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Call for Papers for Vol.8, No.1, 2023

Special issue, edited by

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Deadline: Abstracts by October 16, papers by December 31, 2022

The European Integration - Limits and Borders

The process of European unification is an uneven one, taking place on several levels. Its effects and side-effects are equally diverse. There are obviously many different theoretical perspectives as well, among them historical-comparative social research which has empirically investigated processes of polity building, both successful and failed ones. A territorial approach in particular may be helpful to gain a “longer” view of the dynamics at work.

From this perspective, border construction and border control are pivotal for center formation (Rokkan 1999; Bartolini 2005; Ferrera 2005; Duina & Mérand 2020). This includes strengthening the control mechanisms of outside borders and the dismantling and differentiation of borders within a polity. Resolving internal and external border issues thus would be seen as precondition to the evolution of some sort of community and the expansion of internal boundaries of social solidarity.

The border/boundary perspective may serve as a springboard to probing current predicaments of European integration. Ensuing questions probe consequences of the removal of mobility barriers in the internal market (a), the strengthening of external borders and the construction of organized European solidarity (c). The special issue invites to look into all three dimensions. A few examples of issues at stake may suffice:

(a) The single market and the free movement of persons are among the community pillars of the European Union. Yet questions are increasingly being raised about the single European market and its promise to lifting all boats. European economic integration has been addressed as a possible cause for deteriorating work-conditions (Heidenreich 2022). At the same time, rulings of European court of justices continue to favor a very liberal interpretation of the four market freedoms at the expense of social regulation (Schmidt 2018).



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(b) Border issues and asylum policies in and of the European Union and its member states have been controversial from the beginning. While individual entries into the EU territory are still controlled by the member states, the European border police Frontex has been rapidly expanding, notwithstanding the fact that the territorial outline of the EU remain undetermined.

(c) In contrast to national state building, the European Union has only limited means of social membership construction at its disposal. While the construction of organized European solidarity has recently made great strides (NextGenerationEU), findings on transnational European notions of belonging remain contradictory (Immerfall et al. 2010; Kuhn et al. 2022). The compatibility of national welfare states and the inclusion of internal migrants remain contentious issues. Social benefits entitlements are of particular importance in view of the large and persistent social and economic differences between the member states.

The special issue invites contributions on all three dimensions. Examples of questions that could be addressed in a paper include the following:

(a) regarding internal border removal:

Do labor market opportunities in the Single Market encourage risk taking? How do social and biographical risks of migration decisions fare in contrast to migration from third countries? How do limited access to social benefits of EU migrants impinge upon working conditions?

(b) regarding strengthening external borders:

How does the expansion of the European border police and coast guard relate to national prerogatives and sovereignty? What is the impact of the communitarization of asylum and immigration politics on the domestic politics and policies of member states? How might EU's reaction to the Russian attack on the Ukraine come to play in European integration policies (e.g., military defense)?

(c) regarding social membership space:

Why are the positions of West European EU countries so different with regard to social security coordination given the fact that all of them are hesitant to social security benefits access? What factors contribute to successfully/unsuccessfully reform migrant working conditions? What role do civil society organizations and workers' representatives play in the transnational enforcement of workers' rights?

Submission and timeframe

Authors may submit structured abstracts of up to 300 words until October 16. Empirical, theoretical and conceptual submissions of significant originality will be considered for publication. All methodological approaches are welcome. Selected authors will be invited to submit a full paper (up to 10.000 words; essays: up to 5000 words) until December 31, 2022. The special issue is planned for publishing as Vol. 8, No. 1. of CPE in 2023.

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