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18th Annual International Conference on
Politics and International Studies

15-18 June 2020, Athens, Greece

Edited by
Gregory T. Papanikos

2020

Abstracts
18th Annual International
Conference on Politics and
International Studies
15-18 June 2020, Athens,
Greece

Edited by Gregory T. Papanikos

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Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the *18th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies (15-18 June 2020)*, organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with ATINER's Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of ATINER's many publications.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ATINER and other academics around the world with a resource through which to discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world could meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

It is our hope that through ATINER's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world regularly meet to discuss the developments of their discipline and present their work. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published nearly 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 6 divisions and 37 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of ATINER for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together. Specific individuals are listed on the following page.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President

**18th Annual International Conference on Politics and
International Studies, 15-18 June 2020, Athens, Greece**

Scientific Committee

All ATINER's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of ATINER, who contributed by chairing the conference sessions and/or by reviewing the submitted abstracts and papers:

1. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER & Honorary Professor, University of Stirling, U.K.
2. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, Center for European & Mediterranean Affairs and Associate Professor, Jean Monnet Chair & Director of International Studies Program, Virginia Tech - Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, USA.
3. Bettina Koch, Academic Member, ATINER & Associate Professor of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA.
4. Philip G. Cerny, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK and Rutgers University, USA.
5. Christie Kenneth, Professor, Royal Roads University, Canada.

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM
**18th Annual International Conference on Politics and International
Studies, 15-18 June 2020, Athens, Greece**

PROGRAM

Monday 15 June 2020

09.00-09.30
Registration

09.30-10.00
Opening and Welcoming Remarks by Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER

10.00-10.45
Barbara Zagaglia, Associate Professor, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy.
Title: Teaching in a Global World: Challenges and Opportunities for Small-Size Universities

10.45-11.00 Break

11.00-11.45
Mihai Vladimirescu, Professor, University of Craiova, Romania.
Title: The Literary Rhetoric of the Biblical Prophets Addressing Politics and Religion.

11.45-12.00 Break

12.00-12.45
Antonio D. Camara Hueso, Associate Professor, University of Jaén, Spain.
Title: Housing and Residential Contexts of solo-Dwellers in Spain: A Socio-Demographic Analysis.

12.45-13.00 Break

13:00-13.45
Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER.
Title: The Demographics of Covid-19 in the European Union.

13.45-14.00 Break

14:00-14.45
Vasilis Skianis, Academic Dean, New York College, Greece.

Title: Association of Environmental and Sociodemographic Factors with Life Satisfaction in 27 European Countries.

14.45-15.00 Break

15:00-15.45

Guillermo Johnson, Assistant Professor, Universidade Federal do Maranhão, Brazil.
Title: Smothering the Terse Latin American Democracy – Notes about the Second Decade of the Twenty-First Century.

15.45-16.00 Break

16:00-16.45

Rula Jabbour, PhD Candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA.
Title: Military Moves in the Middle East: Explaining the Military's Role during the Arab Spring.

Tuesday 16 June 2020

10:00-10.45

Utku Ozer, Part-time Lecturer, Altinbas University, Turkey.
Title: Politics and Cinema: The Reflection of Russian Revolution in Doctor Zhivago.

10.45-11.00 Break

11:00-11.45

Nikos Nikoloudis, Independent Scholar.
Title: Eleftherios Venizelos and the Foundation of the League of Nations.

11.45-12.00 Break

12:00-12.45

Ziya Att Tamhid Ahmed Khan Pathan, Associate Professor, University of Eswatini, Swaziland.
Title: Socio-Cultural Instigations in Decision Making at Domestic Level.

12.45-13.00 Break

13.00-13.45

Georgios Zouridakis, Lecturer, University of Essex, UK.

Title: The Role of Shareholder Protection in a Pro- Equity Market Policy: The Case for Derivative Actions. (PowerPoint)

13.45-14.00 Break

14.00-14.45

Rafiqul Islam, Professor, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

Title: Mathematical Modeling and Projecting Urban Population of Bangladesh Based on Censuses.

14.45-15.00 Break

15:00-15:45

Angela Ajodo-Adebanjoko, Senior Lecturer, Federal University Lafia, Nigeria.

Title: Gender and Covid-19: Investigating the Incidence of Domestic Violence during the Lockdown in Nigeria and its Effect on Existing Gender Inequalities.

15.45-16.00 Break

16:00-16:45

Martin Palamuleni, Professor, North West University, South Africa.

Title: Levels, Trends and Determinants of at least Four Antenatal Visits in Malawi: Evidence from Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys 1992–2015.

