

Policing the Crisis: The other side of the story

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ABSTRACT:

Since 2010 Greece undergoes a period of rapid economic and political transformation as a result of austerity measures, privatization and the dismantling of the Welfare State. The police as an institution is no exception to this crisis, but what is particularly interesting is the role that the police as a State apparatus is required to play in situations of generalised discontent.

Because of historical, political and cultural reasons, the Greek police has not been yet the object of sociological analysis, except for cases of police misconduct. As the sociological gaze has been focused mainly on the protesters and the manifestations of resistance, this paper shifts the emphasis to the experience of policing the crisis and its violent aspects, and to the views and perceptions of police officers. The paper sheds light to a peculiarly isolated social group and its experience of the paradox of power, and looks at the ways the police are tasked to enforce an unequal social order in the name of public security and the 'common good'.

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Venue: Cañada Blanch Room, COW 1.11, 1st floor, Cowdray House
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