



Fare network academic seminar

Movements and Mobilisations: Is there a new far-right presence in European Football?

Where

Hosted by the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam, Netherlands

When

Friday 27 May and Saturday 28 May 2016

Why

The global refugee crisis together with the ongoing economic crisis in Europe has given political fuel to a troubling rise of populist and right-wing parties and street movements across Europe. This re-emergence of the political far-right seems to have been going hand-in-hand with attempts at an open ideological mobilisation of football supporters, particularly if considering movements like 'Hogesa' or 'Pegida' in Germany, the 'English Defence League' and its off-shoots in the UK, or movements rooted within more easily recognised nationalist frameworks in Russia, Poland or the Ukraine. It seems that in this period of crisis, European football offers considerable spaces for social mobilisation, for political recruitment and for the dissemination of ideological demagoguery.

Above all it has been the global refugee crisis that provoked the strongest reactions from European football fans. Expressions of Islamophobia and general xenophobia, as well as hatred and even violence towards refugees and migrant communities seem to have become a constant sight in European stadia (and beyond). On the other hand the refugee crisis has also triggered numerous responses and symbolic acts of solidarity, with various actors within the field of football (clubs, players, fan groups, etc) starting initiatives to support refugees practically and to support their political acceptance in Europe.

Identifying the social field of football as a catalysing space and staging ground for right-wing ideologies, this seminar aims to explore the intertwining of the rise of the new far-right in European football and society. The debate will focus, but is not limited to:

- Do football fans play a role within re-appeared extreme right-wing political parties and street movements? Is there a difference between political mobilisations of football fans in Eastern, Southern and Western Europe?
- How have football fans in Europe reacted to the current refugee crisis? What are the differences between reactions in countries directly affected by incoming refugees and those at the margins of Europe? Is there an East vs West divide in how refugees are being welcomed or not welcomed?
- What policies have been implemented by international football governing bodies, national football associations, clubs, fans or governments to confront the rise of right-wing tendencies amongst organised football fans? Have there been any policies implemented that would utilise football as a positive vehicle for the social inclusion of socially marginalised groups, such as refugees?

How

We invite interested scholars, activists and practitioners to submit abstracts (max. 300 words) together with a short narrative CV (max. 200 words) in one document to info@farenet.org and dario.brentin@uni-graz.at. The organisers plan to publish selected papers as an edited volume in late 2016.

FARE will be covering the costs for accommodation and transport to and from Amsterdam. The reimbursement is however contingent on the submission of a written draft paper (ca. 3000 words) to the organisers before the workshop.