

# PRACTICES OF RESISTANCE AND CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Call for Articles for a special issue of *Ethnologia Europaea*

In the European countries bordering the Mediterranean at present we observe not only the manifold effects of austerity policies but also significant political and social changes triggered by the (economic) crisis since 2008. In many of these countries, we can also perceive new forms of social practices of networking, leading to growing opposition and protest articulated by local communities or by social movements, which are based on common acts of solidarity, cooperation and the establishment of (close) relationships. As Mark Terkessidis (2015) argues, these new forms of collaboration shift responsibility to individuals and communities, and imply the potential to transcend established institutional frameworks. Moreover, most of these forms of protest do not seem to be characterized by typical and well-known party ideologies or trade union demands (cf. Žižek 2012). Instead, new practices develop such as the (re-)appropriation of public space, networking, alternative ways of protest (Occupy, Indignados), and sharing, inspired by concepts of grassroots democracy, sustainability and anti-consumerism (see for example Corredera 2012; Fernández-Savater 2012). In many Southern European countries, these movements can be understood as newcomers in the political arena, since they see themselves in a distinct opposition to the established – often clientelistic – party structures of their countries.

In a special issue of *Ethnologia Europaea* planned for 2017–2018 the guest editors want to focus on these emerging collaborative (protest) practices in Mediterranean countries, which are related to or an effect of the current economic crisis. Building on the assumption that the Mediterranean can be understood as a common frame of reference for comparative research and analysis (Lauth Bacas & Kavanagh 2011), contributors are invited to reflect on collaborative interactions as practices of resistance and social or political change within new protest groups, solidarity initiatives and cultural projects related to specific local conflicts arisen in wake of the crisis.

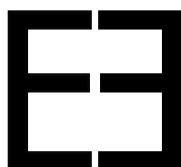
The emergence of such movements and initiatives is, on the one hand, mediated by the direct communication of people involved and the establishment of personal relations and face-to-face interaction. On the other hand, the use of digital media leads to a reconfig-



uration of space facilitating networking and exchange of information between local communities facing similar problems. Manuel Castells (2012) describes “networked movements” which communicate via the Internet and lack an organizational structure; such movements are thus characterized by a lesser degree of identification and higher fluidity. Also, online activism, e.g. flash mobs, online petitions and hacktivism, allow spontaneous participation. Our understanding of personal relations and collaboration can encompass both physical co-presence and digital mediation, as it moves back and forth between them.

The guest editors invite the submission of articles, which address these social practices of networking and close collaboration in the context of social change or political activism since 2008. Contributors are encouraged to present ethnological and anthropological case studies – based on empirical research in Mediterranean countries – which also might address questions such as:

- What roles do persisting cultural patterns (see Schönberger 2015), for example informal networks, family relationships and friendship-based coalitions, play in the formation of collaborative communities?
- How do face-to-face-interactions and the use of digital media influence cooperation and protest practices?
- In which ways are established social and political processes transformed or reconfigured through alternative forms of collaborative practices?



Ethnologia Europaea  
Journal of European Ethnology

Contributors are invited to either present cases of newly emerging collaborative practices of resistance (including the use of digital media) in a Mediterranean country, or to focus on more theoretical approaches regarding the implications of the above described developments.

From the submissions received, the guest editors will make a selection and set a deadline for article manuscript submission (up to 9,000 words). The journal will then initiate the peer-review process for the articles. When accepted for publication, authors are responsible for proofreading of their manuscript by a native speaker.

Please send your abstract (max. 500 words) and short biography no later than January 15th 2016 to the guest editors:

Jutta Lauth Bacas, [jutta.lauth.bacas@gmail.com](mailto:jutta.lauth.bacas@gmail.com)

Marion Näser-Lather, [m.lather@gmx.de](mailto:m.lather@gmx.de)

## References

- Castells, Manuel 2012: *Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Corredera, Maria 2012: Die Indignados von 15-M. In: Jürgen Link, Rolf Parr (eds.), *wieviel kultuRRevolution am Mittelmeer? Kulturrevolution 61/62*, 58–61.
- Fernández-Savater, Amador 2012: „15. Mai“: Eine Revolution aus Personen. In: Jürgen Link, Rolf Parr (eds.), *wieviel kultuRRevolution am Mittelmeer? Kulturrevolution 61/62*, 62–63.
- Lauth Bacas, Jutta & William Kavanagh 2011: Editors' introduction. *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, 20:1, v–xvi. Special Issue: *Unfolding Perspectives in Mediterranean Anthropology*. Malta.
- Schönberger, Klaus 2015: Digitale Kommunikation: Persistenz und Rekombination als Modus des soziokulturellen Wandels. Theoretische Begriffsarbeit in empirischer Absicht. In: Thomas Hengartner (ed.): *Kulturwissenschaftliche Technikforschung III*. Zürich (in print).
- Terkessidis, Mark 2015: *Kollaboration*. Berlin: Suhrkamp.
- Žižek, Slavoj 2012: *The Year Of Dreaming Dangerously*. London/New York: Verso.

More information about *Ethnologia Europaea*  
Open access backlist issues

Published and distributed by

## About the journal

*Ethnologia Europaea* is a lively and interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal with a focus on European cultures and societies. It carries material of great interest not only for European ethnologists and anthropologists but also for sociologists, social historians and scholars involved in cultural studies. An impression of the areas covered by the journal is reflected in some of the thematic topics of the issues recently published: *European Ethnology Revisited* (2014); *Foodways Redux* (2013); *Imagined Families in Mobile Worlds* (2012); *Irregular Ethnographies* (2011).

*Ethnologia Europaea* is a ranked journal according to the European Science Foundation journal evaluation (European Reference Index for the Humanities initial list) and a level 2 (top-level) journal according to the Norwegian model (in Norway and Denmark).

*Ethnologia Europaea* is edited by associate professor Marie Sandberg (University of Copenhagen) and, starting in 2016, co-edited by professor Monique Scheer (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen).

## Editorial Board

Pertti Anttonen (Finland), Brita Brenna (Norway), Tine Damsholt (Denmark), Anne Eriksen (Norway), Valdimar Tryggvi Hafstein (Iceland), Renata Jambrešić Kirin (Croatia), Ewa Klekot (Poland), Peter Jan Margry (The Netherlands), Máiréad Nic Craith (United Kingdom), Lotten Gustavsson Reinius (Sweden), Per-Markku Ristilampi (Sweden), Johanna Rolshoven (Austria), Klaus Schriewer (Spain), Laura Stark (Finland), Birgitta Svensson (Sweden), Jean-Luis Tornatore (France), Bernhard Tschöfen (Swiss), Gisela Welz (Germany).

<http://www.mtp.dk/tidsskrift.asp?teln=900008>

<http://www.mtp.dk/details.asp?eln=300298>

<http://www.mtp.dk/searchresult.asp?series=j900008>

Museum Tusulanum Press

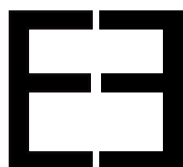
Birketinget 6

2300 Copenhagen S

Denmark

[info@mtp.dk](mailto:info@mtp.dk)

+45 3234 1414



**Ethnologia Europaea**  
Journal of European Ethnology