



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

Description of the funded research project
1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty
Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value
Research Equipment



*Transnational Monetary & Economic Alternatives in
the Interwar Politics.*

The 30s Greek Crisis in European Context

Principal Investigator:

Catherine Brégianni

Reader-friendly title: TransMoNEA

Scientific Area: Social Sciences

**Institution and Country: Academy of
Athens, Greece**

**Host Institution: Academy of Athens,
Greece**

Collaborating Institution(s): Laboratory of

Evaluation of Policies and Development

Programs, University of Thessaly,

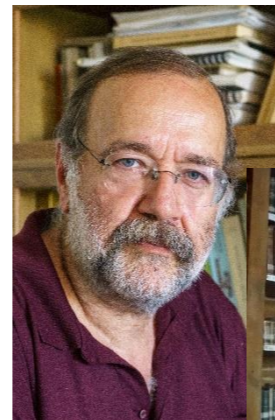
**Department of Urban Planning and Regional
Development**

Paris I, UMR D&S

Project webpage

(if applicable):

**www.academyofathens/transmonea.gr (in
construction)**



Budget: 159.500

Duration: 36 months

Research Project Synopsis

Analysis of the Great Depression as a transition from the global to the local

The pivotal axis of this project is the international crisis of the 1930s and the interpretation of the alternative strategies promoted for its handling. By way of integrating a conceptual level of analysis, it is expected that the research will also elucidate the interpretation of the interwar crisis by social groups.

To better establish the main working hypothesis, the project includes the study of the previous liberal market organization and the attempted monetary integration in the 1920s, a process during which the interwar crisis caused a rupture. From the same perspective, the micro-analytical processing of the 1930s crisis, as a case study of the Greek experience, incorporates the parameters of the national economy which also accounted for the internal crisis. The restricted chronological horizon of the project allows for the geographical broadening of the subject matter but mainly enables the use of multiple methodological tools. Nevertheless, the conceptual analysis of specific economic phenomena (like monetary circulation and credit mechanisms) in the long run provides a theoretical framework.

In terms of methodology, the projects bears the evaluation of quantitative data by archival evidence (introducing the historical approach into economic research), the valorization of the cultural dimension of economic phenomena and the description of the market extension by the transition of international policies from the global to the local.

In particular, the above are explored in relation to specific research axes, starting from a global perception and concluding with the case studies.

A listing of these axes in relation to the state of current research is as follows:

- **Transnational Monetary Integration in Interwar Europe and the Turning Point of the Great Depression**
- **South-eastern Europe in the Context of the Interwar Crisis**
- **A Micro-Analytical Approach to the Greek Interwar Crisis**

Project originality

Taking into account that the recent crisis by definition has created new paths on rethinking past crises, the broader innovation of the project is the introduction, speaking on a transnational point of analytical view, of some novel, unexplored sources to the historical debate, which reveal ambiguous aspects of the process of the interwar economic “integration”, of the crisis, and of the anti-crisis politics as an alternative paradigm of economic regulation. The evaluation and assessment of State’s intervention and of the critique against it on a transnational level, also, bring forward older issues, which are nevertheless incorporated into a state-of-the-art research imperative, using interdisciplinary methodology and digital tools.

Furthermore, the transition from the transnational to the regional and from there to the local level is an innovative aspect of the project, being acquired by the participation of scientists from different disciplines and nationalities.

Concerning the interpretation of crisis, the research innovates by not restricted to the point of view of political elites but going further the social interaction as a whole, challenging via archival documentation the quantitative information provided by State’s actors. This innovative aspect could be also useful for the interpretation of the current crisis and for the explanation of contemporary social attitudes vis-à-vis crisis phenomena.

From the point of view of Greek Economic History, the project innovates as it integrates and analyses local economic phenomena in the framework of transnational economic policies: it contextualizes Greek Studies in general within a global framework, taking into consideration that a considerable part of the examined national phenomena are parallel to the European ones. Beyond an analysis of economic actors in local (i.e. national) level, it integrates nevertheless their impact in the general context.

As an innovative aspect, can be also seen the challenge of the research to combine methodological tools of cultural studies with the analysis of economic phenomena.

Expected results & Research Project Impact

Research's approach intends to depict the multiple narratives of the interwar crisis. The **political narrative**, through the examination of national case studies, and the **technocratic narrative**, from the perspective of international economic institutions that intervene so as to establish a new monetary and financial order, are converged with a **conceptual narrative**, the latter including the visual representation of social phenomena caused by the interwar crisis.

Resuming the project's outcomes, new interpretations are expected about an economic phenomenon with social ramifications, and therefore the overcoming of a systemic approach of the Great Depression that exclusively comes from national or international actors. Thus, the research's axes are highly interactive and coherent, combining various historiographical approaches.

To this overall target the milestones are conducting: **a) basic research on new sources, b) systematization and evaluation of the provided information by the usage of digital tools, c) concretization of concepts by testing them on a "real" environment, d) national case studies' analysis by the standardization of serial approach, evaluating the monetary factor and that of the institutional actors.**

The integration of the Greek interwar crisis in the international context and, as a consequence, its incorporation to the actual debate in social sciences could have an important **scientific impact**, expanding the state-of-art and proliferating **scientific networking**: The project aims to contribute to the international scientific debate and incorporates methodological issues, based on the admittance that the experience of recent crises alters the perspective of the former ones, multiplying the historic tools and the research hypotheses.

Social impact of the project is then related to the questions posed by the recent 2008 crisis and connected to the uncertainties the crisis begot: On the national or local level, research data may help to draw the necessary conclusions in order to check the effectiveness of the current development policies in comparison to the policies implemented in the 1930s economic crisis.

The importance of this funding

The HFRI funding offers, to me personally and to the members of the Research Team as well, the opportunity to expand the basic research and to systematize the produced information -quantitatively and qualitatively-, by means of digital tools and by collective work conditions. The emphasis on dissemination offers the possibility of interacting with the scientific community and the chance of monitoring research results, in order to promote the conceptual framework of work hypotheses and to expand the use of interdisciplinary tools. The ability to fund publications by the Project's budget, as well as the publication of journal articles / deliverables, promotes the synthesis and production of a new knowledge by the members of the research team.

I also consider important the contribution of the HFRI funding for the maintenance and expansion of the existing international scientific network, regarding that scientific networking is not only a qualitative indicator of personal research but also contributes to the extroversion of Greek Studies in general.



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