Angela Ajodo-Adebanjoko
Senior Lecturer, Federal University Lafia, Nigeria

**Gender and Covid-19: Investigating the Incidence of
Domestic Violence during the Lockdown in Nigeria and its
Effect on Existing Gender Inequalities**

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AVAILABLE

Antonio D. Camara Hueso

Associate Professor, University of Jaén, Spain

Francisco Barros

Assistant Professor, University of Jaén, Spain

Inmaculada Barroso-Benitez

Associate Professor, University of Jaén, Spain

Carmen Rodriguez-Guzman

Assistant Professor, University of Jaén, Spain

&

Felipe Morente-Mejias

Professor, University of Jaén, Spain

Housing and Residential Contexts of Solo-Dwellers in Spain: A Socio-Demographic Analysis

The rise in number and share of people who live alone (one-person households –OPHs hereafter-) is one of the most salient sociodemographic changes across Western (and non-Western) societies over the last decades, which put a number of research questions and social challenges on the table: from the underlying causality of the phenomenon to its implications for planning and intervention in key areas of welfare. This work partakes of a research project entitled ‘Profiles, environments and identities of forthcoming sociability: geo-sociology of one-person households in Spain’ which is being carried out at the University of Jaen (Spain). The project faces three specific issues about OPHs and their potential role as a piece of new or alternative types of sociability, namely a) the sociodemographic profile of OPHs, b) the physical and socioeconomic environment which harbor the daily life of these people and c) the attitudes, motivations and expectations of these people (i.e., in explaining the circumstances that led to live alone). With regard to this paper, previous research by colleagues and by ourselves has displayed that OPHs do not spread spatially at random but they tend to cluster following some individual sociodemographic characteristics and also as a function of the socioeconomic and spatial featuring of a given area. This drove us to reflect about two different realms of solo living which may swing from personal/social success to social vulnerability. This, we hypothesize, would also manifest on housing-related aspects. Therefore, the aim of this work is to present a detailed analysis of housing among solo-dwellers in Spain paying attention to four basic sociodemographic variables (age, sex, marital status and educational attainment) together with two contextual variables: the size of the population (as approached by the population

strata provided by census microdata in 1991, 2001 and 2011) and the precise location within a given city (i.e., at districts and census sections, as provided by census aggregate data in 2011). These datasets were freely downloaded from the website of the National Spanish Statistics Office (INE). Finally, the techniques used are very straightforward. We calculate specific proportions of OPHs by the aforementioned variables which are crossed with some basic characteristics of housing available in the household files of the Spanish censuses since 1991 onwards. Results are expected to reveal both existing common traits and specificity of OPHs housing in comparison to the rest of the population which of course will transcend the simple aspect of housing size to manifest in other socioeconomic aspects (hopefully informative on the main research questions that are coped with at the background of our project). Also, we expect to find some contrasts in housing across different segments of OPHs as a function of both individual and contextual characteristics.

Rafiqul Islam

Professor, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Mathematical Modeling and Projecting Urban Population of Bangladesh based on Censuses

The target of the current study is to make some mathematical models to the population for both sexes of urban area in Bangladesh at different points of time. Thereafter, inter censual annual age specific growth rates during 2001-2011 and time for doubling population for each age group are estimated and then, projections are done employing exponential growth rate method. In this connection, the data for the population of both sexes of urban area in Bangladesh has been taken from different censuses of Bangladesh. To authenticate the legality of the model, the model validation process, cross-validity prediction power (CVPP), is also applied in this study. It is seen that the age patterns of population for both sexes of urban area in Bangladesh for 1981 and 1991 follow modified negative exponential model but age patterns of population for both sexes of urban area in Bangladesh for 2001 and 2011 followed cubic polynomial model. The exponential growth rate method is employed to estimate the projected population for both sexes of urban area in Bangladesh during the period 2012-2041. It was reconnoitered that the projected population in 2012, 2021, 2031 and 2041 would be 35,626, 41,044, 48,746 and 58,817 thousands, respectively. It is investigated that urban population for all ages and aged population of urban region in Bangladesh would be doubled after 49.42 years and 21.27 years, respectively, a situation that is very alarming to retain the hale and hearty health for the population of urban area in Bangladesh.

Rula Jabbour

PhD Candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA

Military Moves in the Middle East: Explaining the Military's Role during the Arab Spring

This is a chapter of my dissertation. This research will address the military's moves in Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria in 2011, when protests became so dramatic they pushed the hand of the military to take a stand on the government. This dissertation will explore the military's position in the earliest stages of the so-called Arab Spring (December of 2010–2011) with a particular focus on Egypt and Tunisia where the military sided with the revolts and in Syria where the military supported the regime strongly. I argue that, during a time of internal crisis, the military implements one of two positions: 1) It actively supports the regime, the status quo; or 2) It defects from the regime. I explain the theory by two groups of factors. The First group of factors are Military factors which include its survival (the military) as a one entity, and how much it is trained to control the country in case of the emptiness of the executive office. The second group of factors are social which include the size and frequencies of the demonstrations, and the availability of an alternative that is a product of an active civil society. This paper will provide insight into the future role of the military in the Middle East by identifying key factors influencing the military's behavior. While the scope is limited to the Middle East, it suggests the military's behavior is not random but rather shaped by specific factors.

