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Crisis and land dispossession in Greece

Presentation and discussion with Prof.em. Costis Hadjimichalis

LOCATION:

Melanchthon Akademie
Kartäuserwall 24B
50678 Köln

Organized by the International Bureau of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Athens, the Institute of Geography of the Georg-August-University of Göttingen, the Geographical Institute of the University Salzburg, the Solidarity Committee for Greece in Cologne (GSKK),



The credit crisis in Greece is part and an expression of the global crisis and it coincides with increasing financialization, i.e. the investment in assets. Since 2010 investors in Greece focus mainly on public property, so that the Greek state, churches, monasteries, banks and others have become the prime target of these investors.

Costis Hadjimichalis describes these processes of privatization of former public properties as “land dispossession” and he presents it as a result of the global and European crisis. Land grabbing has been facilitated through the abolition of protectionist and socially equalizing elements in public planning legislation. In addition a subtle land dispossession of housing property and agricultural areas concerning small land owners has been taking place as a consequence of increasing tax burdens.

After a talk of round about 45 minutes, we will discuss the issues with Costis Hadjimichalis, asking also for possibilities of political and social action.

Costis Hadjimichalis is Professor Emeritus at the Harokopio University in Athens. In the last years he has been working on the crisis dynamics in the European Union with a special focus on the impacts of the crisis in Greece. In his research, he focuses mainly on the question of public assets privatization as an effect of the austerity policies in Greece. He is author of the book “Crisis and Land Dispossession in Greece”, which has been recently published in German (publishing company Westfälisches Dampfboot).

Moderation: Michael Mießner (Göttingen), Stefanie Hürtgen (Salzburg)

With consecutive translation English-German.