Antonis Broumas, Greece

Panel coordinator: Miriam Lang

Habrá traducción inglés-español en el Panel.

Abstract: In times of crisis, as today, the contradictions of capital – state formations come to the fore. The high rates of structural unemployment push a large part of society at the margins of the wage system and the world of commodities. The disintegration of the welfare state leaves behind a desert of unmet social needs and desires. The growing incapacitation of nation states to regulate the economic power of global capital and address its social repercussions adds to the democratic deficit of representative democracies. Within this huge gap of social (re)production the constituent power of social movements emerges as a resurgent force with the potential to address these needs and desires and, correspondingly, shape alternative forms of life in common. Movements tend to employ instituent practices and to acquire constitutive characteristics when they set up the material foundations of their collective autonomy, i.e. when they establish socially reproductive commons, democratically (re)producing forms of life that respond to basic needs of the participants to the commons ('commoners'). In this sense, how have Greek social movements responded to the raging crisis in the country, what have been their limitations and how have they related with the radical left SYRIZA's race to state power? How should progressive governments relate to autonomous movements in order to unleash the potential of the latter for social emancipation? Is a dual power between autonomous movements and leftist governments possible as a socio-historic formation amidst the crisis to counter capitalist domination? In this context, which experiences are drawn from Latin American progressive governments and how could they help with the revival of the Left in Europe?