Guillermo Johnson

Assistant Professor, Federal University of Maranhão, Brazil

Smothering the Terse Latin American Democracy - Notes about the Second Decade of the Twenty-First Century

In the beginning of the twenty-first century, we have witnessed a considerable number of countries expand their democracy, legitimating social sectors historically relegated as protagonists of decisions in the state. In the midst of this process, there was a significant distribution of rents, and increase access to public policies. Gender, race and indigenous demands take place - with different depth - in the institutional space, albeit always marginal to the perennial neoliberal offensive. Already in the beginning of the second decade of this century begins a reversal to progressive longings, and was gaining strength in the wake of a noteworthy change in the international situation. For the second half of this decade a neoliberal-conservative amalgam is growing stronger, closing institutional access to popular demands, with governments fighting for naturalize the economics inequalities and the legitimization of violence, as a prevailing method of dealing with differences. This succinctly depicted scenario stands national particularities, often related to history, geopolitics and the correlation of forces in each country; but invariably contemporary governments support themselves in their condescending judicial systems, collude media, reinforcement the state's repressive arm and a myriad of evangelical churches that corroborate them. At the same time that conservative' notions spreads the neoliberal individualism enhances, proscribing social solidarity and tolerant perspectives of diversity, premise for a contemporary democracy. This critic conjuncture demands to reexamine the debates between economic inequalities and political participation, along the exigency for direct growing democracies.

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Athens, Greece: Abstract Book

Nikos Nikoloudis
Independent Scholar

**Eleftherios Venizelos and the Foundation of the League of
Nations**

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Utku Ozer

Part-time Lecturer, Altinbas University, Turkey

Politics and Cinema: The Reflection of Russian Revolution in Doctor Zhivago

“I believe that all movies are political” had said director Costa-Gavras in an interview to Deutsche Welle in 2008. Indeed as cinema is a powerful means of communicating messages to the masses, politics and cinema have always been closely intertwined. Movies have always been important in terms of political messages, especially in certain times in history. The Cold War period was one of these times when cinema actually functioned as a means of propaganda. Doctor Zhivago written by a Soviet author, Boris Pasternak, at the peak of Cold War, never had a chance for publication in the Soviet Union even though it brought a Nobel Literature prize to its author, whom again did not have the chance to accept the award in his lifetime. Even the fact that the book was banned in the Soviet Union was a political message and was used as a Cold War propaganda. The book was not only welcomed in the West but also adapted into a movie, which won five Academy Awards. The book and consequently the movie is a reflection of revolutionary Russia and the Civil War that followed and the establishment of the Soviet Union in the background of a love story. It, thus, is actually a historical novel and a historical movie. This paper aims to present a rewatching of Doctor Zhivago, with a historical background of the period that it takes place. Therefore the pre-revolutionary Russian society and politics and the revolutionary movement will briefly be mentioned as it takes place in the movie, to be followed by a closer look at Russia’s participation to the First World War, the consequent revolutions in 1917, the Civil War that followed and the establishment of the Soviet rule, all of which constitute major themes of the movie. The movie will also be compared to the book in order to figure out the similarities and the differences between the book and movie. Through the example of an American movie made during the Cold War based on a historical novel by a Soviet author, the paper aims to highlight the relation between politics and cinema and the use of history to this end.

Martin Palamuleni

Professor, North West University, South Africa

Levels, Trends and Determinants of at least Four Antenatal Visits in Malawi: Evidence from Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys 1992–2015

Background: Use of quality ante-natal care services not only promotes safe-motherhood and improved maternal and neonatal outcomes but also is likely to contribute towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of this study was to examine levels, trends and the factors influencing the utilization of ante-natal care services in Malawi.

Methods: The study used data obtained from the 1992, 2000, 2004, 2010 and 2015 Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were used to establish the relationships between socioeconomic variables and number of antenatal visits during pregnancy.

Results: The percentage of women who had at least four antenatal visits declined from 64% in 1992 to 57% in 2000, 38% in 2004, increasing to 45% in 2010 and 51% in 2015. The results of logistic regression show that the major determinants of number of antenatal visits are age, region, type of residence, use of family planning, number of children ever born, work status, education and visit to a health center. Women who were aged 15-19 (OR=0.50), who had no education (OR=0.74), in poorest wealth category (OR=0.91), never married (OR=0.61), not using contraceptives (OR=0.61) were less likely to have at least four antenatal visits. Women residing in Northern Region (OR=1.04) and Central region (OR=1.08), residing in urban areas (OR=1.28), women with 1-2 children ever born (OR=1.30) more likely to have at least four antenatal visits.

