

# Reconfigurations of Provisioning

Austerity and Interdependency in Volos, Greece

## RESEARCH TOPIC

Reconfigurations of provisioning: the complex re-configurations of production, distribution, appropriation and consumption necessary for modes of living during recession and austerity.

## OBJECTIVE

Reconstructing the interdependency between household provisioning, state austerity, economic recession and alternative economies. Besides economic aspects, the study aimed for understanding the transformation of recognition, kinship, friendship, temporality and solidarity.

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Critical ethnography. Participant observation in 12 months of living in several Voliot households, participation in several activist networks in the solidarity economy of Volos, over 40 interviews, surveys (n = 372), financial diaries (n = 7), secondary data (e.g. EUROSTAT).

## RESULTS

### MOBILIZATION OF KIN AND FRIENDS FOR UNPAID LABOUR.

Often framed as mutual support during crisis, the mobilization of long hours of unpaid labour became a necessity to sustain small enterprise and lifestyles.

### DISLOCATION OF RECOGNITION THROUGH IMPOVERISHMENT.

Neo-poor middle classes experienced impoverishment as becoming devalued others, e.g. de-emancipated women or ethnicized labour migrants.

### DRAMATIC LABOUR DEVALUATION AND PRECARIZATION.

As paid employment became ever more rare, employment relations dramatically deteriorated. All jobs paid less, and some paid nothing at all.

### THRIFTINESS AS MORAL PRACTICE OF CARE.

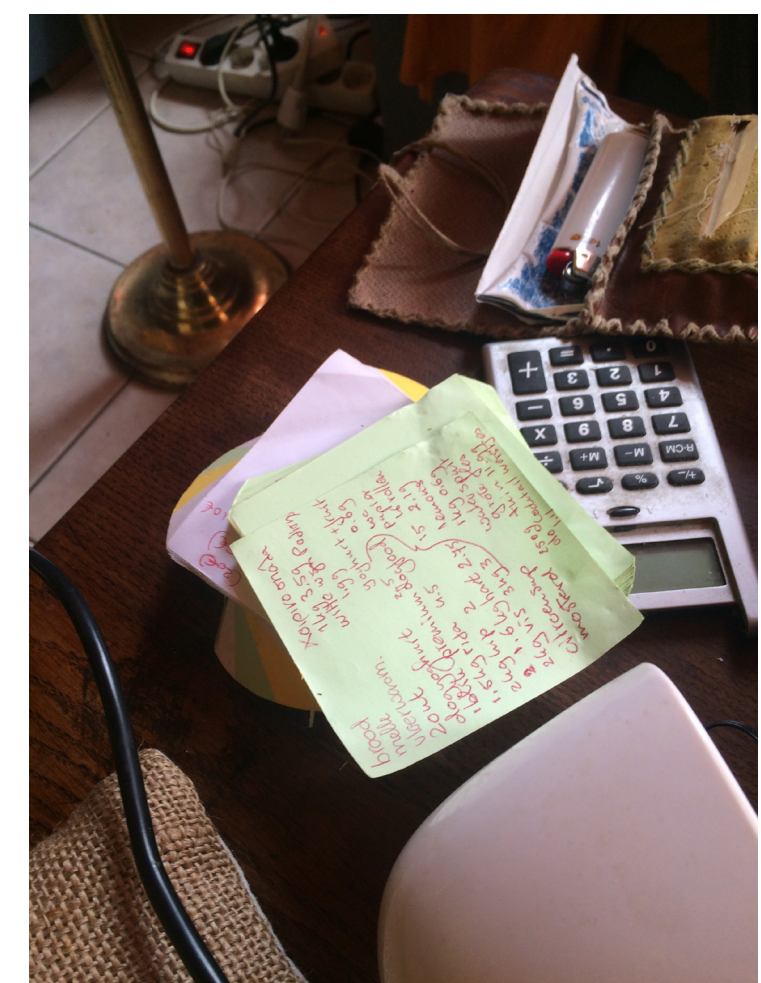
Thriftness and buying cheap via bonus clubs, offers, and sales became a crucial means to care for significant others — with devastating consequences for local shops.

### TEMPORAL REORDERINGS OF NEEDS AND DESIRES.

Crisis was experienced as temporal reorderings — being thrown backwards, as being stuck with former desires, or as nostalgia for supposedly simpler times.

### EMERGENCE OF SOLIDARITY ECONOMIES.

Complementary currencies, social pharmacies, cooperative direct trade and other modes of solidarity helped households survive and sustain some level of consumption.



Thrift requires harsh calculation. Volos 2017



Syriza wins the elections. Athens 2015



Weekly market. Volos 2016



General Assembly of the TEM Currency Network. Volos 2017



Supermarkets lower prices. Volos 2017



Graffiti likening the Troika to the military junta. Volos 2017



Deep freezers used to buy when goods are cheap. Volos 2017

## STRUCTURE OF THE MONOGRAPH

### Introduction

#### PART I Re-configurations of labour

##### CHAPTER 1 Ripple effects: labour devaluation and familiar ties

##### CHAPTER 2 Dislocating recognition: realising non-employment

#### PART II Re-configurations of consumption

##### CHAPTER 3 Budgeting households: orches

##### CHAPTER 4 Consuming crisis: distaste, dignity, and temporalisation

#### PART III Re-configurations of sociality

##### CHAPTER 5 (Extra)ordinary transfers: support, protest, and complementarity

### Conclusion Interdependent reconfigurations of austerity

ANDREAS  
STREINZER

SUPERVISION: THOMAS FILLITZ  
RESEARCH FIELD: SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY