



UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN



Observatory
on Combating
Discrimination

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION's Research Committee on Sociotechnics and Sociological Practice (ISA RC26) and the Working Group on Global-Local Relations (ISA WG01)

in cooperation with the Sociology of Work and Employment Lab, Sociology Department, University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Greece and its partner, the Observatory on Combating Discrimination, Greek Center of Social Research (EKKE)

organize a Conference supported by the Cooperative Bank of Chania on:

Local Democratic Challenges: Environment, Inequalities and Resilient Cultural Mediation in Fragile / Transitional Communities

Sept. 9-11, 2019, Conference Center, Cooperative Bank of Chania, Chania, Crete

The Theme:

Public policies are facing dramatic challenges on issues of local democratic participation. During the past few decades the nonprofit sector and local civil society organizations, as social economy organizations, have been involved directly into the politics of local and endogenous development. The crisis of representational democracy also gave an impetus to local innovations, where combined and even development has become the new *autarky* issue expressing also the power of *place-topos and its people*.

Participative democracy has become almost mainstream in public discourses and practices while issues of empowerment are also in place to couple those participative trends.

We are interested in relating participation to a socio-technical process whereby local community cohesion issues emerge as dominant forms impressed by globalization forces on the one side, but also by new knowledge forms, such as

info-technology, which require symmetries in the manner of holistic approaches to be co-founded at local level.

Territoriality becomes important as local labor needs to organize new forms of organization where info-technology becomes key for bio sciences, including services such as, labor mobility. *Tourism, culinary culture and gaming are cases in point.* However, the key issue remains the social reproduction issues which are needed by the community. A dynamic *knowledge based trusted network* akin to an *Orchestra* maybe the key to communal sustainability. This requires local partnership and trusted **political mediation**, from the bottom, to reconcile divisions and **galvanize** the community.

We are seeking papers whereby different forms of participation, inclusion/exclusion issues, empowerment, cooperation, define forms of **social and rural development** at local level in order to bridge “separate” and often conflictual political communities of interest. The problems of fragile and rural communities are of interest here.

How do power relationships allow for inclusion and how such partnerships can become more effective tools for sustainable local governance? What is the of sociological practice mediation and how such mediation can be recognized technicity, as management?

We welcome papers focused on these issues leading to the overall consideration of the role of social capital, social economy and its role on local public (general interest) policy formation.

Why Chania:

Chania is a fascinating heritage city, a pioneer in building community-based enterprises, from as early as the 60's. One such Institution is our Host the Cooperative Bank of Chania. Chania faces current challenges that demand innovative ways for enhancing empowerment and participation. We will have the opportunity to see some of these challenges that require an emphasis on the development of its cultural institutions with the building of knowledge alliances with creative institutions at local, regional and international level.

Registration fee for the conference is 100 E for ISA RC26 members and 150 E for non-members. For students the fee is 50 E. Please Register by June 1.

Registration will cover organisational costs and will include conference material, a conference reception on the 9th of Sept. and a Gala Dinner on the 10th of Sept.

Venue:

Conference Center of the Cooperative Bank of Chania, 28-32, Eleutheriou VENIZELOU, 73100, Chania, Crete



[http:// www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences](http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences)

The Conference Center is in the Center of the City of Chania across the Municipal Agora (Market) next to many hotels and five minutes from the old venetian city and harbor of Chania.

www.chania.eu/index.php/eu/

www.explorecrete.com

roaminghistorian.com/2015/08/07/chania-tour/

Organiser: Prof. George O. Tsobanoglou, Sociology of Labour Laboratory, University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Vice-President, Research Committee RC26 Sociotechnics – Sociological Practice, International Sociological Association.

Send your abstract (up to 250 words) along with your coordinates (Name, Prof. Association and a brief bio - up to 50 words) by June 1, 2019 to the following addresses:

Email: g.tsobanoglou@soc.aegean.gr and necoud@otenet.gr

Chania in September is a popular destination and you are all advised to book as early as possible your accommodation. Western Crete is rich with a superb landscape and we will be organizing a day trip to **Gramvousa** on Thursday the 12th of Sept.



Old Town



The Market