

Comparative Political Theory Workshop:

Critical Political Thought in the Age of Declining Empires: African, Asian, Islamic, and Russian Perspectives

Organisation: Faculty of Philosophy, in collaboration with Globalisation Studies Groningen

Venue: University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Oude Boteringestraat 38

Time: April 25 and 26, 2016

This two-day workshop intends to strengthen the budding interdisciplinary and international research community in Comparative Political Theory and Intellectual History. More specifically, the workshop aims to help incubate collaborative research and instructional projects. It will focus on a critical period for the evolution of political thought in various parts of the world when age-old empires were confronted with European power and ideas during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. How did creative intellectuals reinterpret and reframe their own traditions in the face of power and ideas coming from overseas?

Comparative Political Theory brings together scholars studying intellectual developments and interactions or encounters from the point of view of a global intellectual landscape, rather than as isolated traditions or comparing only 'the West' and 'the Rest'. By studying political ideas and practices in diverse contexts and traditions, we hope to identify differences, affinities, similarities, and changing trends in the elaboration of key political notions such as 'state', 'citizen', 'nation', or 'constitutionalism'.

The workshop will feature scholars from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, and Turkey, and is open to guests. It is organised in connection with Vasileios Syros's NWO Visiting Fellowship at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen, and Prof. Toru Takenaka's research stay at Groningen. The ultimate objective of the event is to connect our research agendas and to identify avenues for further collaborative actions.



Registration (max. 25 participants): p.boele@rug.nl

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PROGRAMME

Time: April 25 and 26, 2016

Monday April 25		
10.30	Welcome by Prof. Lodi Nauta, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy University of Groningen Explanation of the program and logistics by Pieter Boele van Hensbroek	
11.00 -11.45	Vasileios Syros (Academy of Finland)	"New Methods and Approaches to Comparative Political Theory"
11.45 – 12.30	Nedim Nomer (Sabancı University, Istanbul)	"Turkish Political Thought: An Emergent Field of Comparative Research"
12.30	LUNCH	
13.30 – 14.15	Chryssi Sidiropoulou (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)	"Was Ibn Rushd an Inspiration for Enlightenment Medieval Andalusia and for later Political Thinkers?"
14.15 – 15.00	Gerrit Steunebrink (University of Nijmegen)	"The problems of the Implementation of Modern European Political Concepts in the Ottoman Empire and the Nation State Turkey"
15.00	TEA BREAK	
15.30 – 16.15	Nick Tagoulis (University of Athens)	"Pletho's Reception in the Greek Independence (1821) and His Influence on the Formation National Consciousness in Modern Greece"
16.15 – 17.00	Jacob de Roover (University of Gent)	"Comparative Political Theory and the Caste System in Colonial India"
17.00	DRINKS & DINNER Lee Garden, Dutch-Style Chinese Restaurant (Nieuwe Ebbingestraat 48)	
Tuesday April 26		
9.00 – 9.45	Toru Takenaka (Osaka University)	"Patterns of Response to Western Universalism in Modern Japan: An Ideology Transfer Approach"
9.45 – 10.30	Jeremy Kleidosty (Academy of Finland; and Jyvaskyla University)	"Imperial Dreams and Nightmares: An Assessment of Institutionalism and Governance in a Global Age" <i>(Note: Kleidosty had to cancel; we try skype presentation)</i>
10.30	COFFEE BREAK	
11.00 – 11.45	Thierry DiCostanzo (University of Strasbourg)	"'Universal history' in India at the End of the Victorian Era: the Case of Romesh Chunder DUTT"
11.45 – 12.30	Holger Zapf (University of Göttingen)	"Arab Intellectuals and Political discourse"
12.30	LUNCH	
13.30 – 14.15	Natalia Daniilkina (University of Groningen)	"Russian political thought in the late 19th – early 20th centuries: Facts, Theories and Myths about Progress"
14.15 – 15.00	Evert van de Zweerde (University of Nijmegen)	"Patterns and Trends in Early Modern Russian Political Thought. The Political Philosophy of the Vekhovtsy"
15.00 – 15.45	Pieter Boele van Hensbroek (University of Groningen)	"Re-Imagining Indigenous Traditions: Gold Coast Intellectuals in Late 19 th -century Calling for Internal Revolution"
15.45 - 17.00	Discussing and planning of follow-up events, networking activities, grant applications	
17.00	DRINKS	
18.00	GREEK DINNER AT HOME Chief cook Nick Tagoulis in Selwerderstraat 30, 9717 GL Groningen	