

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Conference in Rethymno, Crete, Greece

Cultural Historical, Activity and Sociocultural Research at Times of Contemporary Crisis: Implications for Education and Human Development

Current cultural historical, activity and sociocultural approaches face unprecedented challenges connected with the contemporary world economic, ecological, social and political crises and their multiple forms of expression at different levels of human development in different parts of the globe.

The section of South/ Central Europe and Middle East of ISCAR, the Department of Psychology and the Department of Preschool Education at the University of Crete, and the Department of Preschool Education at the University of Ioannina have organized the international conference: "Cultural Historical, Activity and Sociocultural Research at Times of Contemporary Crisis: Implications for Education and Human Development". The conference will be held at University of Crete which is located in the city of Rethymno during the 18th and 19th of June 2016 (Conference Chair: Manolis Dafermos, Associate professor, University of Crete; Conference Co-Chair: Katerina Plakitsi, Associate professor, University of Ioannina & Marios A. Pourkos, Professor, University of Crete).

The conference aims to stimulate reflective discussions and to promote research on the ecological, social, cultural, psychological and political impacts of the contemporary economic crisis on human development, as well as to denote perspectives of resistance. 'Crisis' is a core and fundamental concept in cultural historical theory. It has been utilized by Lev Vygotsky as a way to critique the state of psychology during the first decades of 20th century. The concept has also been applied by Vygotsky for the articulation of specific mechanisms related to psychological development. It seems that the concept of crisis continues to serve as a critical filter through which human development can be conceptualized. It is also a theoretical tenet that can be applied in building knowledge on the processes involved in human growth, and change.

In the context of this conference Professor Marios Pourkos has organized a preconference interdisciplinary-artistic symposium titled: *"The Human Body and Lived Experience at Times of Contemporary Crisis through the Prism of Science and Art"*. The Symposium will be held at 16th and 17th of June 2016. It will include scientific presentations and various multimodal-artistic activities

such as paintings, photographs, collages, short films, sculptures, poems, songs, installations, video-art, documentaries, theatrical performances, music and dance events, etc. As part of the symposium there will be various exhibitions and theatrical performances including the following art activities of more than 100 artists:

1. "Glances to the Body of Crisis" (group art exhibition),
2. "Bridging Cultures" (photography exhibition),
3. "Crossing Border: Becoming European" (Video-Photography Exhibition),
4. "The Body of the Child in Contemporary Crisis" (watercolours exhibition),
5. "People's Body Crisis" (group art exhibition),
6. "Destination Unknown" (photography exhibition),
7. "Welcome - The European Hospitality and Its Borders" (group art exhibition), (
8. "Depression" (group photography exhibition), (
9. "Crisis..." (theatrical act play),
10. "Bottles, Beer and Cocktails" (theatrical act play), (
10. "Escape" (theatrical performance based on Slawomir Mrozek's, *The Emigrants*),
11. "Waiting Inside the Armor of the Centuries" (performans work in progress),
12. "My Crisis in Your Crisis" (dance-musical-theatrical video performance), (
13. The Butcher shop "Beautiful Greece" (video installation),
14. "Testimonies about the Body during the Current Crisis" (video), (
15. "The Chair System" (short film based on a dance performance), etc.

The conference program includes 82 presentations and the preconference Interdisciplinary-Artistic Symposium program 34 presentations of scholars

from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Serbia, Israel, Belgium, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Finland, USA, South Korea, India, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina.

On June 20, 2016 in the afternoon a tour of the Old Town of Rethymno will be organized for the delegates.

Part of the program in that afternoon is a tour of 7 of the Symposium's art exhibits and a viewing of Christopher Pakaliatis' film "Worlds Apart". For more information see <http://iscarconf.soc.uoc.gr/home.html>

Preconference Symposium
Date
16—17 June 2016

Main Conference
Date
18—19 June 2016

On June 20, 2016
in the afternoon a tour of the
Old Town of Rethymno
will be organized for
the delegates