



UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Assemblage
THINKING
THEORY, ANALYSIS,
PRACTICE & GOVERNANCE
2, 3, 4 JUNE, 2017
UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
MYTILINI, LESVOS, GREECE

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ASSEMBLAGE THINKING:
THEORY, ANALYSIS, PRACTICE AND GOVERNANCE**

PRESS RELEASE

The international symposium “Assemblage Thinking: Theory, Analysis, Practice and Governance”, hosted by the Department of Geography between June 2 to 4, 2017 and organized by professor Helen Briassoulis, concluded successfully. The speakers, besides actively and crucially participating at the Symposium, had the opportunity to learn about the University of the Aegean and the Department of Geography. A small exhibition of the students of the Department of Cultural Communication and Technology, under the supervision of professor Nassia Chourmouziadi, and a composition of teacher-artist Mrs. Vato Fratzoglou were hosted at the Symposium.

The keynote invited speaker was Dr. Manuel DeLanda (adjunct professor at Princeton University, USA), who is considered as one of the main contemporary thinkers in Assemblage Thinking, while circa 30 expert speakers from three continents (Europe, N. America, Oceania) and seven countries (USA, Australia, UK, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Greece), presented their current research and participated in interesting and thought-provoking discussions for the importance of Assemblage Thinking in theoretical and applied research as well as in empirical studies.

The topics presented at the Symposium included: theoretical analyses of assemblages, media sociology, domestication of organisms, prehistoric archaeology, sociology of generations, responses to environmental degradation, constitution, political economic and aesthetics of cities, architectural design, politics, geopolitics, biopolitics (organ transplantations and refugee health care), place and globalization.

The most important conclusion of the Symposium was that diverse scientific fields and studies, with different origins and traditions, adopt Assemblage Thinking in order to comprehend, analyze and explain the complex and multidimensional spatial, environmental, socio-economic, institutional and other phenomena and issues as well as

to formulate apposite interventions. Their common characteristic is the rejection of uni-dimensional, static approaches and of predefined, given and strictly delimited study schemas and the acceptance of the particularity and uniqueness of each individual case that emerges, is constituted by and evolves from the co-existence and constant interactions among various factors from different levels in space and time.

Within this perspective, new modes of theorizing, analysis and empirical applications in diverse scientific areas are shaped that orient decision making, management and governance from the local to the global level away from the dominant practice of generalized solutions (OSFA – One Size Fits All) and uniform best practices that do not always prove effective. They encourage, instead, the development of customized 'solutions' adapted to the particularities of each case that exploit its inherent capacities and special features and secure the sustainability and effectiveness of the actions undertaken.

The main conclusions and the Symposium presentations will be soon uploaded at the Symposium's website: <http://assemblage-symposium.aegean.gr/>

Mytilini, June 8, 2017