

Werkstattgespräche / Lunchtime Workshop

“Solidarity is our weapon”. Social mobilisation in Scotland in the Contest of the Post-Political Condition

The consensual climate of the post-political order has been recently disrupted in Europe. The mass protests staged in different European countries and the resurgences of the extreme parties in response to the multiple European crises witness the “cracks” in consensual politics. While much of the scholarly attention has been drawn onto the socio-political impact of large-scale uprisings, the contribution of bottom-up sub-national groups to the “return of the political” has been under-researched.

Therefore, in this article, we focus on solidarity acts undertaken at sub-national level as instances of the “properly political”. We contend that these practices are antagonist political forms, containing *in nuce* the potential to counter-act the post-political order and to shape a new politics that makes solidarity one of its founding values.

To illustrate this argument, the article reports the findings of a case study analysis involving four grassroots groups based in Scotland. For the groups under scrutiny, solidarity is conceived as a political value underpinning the vision of an equal and fair society, prompting their social mobilisation. Rather than challenging the political order through far-reaching disruptive actions, these organisations act to change the status quo starting from the local level. The evidence shows how the enactment of solidarity put in place by these movements is a properly political act, redefining the meaning and praxes of “the political”. By providing an empirical analysis of solidarity acts practiced at sub-national level, this article contributes to substantiate the literature on post-politics.

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4. Stock – Besprechungsraum, Department of Sociology, University of Vienna

The presentation will be held in English.