



**UNIVERSITY OF AEGEAN
School of Social Sciences**

LESVOS

6 June - 9 June 2019

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The School of Social Sciences of the University of the Aegean organizes a Conference under the auspices of the President of the Republic Mr Prokopios Pavlopoulos entitled:

**Social Sciences today. Dilemmas and
outlook beyond the crisis.**

Since the last Conference of the Social School Of the University of the Aegean, subversive events have occurred in the International, European and Greek frameworks, with dramatic consequences at both collective and individual levels. The conditions of uncertainty and increased risk are consolidated, while social problems are affecting larger and larger population groups. The social impact of crisis is spreading: unemployment, job insecurity, migration of thousands of young people, substantial loss of citizens' income, residual function of welfare structures and social protection and insurance systems. At the same time, manifest forms of violence with political, social and cultural characteristics become disturbing phenomena for democratic values.

These impacts have been highlighted and analyzed through targeted social surveys, during the protracted period of crisis in Greece. The central axis, as well as, the objective of the Conference is to present the produced work as well as the potentialities that are unravelling in the wide range of Social Sciences. These in their turn are invited to explain and interpret complex social phenomena in a *beyond the crisis perspective*, while trying to overcome the risks that rendered themselves, as part of the society, confronted with the crisis. Consequently, the *beyond the crisis perspective* recommends for the Social Sciences a new period of transcendence and revaluation.

In this direction, the Conference aspires to attract social scientists from all the theoretical and research fields that wish to contribute, combining scientific rationality with inventiveness, and

criticism reflection with extroversion, around a broad, dynamic and creative dialogue. The results of this synthesis will be accessible to the international and Greek academic community, as well as by society stakeholders. As science does not constitute a static cognitive function, but evolves dynamically across time and space, influenced by the altering social contexts, the generation of new knowledge is expected through the Conference, as well as its systematic presentation.

Although they are not binding, there will be two broader thematic areas:

A) *Crisis and Social Change in Greece*. One of the main themes of the Conference is the crisis in Greece, its social, economic, political and cultural aspects, and consequences through a reassessment of the social context but also of the risk of retreating or distorting the content of democratic values. The reason for that is that the institutionalization of an advanced democracy is not exhausted in either unbiased or simple procedural adjustments on the part of the citizens but consolidate into conscious democratic values that bypass manicheist dilemmas and find themselves free expression in everyday life. Political depreciation, social degradation, or neglecting this social content of internal democracy as egalitarian, active and co-responsible, makes the latter vulnerable at the level of institutions and social legitimacy, embodying a deepening crisis of representation.

B) *Migration and Reflection Crisis*. Equally crucial for the Conference is the issue of approaching and discussing migration and refugee crisis, on the one hand through a formal policy measures and institutional interventions lens and, on the other, through actual experiences of people affected by the crisis and those involved in its complex management. It is of substantial importance that this issue will be discussed at Lesbos, the island that was so much associated with the refugee crisis and the diverse parameters to address it. The island of Lesbos has been a workshop for social scientists, to explore in multiple ways and with various scientifically tools, a new reality that has distinguished itself in recent years from political and social impacts at local, national, European and global level.

Finally, in the framework of the Conference, a tribute to an open event will take place at the University for the 50 + 1 years since May 1968 entitled "**May 1968. Scientific echoes of a major social and political event**". This will include photo exhibition, audiovisual material, documentary projection in a specially designed format room and round table with the participation of distinguished academics, who will submit their personal experiences and their scientific approaches to characteristics and the social impact that this event has caused in another crisis period. Considering that many of the late conquests of democratic rights and social participation and emancipation have their roots in French May, this special tribute is expected to enrich the academic and public debate on the prevalence of these values today.

The conference will take place in the rooms of the **School of Social Sciences University of the Aegean in Mytilene**. The opening of the Conference and the initial speeches will take place at the **Municipal Theater of Mytilene**.

Deadline for submission of summaries of papers / papers has been set for **15th of March, 2019**. An application for participation is attached, with which interested parties are invited to submit summaries to **e-mail: soc-conf@aegean.gr**.

There is no cost for attendees and participants in the Congress registration.

For more information, please visit:

soc-conf2019.aegean.gr