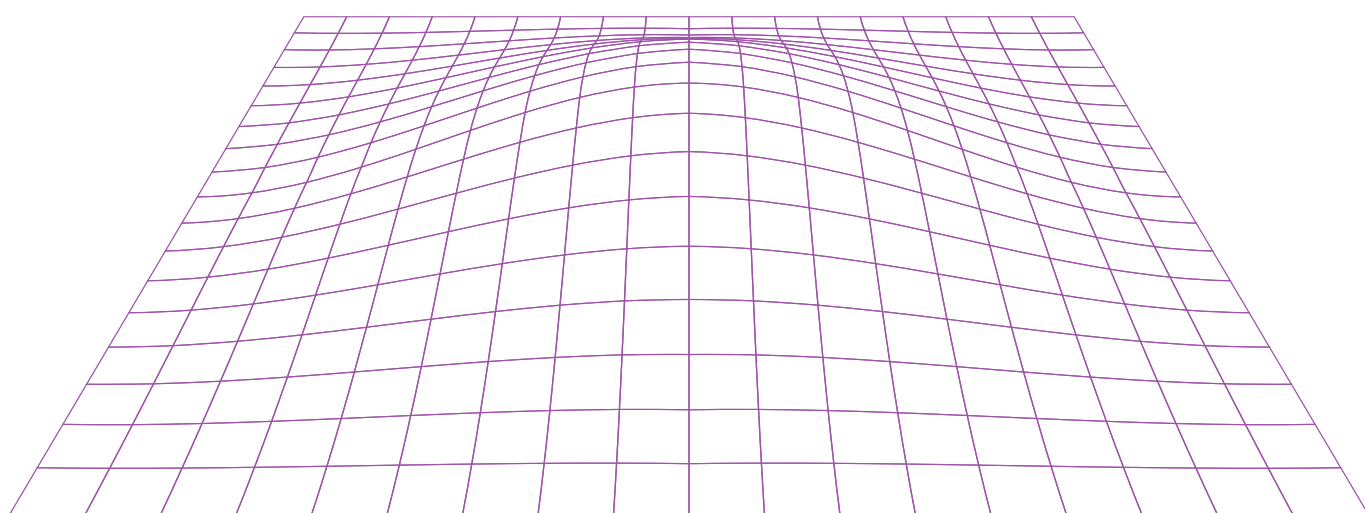


SLOVENIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE DAY

# UNDERSTANDING THE INTERREGNUM:

*World after Neoliberal Hegemony?*



# SLOVENIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE DAY 2024

## Understanding the Interregnum: World after Neoliberal Hegemony? (Faculty of Social Sciences, 3 December 2024)

In the wake of global transformations and shifts in the political, social and economic arenas, we stand at a critical juncture: *“The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear”* to echo Antonio Gramsci.

When we think about neoliberal hegemony, we situate it in periodisation of capitalist development of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by which it is usually meant the rise of economic private powers, open markets and liberalisation, increasing pressure towards privatisation of public services, as well as unipolarity in international relations and the culmination of the “rules based international order”. However, what has become more evident over the last decade is, that the current political and economic orders have less and less to do with the ideational picture of neoliberal politics as well as very little with the pre-2008 crisis national and international policy choices.

We are currently living in period of the crisis in the “rules based international order”, crisis of the core tenants of the liberal democracy, period which is still very much influenced by the financial crisis of 2008, climate crisis, in the post-pandemic circumstances, in which we are witnessing the increasing rise of the importance of governmental interference in economy, merchantilistic and protectionist policies of nation states, the rise of the populist politics, growing nationalism and illiberalism, and fractures in international institutions. It is increasingly more clear - the rot is coming from inside, while no alternative political, economic or social model(s) with universal appeal are emerging. In the interregnum, symptoms of the crisis intensify, dominant norms are challenged, new social forces emerge. It is increasingly clear that the era of neoliberal hegemony has come to an end, a new order is being created, but it is still not fully completed.

Living in the interregnum, we are yet to properly assess the nature, causes and consequences of the crisis of neoliberal hegemony itself. What makes us speak of the crisis of neoliberalism? What are the features of neoliberalism and the crisis of neoliberal hegemony? These topics then necessarily mean we are also interested in the transformations and possible renewals as well as possible alternatives to neoliberalism and the current interregnum.

These concerns are at the core of the Slovenian Political Science Day 2024, in which we will reflect on the intricate web of political, social and economic contradictions of the present interregnum. The annual meeting will be an opportunity to reflect on the breakdown of the neoliberal order, to exchange views and positions on the aforementioned challenges and re-imagine that which may come after. Are we to be optimistic? Can solidarity remedy the interregnum and also the neoliberal infernos?

In this light, we invite primarily, but not exclusively, contributions dealing with the following or related topics:

- Crisis is in the crisis? Ontological and epistemological roots of the crisis of neoliberalism
- What is and what is not neoliberalism?
- Ecological crisis in neoliberalism and afterwards
- European Union, neoliberalism and the interregnum
- Rules based order: whose rules, whose order?
- Contradictions of the core tenants of the neoliberal order
- Crisis, transformation or suspension of the liberal democracy?
- Economic policy during and after neoliberal capitalism
- Neoliberalism and the question of the local self-government
- From neoliberal capitalism to technofeudalism?
- Is crisis a uniquely Western experience? Crisis as the Western leitmotif
- Political subjectivities after neoliberal politics
- Decolonial, postcolonial approaches to alternatives to neoliberalism
- Reshaping of the capitalist relations
- Assault of the far-right, mainstreaming of far-right and its normalization
- Loss of the third place: nurturing informal public life
- Academy between autonomy and social responsibility
- Student encampments as heterotopias
- From liberal peace to liberal war

**We particularly welcome theoretical reflections and empirical research as well as critical, interdisciplinary, and reflexive approaches to the topic.**

We invite all interested researchers, pedagogues, doctoral students, undergraduate and postgraduate students, interested civil society organizations, members of the FSS and UL Alumni to participate in the meeting and contribute to the exchange of views and positions regarding the aforementioned challenges. At the same time, we also invite all those who would like to participate in SPD in discussions and other events to join us on **December 3, 2024** at the Faculty of Social Sciences and to enrich our discussion with your participation.

Anyone interested can send a proposal for a panel/round table and/or paper by **October 11, 2024**.

Proposals for panels/roundtables should include:

- Panel/roundtable title and abstract (up to 400 words and six keywords)
- Name and surname and e-mail address of the moderator of the panel/round table
- Tentative list of participants (up to a maximum of five) with their e-mail addresses

Paper proposals should contain:

- Name and surname and e-mail address of the author
- Paper title and abstract (up to 250 words and six keywords)

Registration fee for the conference:

- Free for members of the association with paid membership fee for 2024 (the registration fee is included in the membership fee)
- 60 euros for non-members of the association
- Undergraduate and postgraduate students and the unemployed free of charge
- As part of the conference, in addition to common coffee breaks with snacks, a common lunch will also be organized

**The conference is organized bilingually: we invite contributions in Slovenian and English.**

Potential participants can send a proposal for a panel/round table and/or paper to: [melika.mahmutovic@fdv.uni-lj.si](mailto:melika.mahmutovic@fdv.uni-lj.si) by **October 11, 2024**.

The conference is organized by the Slovenian Political Science Association and the Political Science Department of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Cordially invited!

*Doc.dr. Marko Hočevar (president of the Slovenian political science association)*

*Doc. dr. Jelena Juvan (head of the Department of Political Science, FSS, UL)*



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