

International Conference

One World, Many Crises
Politics, Law, and Beyond

7 - 8 March 2024

National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

One World, Many Crises: Politics, Law and Beyond.

CONFERENCE REFLECTION

BY PROFESSOR EMMANUELLA DOUSSIS

An international conference which explored:

- contemporary global challenges (primarily related to the crisis of democratic governance);
- health policies (including past and future crises);
- environmental issues (primarily climate change);
- artificial intelligence (deep neural networks, machine learning).

The **Institute of European Integration and Policy** of the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** in collaboration with the **Centre of Democracy and Law** of the **University of Macedonia** co-organized the international conference “One World, Many Crises: Politics, Law and Beyond” on 7 and 8 March 2024 at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The conference aimed to initiate a closer dialogue between scholars from different universities around the world and different academic backgrounds on how to reflect and respond to current global and regional challenges, from the crisis of democratic governance and the rise of populism to ongoing wars and the refugee crisis as well as the climate crisis. In fact, multiple crises currently confront international relations and global politics. We see politicians struggling to navigate historical challenges, the rise of populism, how to best respond to wars on multiple fronts, how to balance the challenges and risks posed by a warming planet with the immediate needs of their electorates, and all against an increasingly squeezed economic backdrop.

The term “polycrisis” has gained widespread currency in academic and political discussions to describe the interaction of multiple crises at once and their combined effects. Its popularity suggests that new ways of reflection and acting are needed to respond to these multiple interacting crises.

35 academics and researchers from twelve countries (USA, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland, etc.) and multiple academic backgrounds (political science, law, philosophy, history) presented papers on, inter alia, contemporary global challenges primarily related to the crisis of democratic governance, health policies and bioethical concerns, environmental issues within the ongoing climate change debate, and the growing concerns on artificial intelligence and its impact on humans (deep neural networks, machine learning).

CONCLUSIONS

The successful debates suggest the need for more **interdisciplinary research** and reflection on **concrete policy responses** and **sustainable pathways for the future**.

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