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REGULAR SESSION

Title of Session: Emotions, Identities and Civic Society

Name of Session Convener(s): Nicolas Demertzis and Deborah Gould

University/Organization: (i) Faculty of Communication and Mass Media, University of Athens and (ii) Department of Sociology, Pittsburgh University, USA

E-mail address to which abstracts of papers should be sent: ndemert@media.uoa.gr and dgould@pitt.edu

Comments:

Abstract (up to 250 words): The widest definition of the civil society includes not only business, worker or any other types of voluntary associations, but also social movements, families and individuals. The goal is to explore how the very identities, discourses and emotions of the constitutive units of the civil society push these to become engaged, co-operate and/or come into conflict; in what ways it makes sense to seek connections between class, gender, 'racial'/'ethnic' or spatial (regional, national) identities, emotional regimes and emotionalized conflict or co-operation and, finally, conflict and conflict solutions when different emotional regimes and habitus clash.

These questions could be raised within the themes of:

- (i) Emotions in political and social movements or imagined communities with their various (local, regional, national, global) physical distances and boundaries...
- (ii) Emotions involved in moral and civic engagements; emotions in moral judgment and decision making, individual and collective responsibility 'calculus', and 'states of denial'.
- (iii) The role of and impact of human rights and equality discourses emanating from e.g. the UN or the EU on the emergence of demands for recognition of ethnic, sexual, and other minorities, with the parallel transformation from 'collective shame' to 'collective pride'.
- (iv) Sustainability and environmental engagement; life politics and emotions; the challenge of migration and multiculturalism; the emotional regime of consumerism and its alternative counter-regimes, emotions of global and intergenerational inequity and distributive justice; emotions and animal welfare; 'eco' cultures and care ethics.
- (v) Conflict situations and violence. What role do 'real/raw' emotions and steered/managed emotions play in conflict escalation and violence? What role do these play in conflict resolution?