



Call for Papers for Vol.7, No.2, 2022

Special issue, edited by

Vincent Gengnagel (Flensburg) and Katharina Zimmermann (Hamburg)

Deadline: Abstracts by 4 April, Papers by 31 July 2022

Global moonshots, European responsibilities: Governance and Contestation of Eco-social Transformation

In light of today's climate crisis, the EU faces the challenge of integrating ecological conflicts into the formulation, implementation, and legitimation of its agenda. The European Green Deal (EGD) promises to combine sustainability with financial gain, envisioned as climate-neutral prosperity, presented as a historic leap forward with the potential to become "Europe's man-on-the-moon moment" (Ursula von der Leyen).

The special issue invites contributions that address the societal dimension of this ambition: Will the EGD highlight the EU's critical flaws or will it (re)vitalise the European project with a 'new green spirit'? European institutions are not only measured against their functional capability to deliver on the EGD goals, but also against the extent to which they facilitate the participation of societal stakeholders in democratic procedures. Correspondingly, the EGD also participates in the construction of a cohesive societal framework. Relying on 'normative power', the EU already extended its normative reach to all of humankind. The current iteration of legitimacy knowledge production links the European project not only with universal human rights, but with a responsibility for the planetary ecosystem. While the added legitimacy of planetary responsibility may prove a strong motif for EGD implementation, any opposition towards its policies and modes of governance are likely to be relegated to a counter-discourse – as if opposing the future of mankind and the planet itself.

Ultimately, in the eyes of interested publics, the fate of the EGD is closely tied to the legitimacy of a European bureaucracy providing both rational solutions and a representation of a normative core. At the same time, it also relates to the underlying issue of the EU as driven by the single market paradigm and the question of Europe as a social union – an unresolved but explosive question inherent to the institutional structure ever since Delors' initiative.



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In sum, the following questions – individually or in combination – could be addressed in the paper:

- In an increasingly unequal and contested Europe, does the debate on EGD policies provide opportunities for a new European social contract and foster alliances between societal actors that provide specific epistemic authority on welfare, ecology, and innovation?
- ‘A new green spirit’? Similarly to Boltanski and Chiapello’s observation of a “new spirit of capitalism” that resulted from the 1960s’ social and artistic critique, the urgency of the ecological question might stir social conflict, but also lead to reformation, modernization, and a renewed sense of legitimacy of European market economy.
- Where does EGD contention discursively take place? In expert debates and the technocratic semi-publics around policy formulation and implementation, or on the streets and in ‘varieties of populism’?
- Will the EGD’s precarious reliance on legitimacy (derived from different and sometimes opposing societal actors and particularistic discourses on ‘the universal’) become a revitalising source of trust in EU institutions – or provide a platform for a climate of distrust and political failure?
- Critical theory, ranging from political economy approaches to post-colonial perspectives, provides a more skeptical account: Is there a trade-off between inner-European societal challenges and global responsibilities? Are both attainable – or both systematically shirked?

The issue welcomes both national and transnational or supranational perspectives. Submitted analyses (e. g. case studies, empirical analyses, theoretical discussions or historical comparisons to other political projects) are asked to touch upon one of the above-mentioned issues and questions.

Submission and timeframe

Authors may submit structured abstracts of up to 300 words until 4 April 2022. Empirical, theoretical and conceptual submissions of significant originality will be considered for publication. All methodological approaches are welcome. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be asked to submit a full draft of their paper until 31 July 2022 which will then be subjected to peer review. The issue will be published as Vol. 7, No. 2 on 16 November 2022. CPE publishes in English.

Please submit your abstract to vincent.gengnagel@uni-flensburg.de.

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