

Reimagining emancipatory politics

Hegemony, Populism, and Political Strategy Today

9th Annual Populism Specialist Group Workshop

in collaboration with

The Laboratory for the Study of Democracy (DemLab)

& The Centre for the study of Democracy, Signification and Resistance (DESIRE)

1-3 October 2025

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Day 1 | Wednesday, 1 October

Dimosthenis Dodos room, 1st floor, School of Political Sciences, [12 Vasileos Irakleiou Street](#)

9:00-9:30 | Welcome

9:30-11:00 | Panel: Discourse and performativity in action

Chair: [Jana Goyvaerts](#)

Paris Aslanidis (National Centre for Social Research); Ilias Chalkidis (University of Copenhagen); Stephanie Brandl (University of Copenhagen) | *Populist Then, Populist Now? Examining Donald Trump's Rhetorical Shifts with Large Language Models*

Freddie Larden (Queen Mary University of London) | *Humour, transgression, and legitimacy on the far right: the Rassemblement National and Éric Zemmour in the 2022 French elections*

Carolina Guerrero Valencia (GIGA Institute for Latin American Studies) | *First Ladies as Bridges Between Populists and the People*

11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30-12:45 | Panel: Is populism anti-elitist?

Chair: [Thomás Zicman de Barros](#)

Emmy Eklundh (Cardiff University); Sebastian Ronderos (University of Namur) | *From transgressing to traversing: A new reading of antagonism in discourse theory*

Victor P. Verde Neri (University of California San Diego) | *Left-wing Populism and the Business Elite: Symbolic Rapprochement in Mexico's Political Shift*

Andreas Eder-Ramsauer (University of Vienna); Yamamoto Kei (Ritsumeikan University) | *Populism, Political Economy, and the Elites: The Case of Japan*

Lunch

2:15-3:45 | Panel: The limits of institutionalization

Chair: Emmy Eklundh

Panayotis Tritsibidas (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) | *Institutionalization as a limit of populist theory and practice? Laclau, Foucault and welfare populism*

Vladimir Bortun (University of Oxford) | *Populism without the people and reformism without reforms: A radical critique of left populism*

Jorge Ramos-González (Independent researcher); Pablo Ortiz (Universidad Pablo de Olavide) | *Spanish left populism after the populist wave: from radicalism to institutionalisation?*

3:45-4:15 | Coffee Break

4:15-5:30 | Panel: Style, performativity, theatricality

Chair: Théo Aiolfi

Jessica Wax-Edwards (University College Cork) | *Form, visual discourse and subversive methodologies: a case for videographic criticism in the study of populist style*

Elena Sotelo-Prol (University of Leeds) | *The Sacred and the Self in Populist Participation: Digitally Mediated Interaction Rituals and the Reconfiguration of Representation*

Anna Wieder (University of Vienna) | *Democracy as teatrocracy? Popular politics and its theatrical forms*

Day 2 | Thursday, 2 October

KEDEA Building, [Amphiteater 3](#)

9:30-11:00 | Panel: Insurgent institutions

Chair: Giorgos Venizelos

Camila Vergara (University of Essex) | *The One and the Many: Populist Politics, Plebeian Institutions & Anti-Oligarchic Rules*

Kurt Borg (University of Malta) | *Left Populism as Public Happiness: Experiments of Radical Democracy in Malta's Political Landscape*

Marina Prentoulis (University of East Anglia) | *Social contract and populism: a mechanism of resistance or conformity?*

Peter Bloom (University of Essex) | *Reimagining Emancipation: A Politically Materialist Theory of Hegemony and Populism*

11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30-12:45 | Panel: Populism, aesthetics and theory

Chair: Thomás Zicman de Barros

Allan Dreyer Hansen (Roskilde University) | *Negativity, Undecidability, Populism – Laclau's Heritage*

Adrià Porta Caballé (University of Barcelona) | *The First Historical, Political and Aesthetic Precedent of Populism in Europe – Romanticism*

Liv Sunnercrantz (University of Stavanger) | *For a Rhetorical-Performative Turn in Discourse Theory*

12:45-2:15 | Lunch

2:15-3:45 | Panel: Populism and environmental politics

Chair: Jana Goyvaerts

Sophia Hatzisavvidou (University of Bath) | *Strategies for crafting just futures on a climate-changed planet*

Maximilian Wolf (University of Cambridge) | *No time like the non-present: populist temporality and strategy in the age of anxiety*

Elizabeth Deborah Martinez Aguilar (Radboud University) | *Everything, Anything, All at Once: How Populist Discourses Articulate Sustainability as an Undecidable Signifier*

Gijs Lambrechts (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) | *Environmental articulations of the far right: A discourse-theoretical analysis*

Coffee Break

4:00-5:30 | Keynote Speech

Judith Butler

Fantasy in Emancipation:

Psychosocial Dimensions of Contemporary Authoritarianism

Day 3 | Friday, 3 October

KEDEA Building, [Amphiteater 3](#)

9:30-11:00 | Panel: Authoritarianism, conservatism, populism

Chair: Théo Aiolfi

Giorgos Katsambekis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) | *Authoritarianism and populism: conceptual boundaries & articulations*

Federica Formato (University of Brighton); Giulia Evolvi (Università di Bologna) | *"Bravissima Grande Piccola Donna": Constructing gender in responses to Giorgia Meloni's posts on Instagram*

Saga Oskarson Kindstrand (CEE – Sciences Po Paris) | *Bridging Left and Right: Lessons from the Radical Right's Party-Building Model*

11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30-12:45 | Panel: Leaders and hierarchies

Chair: Marina Prentoulis

Viktoria Huegel (University of Vienna) | *Primus Inter Pares? Populist Movements and the Problem of Democratic Leadership*

Aurelien Mondon (University of Bath) | *(De)Constructing the reactionary and emancipatory people*

Lazaros Karavasilis (University of Bremen) | *The Hollowing of Intra-Party Democracy? Populism, performativity and discursive-organisational practices in SYRIZA*

Benjamin De Cleen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel); Benjamin Moffitt (Monash University); Panos Panayotu (Independent scholar) | *The Five Spatial Political Logics of Populism: An Analytical Framework and Research Agenda for Studying the Populist Politicization of Space from the Local to the Transnational*

12:45-2:15 | Lunch

2:15-3:45 | Panel: Anti-Populist Articulations

Chair: Jana Goyvaerts

Savvas Voutyras (Bournemouth University) | *'Image from #Rochester': fleshing out Bourdieu's contribution to the study of anti-populism*

Raylene Abdilla (University of Malta) | *Governing the Irrational: The Anti-Populist Logic of the EU*

Antonis Galanopoulos (Eteron Institute) | *Beyond Reaction: Anti-Populism and the Construction of Political Identities*

Grigoris Markou (University of Macedonia); Alex Yates (University of Bath) | *Delegitimising Populism and 'The people': How Anti-Populists Weaponize the Concept of 'Conspiracy Theories'*

3:45-4:15 | Coffee Break

4:15-5:30 | Keynote Speech

Yannis Stavrakakis

**Conditions and Limitations of Emancipatory Populism in Laclau & Mouffe:
Impure Choreographies?**

5:40-6:30 | Screening

Encounters with Ernesto Laclau & Chantal Mouffe: Discussions with Yannis Stavrakakis in London.
Editing and directing: Giorgos Keramidiotis (2011).