

Call for Papers

Towards a Siege Mentality?: Crisis, Authoritarianism, and Emergency Powers in Twentieth Century Europe

Online International Workshop

June 23-24, 2023

The research team of the project *An Ethnography of the “Dual State”: State of Siege and the Rise of Authoritarianism in Romania (1933-1944)* would like to invite you to attend the international workshop of the project, which will take place online during the period **June 23-24, 2023**.

Context and state of art

The recent global crises caused by the rise of terrorism, the mass migration or the public health issues brought the fore the topic of emergency powers and the risks lurking behind resorting to “exceptional” measures for the liberal order. These global challenges fuelled academic debates concerning the origin, nature, and impact of the use of emergency powers on societies. While some scholars raised questions about the emergency measures corrosive effects on human rights and liberal democracies in general (Gross and Ní Aoláin 2006; Ramraj and Thiruvengadam 2010), others look on what they tell us about the inner nature of the modern state (Agamben 2005, Neocleous 2008). Scholars specialized in the theory of law, political scientists, and historians attempted to shed light on the complex relation between law and authoritarian regimes focusing on how law was instrumentalized by Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy or Stalinist Soviet Union (Fraser 2009; 2011; Skinner 2015; Cercel 2018). Within this scientific context, rather few contributions have tackled the deep connection between state of emergency legislation and the dictatorial regimes in Europe (Stolleis 2004; Cercel 2019; Kivotidis 2020).

Aims of the workshop

This workshop aims to contribute to the current international debate concerning the use of emergency powers and the risks lurking behind them for liberal democracies. In this respect, this workshop will help us in achieving the following **goals**: 1. a better understanding of the

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dismantling of the liberal order in interwar Europe and the subsequent rise of authoritarianism in several countries, with focus on Romania, Poland, Baltic states, Germany, Italy, France and Spain; 2. the legacy of the this crisis of the liberal order in post-war Europe; 3. this workshop aims also to shed light on the role played by state of emergency/state of siege mechanisms in the gradual instalment of dictatorships in Europe during 1930s and their aftermath; 4. How state of emergency/state of siege mechanisms worked at a grassroots level in different European societies.

Submission Guidelines

The organizers of the conference welcome paper proposals on these subjects, but not restrictively.

Submission of paper proposals should include name, title, five keywords, and an abstract of no more than 300 words. Participants will have 20 minutes for presenting their papers and 10 minutes for questions. The languages of the conference is English.

Please email your paper proposals to: project.siege.2022@gmail.com and corneliu.pintilescu@gmail.com .

Deadline for paper proposals submission: January 25, 2023.

Notification of paper acceptance: February 25, 2023.

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