



HELLENIC
OBSERVATORY
European Institute

2013-14
Research
Seminar Series

Crisis and Austerity: A Painful Watershed for the Greek Welfare State

MARIA PETMESIDOU

Professor of Social Policy, Democritus University of Thrace

ABSTRACT:

The talk explores the changes to social protection in Greece under the effect of an intractable sovereign debt crisis (largely due to accumulated deadlocks of a rent-seeking, statist regime), which has engulfed the country since the late-2000s. It maps out and critically discusses major reforms in social insurance, health care and labour market policies with the aim to foreshadow the direction of impending change; and, particularly, to trace any indications of whether reform can bolster “inclusive solidarity” and improve redistribution or, instead, will bring about

heightened insecurity. Questions are also raised as to how far the policy laboratory of the “euro-rescue” through the tenacious imposition of harsh austerity measures and the dismantling of worker and citizen protections, in the crisis-ridden EU periphery, paves the way for a drastically changed agenda and politics of reform in Europe that prioritizes permanent retrenchment. This is a bleak scenario, though highly probable, as the European integration project seems to be crumbling, causing serious doubts about the future of the European Social Model.



#LSE_HOpetmesidou

Tuesday, 8 October 2013 @ 18:00 - 19:30

Cañada Blanch Room - COW 1.11

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

All Hellenic Observatory Seminars are open to all with no ticket required; entry is on a first come-first served basis.