



**THE BUREAUCRATISATION OF THE WORLD**  
*Second European Conference on the Analysis of Politics and Society*

Paris, 5 and 6 February 2009  
University of Paris-I Panthéon Sorbonne  
Place de la Sorbonne  
75005 Paris

Neoliberalism does not mean the death of interventionism, or even of economic dirigisme. It is, first and foremost, a political project for the reaffirmation of the political. It promotes an 'indirect private government', a 'government at a distance', thanks to the 'privatisation of the State'. This observation, supported in their different ways by studies of public policies, by investigations inspired by Karl Polanyi, and by neo-Foucauldian research lies at the basis for the Second European Conference on the Analysis of Politics and Society, which will focus on the bureaucratic dimension of the contemporary economic apparatuses of the exercise of power. These apparatuses are clearly visible in the sphere of the State, however 'minimal', but they are also found in the business world and in society as a whole. Max Weber and Karl Polanyi had realised that juridico-administrative constraints are not proper to the State in the strict sense of that term. These constraints also characterise social institutions, starting with economic institutions and businesses themselves. Liberalism also entails a growth in legislation and regulation which is the paradoxical condition for the dismantling of the obstacles that impede the commodification of the factors of production: land, capital, labour.

The increasing number of rules, the processes of standardisation and quantification, the proliferation of 'documents' and 'papers' – 'strategic', of course – , as well as of manuals of procedure, of norms of certification, of 'performance indicators' and other 'ethical charters' are all inherent in the institutionalisation of neo-liberalism. Political life, local communities, the market, home and international security, social protection, the environment, the 'civil society' of non-governmental (but equally bureaucratic) organizations, diplomacy, multilateral organisations, agencies of independent regulation, and aid for development are all in thrall to this process of evolution. It is a process which traps so-called liberal societies in what Max Weber called the 'house of bondage' – namely, bureaucracy. It amounts to a social production of indifference that, in the guise of laws, regulations,

procedures, norms, techniques and, to an increasing degree, bio-techniques, makes it possible for coercion with a human face to be exercised at a lesser political and constitutional cost, for example in areas such as migration, public health, and solidarity.

## **PROGRAMME**

**Thursday 5 February  
Amphithéâtre Gaston Bachelard  
1, rue Victor-Cousin  
Paris 75005**

**18:00: Inaugural Lecture in the European Cycle of African Studies, Department of Political Science, University of Paris-I Panthéon Sorbonne, with the support of the Reasopo :**

**‘Compromised Critics : Religion in Kenya’s Politics’,  
by John Lonsdale (Cambridge)**

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**Friday 6 February  
Amphithéâtre Louis Liard  
Grande Cour d’Honneur  
17, rue de la Sorbonne  
Paris 75005**

**08:45: Welcome**

**09:00: Opening remarks, by Jean-François Bayart (Paris)**

**09:15 – 11:15**

**Workshop I: Neoliberalism and bureaucratisation  
Chair: Bruno Théret (Paris)**

with Béatrice Hibou (Paris), Ayse Bugra (Istanbul), Antoine Kernen (Lausanne and Geneva), Bruno Lautier (Paris), and Federico Lorenc Valcarce (Buenos Aires & Mar del Plata)

**11:15 – 11:30 : Break**

**11:30 – 13:00**

**Workshop II: The neo-liberal bureaucratisation of research**

Chair: Jean-Louis Briquet (Paris)

with Isabelle Bruno (Lille), Jean-François Bayart (Paris), Dino Cutolo (Siena), Ahmet Insel (Istanbul), Danielle de Lame (Tervuren), Alfio Mastropaolo (Turin), Klaus Schlichte (Magdeburg) and Alain Trautmann (Paris)

**13:00 – 14:15 : Lunch**

**14:30 – 15:45**

**Discussion**

**A new era for neoliberal bureaucratisation?  
The Obama administration and the global crisis**

Chair: Victor Pérez Diaz (Madrid)

Introduction by Denis Lacorne (Paris)

**15:45 – 16:00 : Break**

**16:00 – 18:00**

**Workshop III: The social production of indifference**

Chair: Peter Geschiere (Amsterdam)

with Roberto Beneduce (Turin), Willem van Bennekom (Amsterdam), Damien Nantes (Paris), and Simona Taliani (Turin)

**18:15 – 19:15**

*Keynote Speaker*

**The bureaucratisation of bread in France**

By Steven Kaplan (Ithaca)

With the support of



Registration : [fasopo2@yahoo.fr](mailto:fasopo2@yahoo.fr)