

The Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology cordially invites you to

**“Have the 1930s returned?**

**The resurgence of extreme nationalism in contemporary Europe.”**

**a public lecture by**

**Mabel Berezin**

**as part of our Departmental Seminar Series**

**Date and Time: Monday, 9 May, 2016, 17:30,**

**Venue: CEU, POPPER room**

**Abstract**:

Since the sovereign debt crisis hit Europe in 2010, there has been a resurgence of right or extreme nationalist parties in virtually every former Western European country and in some Eastern European countries.  Analysts at first viewed these “minor” upticks as a passing sign of fringe voter discontent. The move to the right did not go away and has gained momentum even in countries such as Social Democratic Sweden where the idea of a right nationalist party polling at 25% would have been unthinkable even a year ago.  The combination of ongoing financial crisis and the current migration crisis appears to be a harbinger of unspecified disaster—if the EU cannot come up with policies soon that adjudicate these dual crises.  Many commentators and some academics have argued that this right nationalist resurgence signals a return of the politics of the 1930s.  This talk takes on these issues and addresses the ways in which that assessment is plausible.

**MABEL BEREZIN** earned her Ph. D. at Harvard and is Professor of Sociology at Cornell where she chaired the Department from 2010 to 2014. She is a comparative sociologist whose work explores the intersection of political institutions and cultural meanings with an emphasis on challenges to democratic cohesion and solidarity in Europe and the United States. She is the author of Illiberal Politics in Neoliberal Times: Culture, Security, and Populism in the New Europe (Cambridge 2009) and Making the Fascist Self: The Political Culture of Inter-war Italy (Cornell 1997) which was awarded the J. David Greenstone Prize by the American Political Science Association and named an "Outstanding Academic Book of 1997", by Choice. In addition to numerous articles, review essays and contributions to edited volumes, she has edited four collaborative volumes: Democratic Culture: Ethnos and Demos in Global Perspective (with Jeffrey Alexander); Europe Without Borders (with Martin Schain) (Johns Hopkins 2004); an issue of Theory and Society (38 (4) 2009), entitled “Emotion and Rationality in Economic Life;” and an issue of Qualitative Sociology 37 (2) 2014), entitled ” Methods, Materials and Meanings: Designing Cultural Analysis.” She has held fellowships from the European University Institute, the Leverhulme Trust, ASA Fund for Advancement of the Discipline and German Marshall Fund. She is working on a book length manuscript on the resurgence of nationalism in contemporary Europe and its relation to the European debt crisis.