosmos) is part of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the European University Institute. Focusing on social movements as part of broader contentious politics, it promotes theoretically-driven empirical analyses on forms, dimensions, causes and impacts of social movements, in established democracies as well as authoritarian regimes. Particular attention is given to social movements as promoters of democratization processes.

Cosmos aims at raising funds for research projects on social movements. In the spirit of methodological pluralism, it welcomes qualitative and quantitative approaches to undertake empirical investigations. Cross-national comparative project are complemented by analyses of transnational phenomena.

Building upon a cross-disciplinary tradition in social movement studies, Cosmos also aims at increased cooperation among the the fields of political science and sociology, as well as anthropology, history, psychology, philosophy, law, economics and area studies.

In order to improve synergies and networking among researchers in social movement studies, Cosmos organizes conferences, colloquia, public lectures, seminar series and other public events that will bring together expertise from the EUI as well as from other universities. It welcomes research students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars from any discipline interested in the Centre’s themes. It also aims at facilitating the communicating of research findings on the mentioned topics to the academia, the public sphere and policy makers.

This conference is co-funded by the European Research Council in the framework of the Mobilizing for Democracy project.