

**Maria Kousis** (MA, PhD, The University of Michigan, 1984) is Professor Emerita of Development and Environment in the Department of Sociology, University of Crete and former Director of the University of Crete Research Centre for the Humanities, the Social and Education Sciences (UCRC). She has been coordinator of, and/or partner in European Commission funded research projects including *Grassroots Environmental Action in Southern Europe*, *Transformations in Environmental Activism*, *Mediterranean Voices: Oral History and Cultural Practice in Mediterranean Cities and Participatory Governance and Institutional Innovation*.

Her publications include 17 edited volumes/books/special issues and 44 articles, 43 book chapters, including *Economic and Political Contention in Comparative Perspective Boulder* (eds. M Kousis and C. Tilly, Paradigm Publishers 2005), a Special Issue of *American Behavioral Scientist on Alternative Action Organizations During Hard Economic Times: A Comparative European Perspective* (with S. Kalogeraki and C. Cristancho, 2018), *Transnational solidarity in times of crises: Citizen organisations and collective learning in Europe* (eds C. Lahusen, U. Zschache and M. Kousis, Palgrave 2021) focused on the fields of migration, disability and unemployment and *Challenging Mobilities in and to the EU during times of crises: the case of Greece* (with A. Chatzidaki and K. Kafetsios, Springer 2022).

Her research centers on social change, contentious politics, the impacts of crises, environmental politics, migration and Southern Europe. Her latest work focuses on the socio-economic and political dimensions of hard times, particular in the context of the research projects *The Greeks, the Germans and the Crisis* (GGCRISI, Greek-German Ministries Cooperation), *Living with Hard Times: How European Citizens Deal with Economic Crises and Their Social and Political Consequences* (LIVEWHAT, EC, FP7), *European Paths to Transnational Solidarity in times of crisis* (TransSOL, EC, Horizon 2020), EURYKA (EC, Horizon 2020) and *Social and Solidarity Economy, Urban Communities and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups* (Swiss Network for International Studies).



Department of Sociology  
School of Social Sciences  
University of Crete



University of Crete Research Center  
**UCRC**  
for the Humanities, the Social & Education Sciences

## Scientific Event in Honor of Professor Emerita Maria Kousis Lekaki

**Tuesday, 21 October 2025**

In person: **Amphitheatre Δ7, Gallos Campus, UoC**

And **online: [Join via Zoom](#)**

Meeting ID: 892 8293 6067 | Passcode: 617086



## Programme \* Greece Time (GMT +03:00)

10:00 **Christina Karakioulafi**, Professor and Chair, Dept. of  
Welcome Sociology, UoC  
and Opening **Stefania Kalogeraki**, Professor, Dept. of Sociology, UoC  
Remarks **Maria Kousis Lekaki**, Prof. Emerita, Dept. of Sociology, UoC

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10:30 **Jochen Roose**  
"How Pro-Europeans Drink Their Coffee"

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11:00 **Maria Petmesidou**  
"South European Welfare States Facing the Challenges of  
Climate Change"

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11:30 **Stavroula Tsinorema**  
"Bioethics and the Environment"

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12:00 **Donatella Della Porta**  
"Time Intensification in Social Movements" (online)

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12:30 - 13:30 *Coffee Break*

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13:30 **Christian Lahusen**  
"Protest Movements as Sources of Trust and Distrust"

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14:00 **Mario Diani**  
"Alternative Action Organizations: Maria Kousis' Contribution  
to Bridging Social Movement and Civil Society Research"

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14:30 **Christopher Rootes**  
"Environmental Protests and NGOs: The Environmental  
Movement in Challenging Times"

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15:00 **Roberto Franzosi**  
"Socio-historical Research in the Digital Era" (online)

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## Invited Speakers

- **Donatella Della Porta**, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. of Political Science, Founding Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Director of Centre of Social Movements Studies, Director of the PhD Program in Political Science and Sociology, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy
- **Mario Diani**, Professor of Sociology, University of Trento, Italy
- **Roberto Franzosi**, Professor of Sociology and Linguistics, Emory University, Atlanta, USA
- **Christian Lahusen**, Professor of Sociology, University of Siegen, Germany
- **Maria Petmesidou**, Professor Emerita of Social Policy, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
- **Jochen Roose**, PD Dr. for Electoral and Social Research, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V., Germany
- **Christopher Rootes**, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Politics and Political Sociology, University of Kent, UK
- **Stavroula Tsinorema**, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy and Bioethics, UoC, Greece

