Focusing on two key aspects of post-2008 European political economies, the presentation reflects the role of the state in the context of prevailing neoliberal ideology and a hegemonic masculine rationality in economic governance and (supra-)national institutions. The intimate connection, especially in the Eurozone, between increasingly authoritarian modes of economic governance and highly masculinized norms of competitiveness are explored focusing on the latest deployment of EU hard law, such as the Fiscal Compact and the ‘Sixpack’ Legislation. I argue that these new economic governance regimes are (re-) enforcing gendered, class biased and ethnic hierarchies, and segregation in paid and unpaid work. Understanding the significant and variegated impact of EU governance regimes can only be achieved fully by paying attention to the intensified crisis of social reproduction including widespread evictions, mass emigration, and the enforced increase in the provision of unpaid social care. In two country cases, Spain and the Republic of Ireland, I retrace which policies are fostered to resolve state debt, and how this is closely connected to state or supranational state formations that foster more authoritarian modes of governing.

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