Conclusion: As a policy measure, it is recommended that poor, uneducated, rural women with high parity should be encouraged to utilize antenatal care services through social and behaviour change communication campaigns.

Gregory T. Papanikos

President, ATINER

The Demographics of Covid-19 in the European Union

This paper provides provisional descriptive evidence to answer two questions which relate to deaths due to Covid-19 in EU countries. First, to what extent variations in population sizes matter in EU countries? Can variations in deaths per capita (or people infected per capita) be explained by variations in population sizes? Second, does the economy matter? Can variations in total and per capita GDP explain variations in deaths per capita? Related is the issue of social spending. Can social spending explain variations in Covid-19 impacts? In answering these questions, data from EU member states are used. Simple stepwise descriptive statistical analyses show that population sizes and economies do matter in explaining the observed variations in Covid-19 impacts. It is found that only deaths per capita give meaningful and statistically significant results. This relation is non-linear. On average a one percent rise in population size increases deaths per capita by 0.49%.

Ziya Att Tamhid Ahmed Khan Pathan

Associate Professor, University of Eswatini, Swaziland

Socio-Cultural Instigations in Decision Making at Domestic Level

Women are still endangered in relation to the decision making process at the family level especially in rural areas. The present study is imperative to the societies urging for women empowerment and gender equality. Household decision making power/autonomy is defined as women's ability to determine events in their lives. Even though, men and women differ in their wishes. In many countries women are less educated, and have limited decision making power. It is widely asserted that increased gender equality within the household is a pre-requisite for achieving improvements in all matters of development.

The study is carried out in Awarokora kebele of Ambo district west shewa zone oromia regional state of Ethiopia. The capital of west shewa zone is Ambo which is located at 125 km away from the capital of the country (Ethiopia). The total area is 81,674 hectares. The elevation varies from 500 and 3,200 m above sea level.

The present research is conducted by obtaining relevant primary and secondary data. Questionnaire and general observation is used to gather relevant information where the sample size of 82 respondents is chosen through simple random sampling technique.

The study reveals that the majority of the respondents were female and most of them are in the age group of either 26-30 years or 31-40 years of age. There is a significant association between family expenditure, child welfare, reproductive health, socio-cultural matter, patriarchal system and economic factors playing a great influence in hindering the status of women's decision making process at family level.

It is recommended to mobilize community works towards awareness on the status of women in decision making process at family level.

Vasilis Skianis

Academic Dean, New York College, Greece

**Association of Environmental and Sociodemographic
Factors with Life Satisfaction in 27 European Countries**

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Mihai Vladimirescu

Professor, University of Craiova, Romania

The Literary Rhetoric of the Biblical Prophets Addressing Politics and Religion

Appearing as a religious institution specific to the chosen people, prophetism played a major role in the life of the Jewish community contributing in a clear way to the consolidation and preservation of faith and cultivating high religious feelings externalized by the practice of the divine commandments contained in Law revealed by Moses on Mount Sinai. Although the basic mission of the prophets was not to reform the society of the time, they were still deeply involved in combating corruption of their fellow citizens. In addition to preaching the faith, the prophets accused in writing or orally, in public or in particular, those who wronged the people by abusing their social position.

Barbara Zagaglia

Associate Professor, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy

Teaching in a Global World: Challenges and Opportunities for Small-Size Universities

Today's academic institutions are strongly involved in the modern globalization process in a two-fold way. In the first way, their current organization is a result of the globalization process. In the second way, teaching target students who will live and be employed in a global world. The aim of the paper is to investigate if small-size universities face particular challenges and if they can take some advantage of their dimension in the ongoing process. The focus is on Europe and, specifically, on Italy.

After presenting the process of international reform of the European Union's higher education system and its current organization, we turn to the higher education system in Italy, one of the signatory countries of the Bologna Declaration, that has implemented the reform process. Based on data from the Italian Ministry of University and Research, we calculate performance selected indicators that are informative of a few key aspects, such as teaching quality and internationalisation.

Results show that, unlike what one could think, small-size universities do not perform worse than big-size universities. On the contrary, whereas teaching quality is a standard for public universities and it does not depend on their size, small-size private universities perform better than big-size private ones. Attractiveness for students abroad is greater for smaller and more specialized universities, and this is especially evident for private universities. Official data also show that satisfaction is higher when students study in small-size universities.

Finally, due to the very complex and strict administrative procedures of the current organization and evaluation system, it is reasonable to think that the workload on teachers, researchers, and administrative staff is heavier for smaller than for bigger universities, given their lower human resource endowments. That could lead to negative consequences in the future.

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Georgios Zouridakis
Lecturer, University of Essex, UK

**The Role of Shareholder Protection in a Pro-Equity Market
Policy: The Case for Derivative Actions**

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