



University of Crete Research Center
UCRC
for the Humanities, the Social & Education Sciences



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Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

Post-Conference Summary Report

CONFERENCE: “Youth Resisting Dictatorship in Greece (1967-74) and beyond: Social Sciences and Humanities Perspectives”

The interdisciplinary, virtual conference "Youth Resisting Dictatorship in Greece (1967-74) and beyond: Social Sciences and Humanities Perspectives", organized by the University of Crete Research Center for the Humanities, the Social and Education Sciences (UCRC), under the EC project "Free your mind: Youth Activism in Southern Europe in Times of Dictatorship" (FYM), on 19 & 20 November 2021, was held with notable success.

The program included oral presentations by 29 expert speakers, and the keynote address by a distinguished expert scholar from the social sciences and humanities, from Greece and abroad. More than 145 participants, researchers, university members, undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as the general public [42% men / 56% women], [75% between 30 and 65 years, 20% under 30 years, 5% over 65 years], from 7 countries in and outside of Europe (Greece, Portugal, UK, Spain, Germany, Sweden and Canada), participated (as speakers or audience) through the event platform. In addition, more than 155 views are noted for the Keynote Speech or and more than 24 for the 9th Panel via live-streaming, from different countries.

The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values, as well as the Union's aim, that is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks.

With a focus on Youth Resisting Dictatorship in Greece (1967-74) and beyond, the conference addressed a variety of topics related to the main theme, drawing on different fields from the social sciences and the humanities. The schedule involved nine thematically-defined panels with 2-3 presentations each, followed by short discussions. In addition, a roundtable provided a wider, comparative view of youth resisting dictatorship and challenging political contexts during the sixties and seventies in Portugal, Spain, Greece, and in other contexts.

The participants dealt with questions on the role played by student mobilisations in the fight against dictatorship, youth culture and the construction of collective identities as related to the socio-historical conditions as well as the goals, values and ideals of young people in this period, including both those who actively participated in resistance and those who remained silent. In addition, the operation of surveillance and suppression mechanisms was also discussed, as well as the institutional reflexes of the university during the dictatorship and the intervention of the authoritarian regime in student life, the organisation of collective action and the attribution of political opportunities by youth, the influence of social movements and turning points in history. The conference participants also referred to artistic expressions and the cultural production of this period, the role of emotions, subcultures of youth as well as the role played by Greek diaspora communities.

A multidisciplinary approach broadened the scope of the conference and enriched the discursive exchanges between the participants. Most of the above mentioned issues were critically examined from or challenged by

different perspectives. The dialogue between scholars of contemporary history, sociology, political science, literature, philology, social psychology, education and philosophy and their subfields and intersections provided valuable insights and a comprehensive overview of the various influences at play and of the different perspectives at issues such as youth culture, resistance to authoritarian regimes and youth mobilisation towards (re)claiming democracy or towards the transformation of society more generally. Both young and mature members of the academic community participated in this conference with their presentations drawing on a great variety of methodological approaches, research tools and resources (e.g. official archives and press releases of that period, testimonies, interviews, cinematic material and documentaries, literary texts, music and soundscape).

Among the many issues raised, the vanguard role played by youth during the so called Long Sixties was highlighted. The existence of shared characteristics in the student and youth mobilizations against authoritarian regimes across South European countries was acknowledged given the diffusion and appropriation of international ideas, seen as mainly related to the evolution of the New Left movement in the West. With respect to the student mobilisations against the Greek dictatorship, the very character of their action, organised or spontaneous, was debated. Furthermore, it was questioned whether the uniqueness of the event and the innovative characteristics of their bottom-up action need nevertheless to be studied in relation to social movements and cycles of contention. In addition, the fermentation between the currents of youth culture and youth political organizations was problematised, together with the interplay between western influences and the cultural anti-Westernism of the left as well as the radicalisation of the left. It was acknowledged that the success of the Polytechnic student uprising in Athens lied to its revelation of the violent intervention of the dictatorship leading to student deaths, thus depriving it of any kind of public acceptance. The variety in the forms and practices of resistance was explicated in relation to certain sociopolitical circumstances. Alongside with political mobilisation, literature, cinema and music they employed various ways to represent this period, to express dissent to authoritarianism, to evade censorship, to stimulate public sentiment and to shape perceptions on the dictatorship in Greece.

Through interdisciplinary debate, the complexity and multidimensionality of this particularly rich research field has been disclosed. Overall, the conference strengthened remembrance through critical reflections on the social achievements of the past, thus deepening our knowledge of the sociohistorical context of that time as well as advancing our understanding of the conditions which inspire young generations to mobilise towards a more democratic, just and peaceful society.

The conference was carried out in the context of the FYM project (Free your mind: Youth Activism in Southern Europe in Times of Dictatorship), funded by the European Union's EUROPE FOR CITIZENS programme (Strand 1: EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE) Project Number: 617561-CITIZ-1-2020-1-PT-CITIZ-REMEM, Grant Decision: Nr.617561. The project is coordinated by Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, while its partners are: Associação Cultural Ephemera, the University of Crete Research Center for the Humanities, the Social and Education Sciences (UCRC), Complutense University of Madrid, and the Society of Cretan Historical Studies / Historical Museum of Crete.

Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the multidisciplinary Conference was held online on 19-20 November 2021. The main language of the conference was English, with simultaneous translation into Greek and English.

Future actions of the project "Free your mind: Youth Activism in Southern Europe in Times of Dictatorship - FYM", that will take place in Portugal, Spain and Greece, include: the organization of an exhibition on student/youth activism during the Portuguese dictatorship and a public debate with academics and activists in Lisbon, an educational activity for secondary students and teachers and a round table on youth/student

activism in Spain in the 60s and 70s in Madrid as well as an event for students and the general public at the Historical Museum of Crete in Heraklion in cooperation with UCRC.

