



HELLENIC  
OBSERVATORY  
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Research  
Seminar Series

# Crisis and famine in island Greece: Sovereign debt, political violence and topologies of memory in Chios.

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## **ABSTRACT:**

The sovereign debt crisis that has engulfed Greece since 2010 is not only shaking people's belief in their government and their future, but it is fundamentally reshaping people's experience of the past and its relation to the present. Memories from several different historical periods in the eventful history of the Aegean island of Chios have come since the crisis began to be enfolded within the EU-IMF restructuring programme that was being imposed throughout 2011, '12 and 13. As local people contemplate the effects of the crisis on their daily lives, on the existence of their family members and friends, and on the social fabric of their communities, collective memories of earlier periods of political violence that have befallen the island –

including the massacre of 1822, the exchange of populations of 1922, and the German occupation of WW2 — are brought into play. Telescoping effects and the implosion of chronological time have often been noted in the literature on political violence and ascribed to traumatic effects. This paper questions whether the conflation of episodes of political violence is best explained in terms of the trauma paradigm, and suggests that it is not trauma that collapses time but rather rapid social change and crises that reveal the chaotic topology of social temporalities, underscoring the limitations of dominant Western models of linear time.



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**Tuesday, 25 February 2014 @ 18:00 - 19:30**

**Cañada Blanch Room - COW 1.11**

1st floor, Cowdray House, LSE, Portugal Street, London, WC2A 2AE

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