cordially invites you to the lecture by

Jonathan Zeitlin
(University of Amsterdam)

Socializing the European Semester? Economic Governance and Social Policy Coordination in Europe 2020

5:20 hrs, Thursday, 12th March, Nador 11, 004

Chair: Uwe Puetter, Director of CEUR

The lecture, and the paper on which it is based, analyzes how EU social objectives and policy coordination have been integrated into the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Union’s emerging post-crisis architecture of economic governance. Based on interviews with high-level policy makers as well as published and unpublished documents, the paper argues that since 2011, there has been a progressive ‘socialization’ of the ‘European Semester’ of policy coordination, in terms of an increasing emphasis on social objectives and targets in the EU’s priorities and country-specific recommendations; an intensification of social monitoring, multilateral surveillance, and peer review; and an enhanced role for social and employment actors, especially the EU Employment and Social Protection Committees (EMCO and SPC). The paper interprets these developments not only as a response by the Commission and other EU institutions to rising social and political discontent among European citizens with the consequences of post-crisis austerity policies, but also as a product of reflexive learning and creative adaptation by social and employment actors to the new institutional conditions of the European Semester: another form of ‘socialization’.

Jonathan Zeitlin is Distinguished Faculty Professor of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Amsterdam and Director of the Amsterdam Center for Contemporary European Studies (ACCESS EUROPE). He has published widely on European and transnational governance, and frequently serves as a speaker, advisor, and evaluator for the EU institutions.

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