

Transnational Social Justice in the European Union and its Implications for Global Justice

RECON workshop

WP 9 – Global Transnationalisation and Democratisation Compared



Amsterdam, 10 and 11 June 2011

Venue: Filmmuseum – Franse zaal, Vondelpark 3, Amsterdam.

Workshop convenor: **Ben Crum**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (B.J.J.Crum@vu.nl).

The European Union can be considered as an advanced testing ground for political arrangements beyond the nation-state. As such, it frequently figures as an important reference point in debates on the prospects of (cosmopolitan) *democracy* beyond the nation-state. In contrast, the EU serves much more rarely as a reference point in the current theoretical debates on (global) *justice* beyond the nation-state. In these debates, the main empirical touchstones are rather found in the duties of rich countries towards poor ones. Broadly, we find on this issue cosmopolitan approaches, which insist on such political duties, confronting more nationalist views that adopt a more sceptical position.

This workshop aims to explore the validity of various theoretical positions on transnational or global justice for the European Union and whether experiences in the EU can be used to develop our theories of global justice. Many debates on justice in the EU appear to be cut short by the observation that there is no ‘social Europe’ embodying a full-blown conception of social justice. Arguably, however, this need not preclude the emergence of less demanding and less comprehensive transnational duties among Europeans. Consider for instance the “Solidarity Clause” now embodied in the Treaty of Lisbon (Art. 222 TFEU), the structural and regional funds, or even the ‘duty’ to open one’s borders and markets to each other. Importantly, the conception of social justice used in this workshop is a broad one, not only including social-economic goods but also goods like access rights (migration), language use, and cultural capital.

Against this background, the workshop seeks to address questions like:

- Does European integration issue into distinct transnational duties of social justice?
- What principles of just distribution can be identified to arise in various EU policy domains?
- Can an emerging EU conception of justice be identified, distinct from both national and global conceptions of justice?
- Do the transnational duties and principles of social justice that may emerge in the EU contain relevant insights for the prospects (and theory) of global justice?
- How does the possible emergence of transnational duties of justice affect existing national conceptions of social justice?

The workshop takes place in the framework of Work Package 9 of the RECON-project on ‘Global Transnationalisation and Democratisation Compared’. RECON (www.reconproject.eu) is an Integrated Project supported by the European Commission’s 6th Framework Programme for Research, with the aim to clarify whether democracy is possible under conditions of pluralism, diversity and complex multilevel governance.

The workshop will be relatively small-scale, discussing about eight papers over two days. With a limited attendance beyond the paper-givers, its overall size should be around 15 participants, both from within the RECON-project as well as from outside of it. Depending on the outcome of the workshop and the interest expressed, the possibility of a joint publication will be considered.

Programme

Friday, 10 June 2011

- 10:30 **Welcome and introduction**
Ben Crum, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam* and John Erik Fossum, *ARENA, University of Oslo*
- 11:00 **Does Euroscepticism entail Globoscepticism?**
Glyn Morgan, *Syracuse University*
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 **Social justice and political obligation in the EU**
Lynn Dobson, *University of Edinburgh*
- 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 15:15 **Ethnic diversity and support redistribution: implications for transnational social justice?**
Keith Banting, *Queen's University Kingston*
- 16:45 *Coffee Break*
- 17:00 **Social justice beyond the nation-state: some lessons from a non-nation (België/ Belgique)**
Philippe van Parijs, *Université Catholique de Louvain*
- 20:00 *Conference Dinner*

Saturday, 11 June 2011

- 9:30 **Welcome second day**
- 9:45 **From Monism and Dualism to Pluralism: towards a multi-level ethical position of justice and democracy?**
Ronald Tinnevelt, *Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen*
- 11:15 *Coffee Break*
- 11:30 **Three emerging duties of transnational social justice in the EU**
Ben Crum, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 **Transnational justice: political, not socio-economic**
Ayelet Banai, *Johann Wolfgang Goethe University*
- 15:30 *Coffee Break*
- 15:45 **Problems of political justice raised by bargaining models of European integration**
Chris Lord, *ARENA, University of Oslo*
- 17:15 *Conclusion*
- 17:45 *Drinks and buffet dinner (optional)*

