



*With the support of COSMOS – Centre on Social Movement Studies*



## **Contentious Politics And Space: Constraints And Opportunities**

**WORKSHOP  
29-30 MAY 2014**

**SALA DEL CAPITOLO, BADIA FIESOLANA**

*Conveners:* Daniela Chironi (EUI) and Anna Subirats (EUI)  
*Sponsors:* Donatella della Porta (EUI) and Lorenzo Bosi (EUI)

### **CONTENTS**

This workshop will address the main theoretical and methodological aspects of the relationship between space and contentious politics, which has been a fast growing sub-field in social sciences since the 1990s. Following the critical geography approach, the workshop will start from the assumption that space is produced by social and political action rather than ontologically given. We will discuss the different ways in which the concept of space has been conceptualized and operationalized in different disciplines and how socio-spatial thinking has been incorporated in the study of social movements. In particular, we will analyse how space represents both a constraint and an opportunity for the constitution of social movements and how social movements strategically approach and produce space. We have invited speakers from different disciplines, such as geography, sociology, political science, and architecture, and scholars who have analysed some of the most significant and recent movements that have based their actions on the defence of a common space, such as the Italian No TAV, the Spanish Indignados, and the Turkish Gezi Park movements.

### **SCHEDULE AND PRESENTATIONS**

**DAY 1 - THURSDAY, 29 MAY**

**OPENING SPEECH**

10 – 10.15AM

**Donatella della Porta** (Political Sociology, EUI)  
"The *Space Turn* in Social Movement Studies"

**MORNING SESSION**

10.15-11.15AM

**Theoretical Approaches: Conceptualizing Spatial Relations in Social Movements**

**Walter J. Nicholls** (Sociology, University of Amsterdam)  
"Conceptualizing the Spatialities of Social Movements"

**Camillo Boano** (Development Planning Unit, University College London)  
"The Emancipatory Space: Rethinking Space and its Production with Agamben and Ranciere"

11.15-11.45AM  
Coffee Break

11.45AM-1PM  
**Discussion: Theories, Concepts, and Practices**

1-2.30PM  
Lunch break

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

2.30-4PM  
**Round table: Linking Theory with Empirical Research**

Helge **Jensen** (EUI), Joldon **Kutmanaliev** (EUI), Markos **Vogiatzoglou** (EUI),  
Marion **Lecoquierre** (EUI), Hugo Joel **Leal** (EUI), Francis Patrick **O'Connor** (EUI),  
Christian **Spatscheck** (Social Work and Social Pedagogy, Bremen University)

4-4.30PM  
**Conclusions**

### **DAY 2 - FRIDAY, 30 MAY**

#### **MORNING SESSION**

10-11:20AM  
**Space as a Common: Case Studies. No TAV, Indignados, and Gezi Park Movements**

**Donatella della Porta** (Political Sociology, EUI)  
"Voices of the Valley, Voices of the Straits: How Protest Creates Communities"

**Francesca Vaglio** (Political Geography, University of Turin)  
"A Geographical Approach to the No TAV Movement: Territory Inside and Beyond the Conflict"

**Viviana Asara** (Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, ICTA-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)  
"Indignant Autonomous Geographies in Barcelona"

**Kivanc Atak** (SPS, EUI) and **Semih Çelik** (HEC, EUI)  
"Bringing the 'Gezi Spirit' Down to Earth: Meanings of Space, Class, and Politics  
in and around the Gezi Park"

11.20-11.45AM  
Coffee break

11.45AM-1PM  
**Discussion: Empirical Findings and Generalizations**

1-2.30PM  
Lunch break

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

2.30-3.30PM  
**Neighbourhood Resistances and Urban Riots: Chile and Paris**

**Cathy Schneider** (School of International Service, American University)  
"Communist Resistance and 'Liberated Neighbourhoods' in Pinochet's Chile"

**Michalis Moutselos** (Politics, Princeton University)  
"Neighbourhoods Against the State? Determinants of Anti-State Violent Protest in France"

3.30-4PM  
**Conclusions**

#### **Requirements for receiving credits**

In order to get the credits (10), PhD researchers are required to attend at the entire workshop, participate in the discussions, and write 1,000 word commentary on one of the sections.