13th Conference of the European Sociological Association

(Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities

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paper addresses research ethics challenges researchers face when dealing with data sources and tools easily accessible and available online. The analysis will consider the legal framework and case law at the EU and Greek level with special reference to the General Data Protection Regulation (679/2016). Special attention will be given to practical guidance in identifying and complying with personal data regulation. The above will be considered in light of the principle of freedom of research, the need to protect research participants’ rights as well as the mandate for research integrity.

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Equal Litigants, Unequal Litigations? Access to Justice after Austerity in the Southern European Democracies
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The link between the two sides of the coins, rule of law and equality, has been observed from different normative and methodological perspectives. Even recently, an interesting work has pointed to the correlation between the rule of law and the individual wellbeing, this latter being assessed against standards of life expectancy, child mortality rate, and health. This quantitative analysis follows up along the same line traced already by previous studies, which aimed showing that a fair and transparent legal environment is strongly correlated to the economic development and, by than means, to better living standards. Far from being uncontested, these works reveal a wide spread attention for the relationship that exists between rule of law and equality. Yet, very little empirical investigation has been unfolded on the access to justice-equality interconnection. This work disentangles the matrix rule of law – equality – equal access to justice by taking an empirical avenue. It starts by focusing on the Southern European countries – Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain –, then it develops a comparison of the policies adopted in the justice sector at the aftermath of the economic crisis that hit the Euro zone in 2007-08. It finally investigates in depth the outcomes these policies ended up with in terms of 1) capacity to respond to the demand for justice; 2) "output legitimacy of the court system"; 3) differential implementation of the policy instruments adopted, taking into consideration the interplay between the austerity-driven reforms and the on going policies of judicial governance.