

Europe in Polycrisis: Precarious Lives and Emerging Regimes of Vulnerability

Organised by: Spanish Sociological Federation (FES)

In dialogue with: ESA RN27 Southern European Societies and RN37 Urban Sociology

Date: April 23, 2026

Time: 10:30, CEST

Format: Online webinar (<https://meet.google.com/tes-rwwz-vyu>)

About the webinar

Europe is not facing a single crisis, but a convergence of crises that are reshaping everyday life.

In recent years, European societies have been confronted with an increasingly interconnected set of crises — including geopolitical conflicts, global health emergencies and economic shocks— generating a context of intensified instability.

The succession of these interrelated crises has produced a **scenario of polycrisis** that is transforming life trajectories and patterns of inequality across Europe, particularly in Southern European societies. These dynamics are profoundly affecting living conditions across broad social groups and giving rise to new risks and challenges for European welfare states. Even during periods of economic growth and macroeconomic stability —as recently observed in countries such as Spain— processes of social exclusion and vital precariousness have persisted and, in some cases, intensified.

Understanding these transformations requires moving beyond isolated dimensions and examining how different forms of instability intersect in everyday life. This webinar focuses on vital precariousness as a multidimensional condition that permeates everyday life and erodes material, social and institutional forms of security. It examines how overlapping pressures intensify these dynamics and contribute to emerging patterns of vulnerability and exclusion, with particular attention to Southern Europe.

To address this question, the webinar explores how these processes intersect and reinforce one another across key domains: housing and residential insecurity; labour and technological transformations; care and the sustainability of life; migration and citizenship; inequalities in access to social rights and public services; and the political and epistemic sphere shaped by polarisation, disengagement and post-truth.

The event forms part of the internationalisation initiatives of the **Spanish Sociological Federation (FES)** and seeks to foster dialogue with ongoing debates within the **European Sociological Association's Research Network 27 (RN27) and 37 (RN37)**, particularly those related to social policy and inequality. By bringing together scholars working on complementary areas, the webinar offers an integrated and comparative perspective aligned with current European research agendas on inequality, social cohesion and public policy.

Programme

Total duration: 90 minutes approx.

Introduction

Vital precariousness, polycrisis and emerging regimes of exclusion in Europe

Olga Salido (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Thematic Panel (short interventions, 10 minutes each)

Housing precariousness and residential anchoring: Urban expulsions, vulnerable cohabitation, forced mobility

Margarita Barañano (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Gabriele Manella (University of Bologna, Italy)

Inequalities in access to social rights and public services: Education, welfare provision and social segmentation in times of polycrisis

Inês Vieira (Lusófona University, Portugal)

Care, gender and the sustainability of life: Tensions between work, care and intersectional inequalities

Elisa Brey (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Migration, multiple anchoring and citizenship under strain: Inclusion/exclusion processes in mobility contexts

Apostolos Papadopoulos (Harokopio University of Athens, Greece)

Political disengagement, polarisation and post-truth: The widening gap between citizens and political discourse in the era of cultural conflict

Benjamin Tejerina (University of the Basque Country, Spain)

Q&A and open discussion (15–20 min)