Two Tales of an *El Dorado*: California’s Boom and Gloom

Les deux facettes d’un *El Dorado*: la Californie entre ombres et lumières

Friday, October 16th, 2015
Vendredi 16 octobre 2015

INSTITUT DU MONDE ANGLOPHONE
Salle 16
5 rue de l’École de Médecine, 75006 Paris

Organized by CERVEPAS
Centre d’Étude et de Recherche sur la Vie Économique des Pays anglophones

Contact: cervepas@univ-paris3.fr
9:00  **Registration**/Inscriptions

9:15  **Opening of the workshop**
by Professor Aliyah MORGENSTERN (ED514 EDEAGE Director),
and Professor Valérie PEYRONEL (CEREPAS Director)

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**SESSION 1 ➤ CALIFORNIA’S PUBLIC POLICIES**

**CHAIR:** Jean-Baptiste VELUT
(CEREPAS/CREW EA4399, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3)

9:30  ➤ Cyrielle PARDANAUD (CEREPAS/CREW EA4399,
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3)

*California’s Economic Struggle since the Subprime Crisis: What Made It Worse?*

9:50  ➤ Simon GRIVET (CENA-EHES, Lycée Maximilien Perret - Alfortville)

*La Californie face à la question pénitentiaire: ouvrir les portes du pénitencier?*

10:10  **Debate**

10:40  **Coffee Break**

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**SESSION 2 ➤ GOVERNING CALIFORNIA**

**CHAIR:** Christine ZUMELLO
(CEREPAS/CREW EA 4399, Université Sorbonne - Nouvelle Paris 3)

11:00  ➤ **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Tim GAGE** (Principal and co-founder
of Blue Sky Consulting Group, Former California State Department
of Finance Director)

*Balancing Stability, Growth and Equity.*

11:40  **Debate**

12:10  **Lunch Break**
SESSION 3 ➤ CALIFORNIA’S “HYBRID DEMOCRACY”

CHAIR: Martine AZUELOS
(CERVEPAS/CREW EA 4399, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3)

14:00  ➤ Olivier RICHOMME (Université Lyon 2)

*The Ironies of Direct Democracy: The Consequences of California’s Independent Redistricting Commission.*

14:20  ➤ Pierre LAGAYETTE (Professeur émérite, Université Paris-Sorbonne)


14:40  Debate

15:10  Coffee Break

SESSION 4 ➤ WHITHER HOLLYWOOD?

CHAIR: Laurence COSSU-BEAUMONT
(CERVEPAS/CREW EA 4399, Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle - Paris 3)

15:30  ➤ Joseph ARMANDO SOBA (Centre d’Etudes en Civilisations, Langues et Littératures Étrangères - EA 4074, Université Lille 3)

*Hollywood, California: Mythe et prestige inaltérés ?*

15:50  ➤ Daniel PELTZMAN (CRIT, Université de Franche-Comté)

*Le syndicalisme hollywoodien: histoire d’un succès ou d’un échec ?*

16:10  Debate and concluding roundtable
For decades, California has epitomized a land of opportunity. The state has been home to a growing population, benefiting from the inflow of migrants from other parts of the country as well as from overseas. They have been attracted by its natural resources, its climate (well suited to a diverse agriculture), its location (open on Asia and South America) and easy access to major transportation corridors within the country, as well as by its prestigious universities, which are a source of scientific progress nationally. California has been a leader in technological innovation and a top destination for businesses and entrepreneurs with an appetite for risk. Its broad consumer base, and the size and skills of its workforce, are a source of competitive advantage and attraction and retention factors for businesses.

Admittedly, California boasts numerous superlatives in various fields, which makes it to some extent unique if not exceptional, as Carey McWilliams (1949) argued.

Yet, in spite of all these undeniable assets, California has lately projected a grimmer vision of a politically divided, economically stagnant state, and the “Golden State” has become the “beholden state” (Anderson et al. 2013). Indeed, the state’s economy has been slow to recover from the Great Recession and signs of decline are everywhere: Californias unemployment rate is above the national average, the state has been one of the most indebted of the Union in the past decade and Californians usually complain about the tax rates that they consider to be too high. Overtaxed and overregulated businesses are fleeing, and some municipalities, cities and counties have filed for bankruptcy. In the political arena, Californias initiative process has been highly criticized for creating a legislative gridlock that makes the state supposedly ungovernable. Also, social inequalities have been widening, residential segregation has increased, the foreign-born share of the population has risen and ethnic diversity remains a source of preoccupation.

Starting from these observations, our workshop aims to go beyond popular perceptions of California by bringing together specialists in various fields in order to examine the contrasting and paradoxical dynamics of the Golden State. While viewing contemporary issues from a historical perspective, we wish to focus on the period from the mid-twentieth century to the present, and we hope that this workshop will contribute not only to capturing what makes California special but also to questioning whether, as Wallace Sterner once claimed, “California is like the rest of the United States, only more so”.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE / COMITÉ D’ORGANISATION
Cyrielle PARDANAUD, Anna KAMALZADEH, Caixia TAN
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http://cervepas.univ-paris3.fr/

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