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Danube University KREMS
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Painting:
Babi Badalov
Integratin, 2015
Peinture sur tissu
142 x 120 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Jérôme Poggi
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Conference Invitation

What happened to France?
From political decomposition to
fragments of societal reconstruction

11th and 12th of May 2017 | Sky Lounge, University of Vienna

Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy
DANUBE UNIVERSITY KREMS

What happened to France?

From political decomposition to fragments of societal reconstruction

The conference “What happened to France – From political decomposition to fragments of social reconstruction” is the first edition of the „Krems Annual Conference on European Democracy“ and will take place 11-12 May in the Sky Lounge of the University of Vienna.

With this conference the Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy (DED) pursues a twofold aim: In a first part it is going to be analysed how the consolidation of political, institutional and economic structures in France has evolved into a political crisis, preventing political action and structural reform. At the same time we can observe an accelerating collapse of the traditional pluralist party system, and France seems to be confronted with complex issues more than ever: a reform backlog, severe plight of the educational system, emergence of a parallel society, migration, culture and identity trapped between populism and terrorism. The disintegration of the regions, which has been essential for the rise of Front National, is caused by a growing socioeconomic gap between metropolitan and rural areas.

The second focus of the conference lies on going beyond these scenarios by analysing where current societal movements in France are to be found: among the youth, in the start-up scene, in innovative migration concepts or within regional movements?

The DED aims at delineating this dual motion of decay and renaissance not only during the conference but also within the ambit of the first edition of the “Krems Publication Series on European Democracy”. Therefore, the conference has invited participants to submit articles themed around the current political, societal and socioeconomic structures in France, which will then be published in a special edited volume (Dietz Publishing House). The innovative character of the conference is thus provided by a unique interdisciplinary approach enabling journalists, activists and members of political organizations to engage in an experience-based discussion beyond a purely academic sphere.

Venue: Sky Lounge, University of Vienna, Oskar Morgensternpl. 2, 1090 Wien

Free conference entry, no registration required

Program

11th May 2017 | Sky Lounge, University of Vienna

- 14:00 -14:30 **Arrival of Participants (Coffee and Snacks)**
 - 14:30 -15:00 **Welcome**
 - > Ulrike Guérot, Danube University Krems
 - 15:00 -17:00 **Young Cities and old Regions? Sociocultural Dynamics between Center and Periphery**
 - > Dietmar Loch, University of Lille
 - > Christoph Reinprecht, University of Vienna
 - > Nicole Colin-Umlauf, Aix- Marseille University
 - > Lea Zacharie, Radio Campus Paris
 - 17:00 -17:15 **Coffee Break**
 - 17:15 -18:00 **Religion, Terror and Islam: Political Culture in today's France**
 - > Asiem El-Difraoui, Candid Foundation Paris
 - 18:30 **Conference Dinner**
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12th May 2017 | Sky Lounge, University of Vienna

- 09:00 -09:30 **Welcome and Coffee**
- 09:30 -10:30 **Social and economic Politics: Shock Therapy and splitted Left**
 - > Guillaume Duval, Alternatives Economique Paris
 - > Eric Chol, Courier International Paris
 - > Reinhard Blomert, Leviathan Berlin
- 10:30 -10:45 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 -12:00 **The Reinvention of Democracy and the Role of the Media: Participation and Citizens in European Perspective**
 - > Guillaume Klossa, Director of EBU Geneva
 - > Thierry Sciari, L'Europe des Citoyens Lyon
- 12:00 -13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30 -15:30 **Crisis of Republicanism, Crisis of the Public: *nouvelle pensée politique* in France and beyond**
 - > Julien Deroin, Viadrina University Frankfurt/ Oder
 - > Roman Léandre Schmidt, Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities Essen
 - > Daniel Schulz, University of Munich
 - > Danilo Scholz, Centre D'Etudes Sociologiques et Politiques RA Paris
- 15:30 -16:30 **Closing remarks and further steps to publication**
 - > Ulrike Guérot, Danube University Krems