



SPS Conference 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2013-2014

## AGON AND AGORÁ: POLITICS AND POLITICAL COMMUNITY IN THE CITY

Organised by Rainer Bauböck (SPS)

In collaboration with Matthew Hoye (MWF) and Fran Meissner (MWF)

**Thursday, 12 June 2014 (9:30 – 18:15)**

Theatre Room, Badia Fiesolana  
Via dei Roccettini 9  
IT-San Domenico di Fiesole

Please register with: [Monika.Rzemieniecka@EUI.eu](mailto:Monika.Rzemieniecka@EUI.eu)

### ■ INTRODUCTION

Theories of the state have always been spell-bound by various abstractions, be it the state's monopoly of violence, the monolithic claims of sovereignty, the political homogeneity of the nation, or the unifying will of the sovereign. Hobbes raised these flags, and various permutations of those statist concepts and ideas still abound today.

The purpose of this conference is to refocus on the city. The conference will explore the development of theories of the city as a political space in early modern times, following the rise of the modern nation state and in contemporary contexts of globalization and supranational governance. The conference will bring together scholars working in the fields of intellectual history, political theory, urban studies, sociology, law, and political economy in a dialogue across disciplinary boundaries.

This conference will focus on three topics corresponding to three historical periods: (1) The fraught politics regarding the status of the city in the early-modern period at the moment of the emergent sovereign state; (2) the city as a political space in the era of state- and nation-building; (3) the role of the contemporary city as the political space where political membership and civil society are rearticulated through migration and social protest movements.

The conference brings together an international group of scholars who present new or recent works on their respective topics.

## ■ PROGRAMME

9:30 – 10:00 *Welcome Coffee*

10:00 – 12:15 **Freedom and the City in Early Modern Europe**

**Opening Keynote by Peter Stacey** (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Representation in the Renaissance **res publica***

*Discussion*

**Anna Becker** (University of Basel)

*Bodin on **civitas** and **res publica***

**Matthew Hoyer** (Max Weber Fellow, EUI)

*Althusius, Hobbes, and the Freedom of the City*

Chair: **Brian Olesen** (Department of History, EUI)

12:15 – 13:15 *Lunch*

13:15 – 15:00 **Governing Cities (17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century)**

**Stéphane Van Damme** (Department of History, EUI)

*Governing the Metropolitan Past, a Transnational Perspective*

**Patrick Le Galès** (Science Po, Paris)

*The Politics of Governance*

**Warren Magnusson** (University of Victoria)

*Local Self-Government and the Right to the City*

Chair: **Jozefien De Bock** (STAM – City Museum Ghent)

15:00 – 15:30 *Coffee*

15:30 – 18:15 **Migration and Social Movements**

**Rainer Bauböck** (Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI)

*If States Were Like Cities, If Cities Were Like States.*

*Embedded and Disembedded Visions of Urban Citizenship*

**Fran Meissner** (Max Weber Fellow, EUI)

*The Legal Status Paradox: Regulating to Control whilst Creating Everyday Contingencies in the City*

**Darshan Vigneswaran** (University of Amsterdam)

Beyond Sovereign Territoriality: Cities as the New Locus of Population Control

**Donatella Della Porta** (Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI)

Urban Movements in the Great Recession

Chair: **Rutger Birnie** (Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI)

18:30 – 19:45 **Closing Keynote and Doctor *Honoris Causa* Lecture**

**Saskia Sassen** (Columbia University)

Complex and Incomplete: The Possibility of Making in Cities

Chair: **Rainer Bauböck**



20:00 **Dinner** (by invitation)