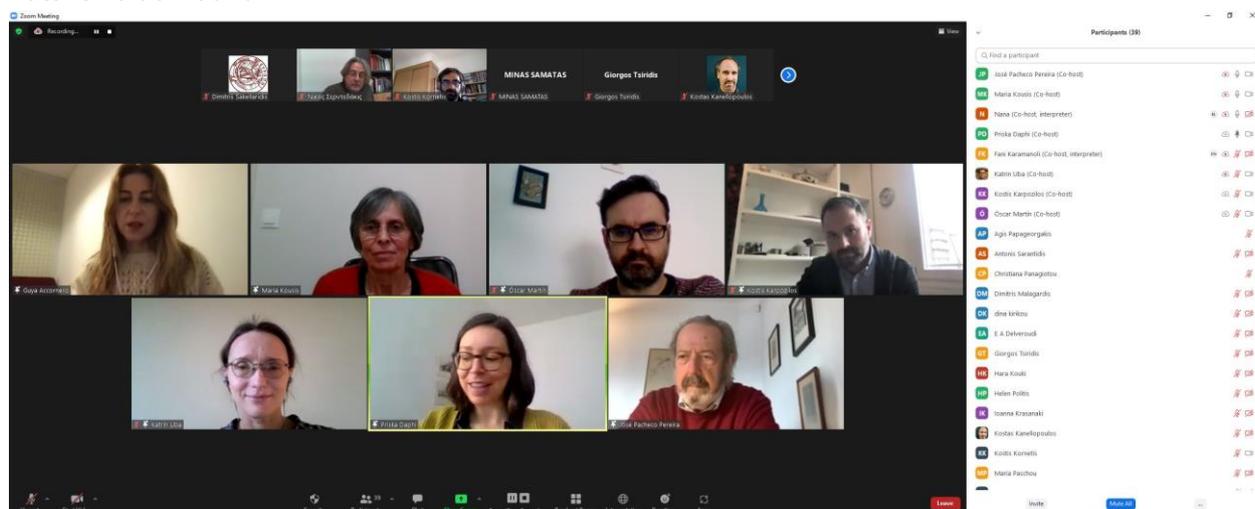
For more information on the conference and on the future activities of the FYM project, please visit our website: <https://fym.keme.uoc.gr/en/home/>



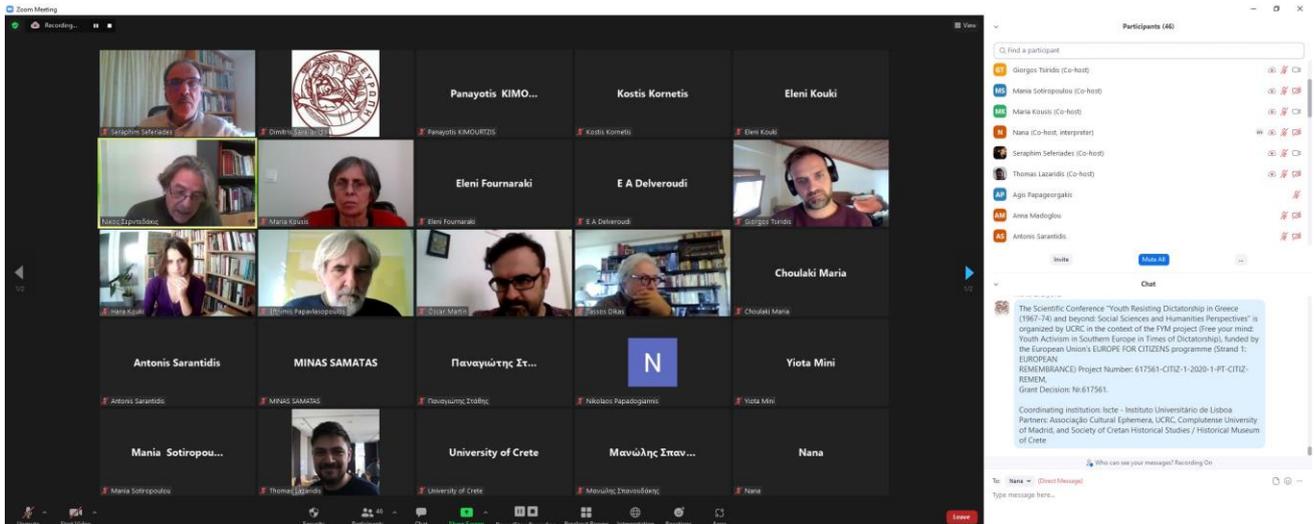
Keynote Speaker: Kostis Kornetis, Profesor Ayudante Doctor, Department of Contemporary European History, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid



Greetings: Constantinos Tsoukalas, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Athens



**Roundtable “Youth resisting dictatorship: a comparative view”
Guya Accornero (PT), Maria Kousis (GR), Óscar J. Martín García (SP), Kostis Karpozilos (GR),
Katrin Uba (SE), Priska Daphi (DE), José Pacheco Pereira (PT)**



Panel 8. “The Greek political context and the movement against the dictatorship”

About UCRC

As part of a young, leading European University, UCRC focuses on the promotion of state-of-the-art research and the development of an outward-looking academic community, aiming to foster innovative ideas through notable synergies. UCRC houses 29 Laboratories, more than 40 Research Projects, and 5 MA Programmes, engaging young and experienced researchers in ambitious scientific research, in response to demanding societal challenges. More information on our members and activities can be found in our [website](#).

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 **Ephemera**
Biblioteca e Arquivo de José Pacheco Pereira

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