



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Cristian Norocel, University of Helsinki

Presents his work

Taking Gender in the Theorizing of Populism

at the CEREN Colloquium

Monday 4 May 2009, at 4.15 – 6.00 p.m. at Pohjoinen

Hesperiankatu 15 A (buzzer “SSKH”)

WELCOME!

Despite the increasing attention on the radical right populist manifestations in Europe there is very little literature engaging in a gendered analysis of the field. Cristian Norocel departs from the substantive ambiguity of the defining the concept of populism and its noteworthy closeness to that of nationalism, and juxtaposes the constitutive elements of populism and their imagined properties to a feminist theorizing of nationalism. The conceptual homogeneity of ‘the people’, the dichotomous relationship between ‘the people’ and ‘the elites’, and the concept of popular sovereignty and subsequently that of charismatic leadership, are thus scrutinized. Norocel’s endeavour is not to discharge existing scholarship in the field, rather to involve in a constructive criticism, and indicate certain entry points situated on the blurred conceptual border between the construction of people and nation; this opens up the field of theorizing populism to the feminist contributions made to the scholarship on nationalism. The feminist take on the study of nationalism provides valuable answers, holds Norocel, to how to incorporate gender in the theorizing of populism, and indicate further avenues of research in the field.

***Cristian Norocel** is a postgraduate student at the Department of Political Science within the University of Helsinki. His research interests pertain to the study of masculinities, nationalism and ethnic minorities, and queer studies, with a focus on Europe. <http://www.norocel.eu> .*

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