

## **International Workshop**

# **CONTEMPORARY ANTI-WAR MOBILIZATIONS Agonistic Engagement Within Social Movement Networks**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Yannis Balampanidis**

**University of Paris 8, Saint Dennis (France)**

### ***Trends of Contemporary Social Movements in Greece***

The research part of this work constitutes an attempt of mapping the landscape of collective action in Greece today. Through a field research, with a number of interviews with persons that are engaged and activated in political parties, trade unions and organisations of political and social action, we try to impress the contemporary tendencies, the transformations and the ankylosis of the Greek case, characterized by considerable particularities. A peculiar case, as it appears to be in a fragile balance between the traditional model of collective action and the new elements that emerge together with the new social movements afterwards 1970 in Europe, constituting a new paradigm of collective contentious action.

Therefore, in order to study the quality, the levels and the dynamics of the fragile balance that we describe, we attempt to examine a series of critical parameters, such as the processes of politicisation, the relation between individual and collectivity, the starting lines, the ways and the investment of values concerning the engagement of young people who activate today in forms of political and social intervention. We also examine the collective participatory processes in the spaces of action, inside and outside the institutional frames, as well as the complex and dialectical relation, articulation and interaction between parties, trade unions and social movements. Finally, we try to approach the morphology and the content of a new radicalism, expressed in the form of a “pragmatist idealism”, its thematic repertoire as well as the wider ideological orientations of the modern collective action in Greece.

We thus realise that numerous elements of the traditional model survive, widely diffused or in concrete cases, however, at the same time people build new cycles of contention, construct social networks and participatory structures, breaking and simultaneously extending the previous shared meanings and frames of action, exploring new forms, ways and fields of collective intervention. If this ascertainment does not permit the certainty that a new paradigm of social movements in Greece is today solidified, it reflects however an important convergence with the newer tendencies, a convergence that we should rather consider as a process of transformation in permanent development.