

Solidarity, Reciprocity, and Economy in times of downturn: Understanding and Articulating the logics of Old and New Values in Late Capitalism

EASA Network for the Anthropology of Economy
By Hugo Valenzuela Garcia

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UAB. Barcelona



Launching Meeting

© Welcoming

- © Thanks to Peter Simonic (Ljubljana), Marta Lobato (UAB) and the Department of Anthropology (UAB) for their support and help!

© EASA Network for Anthropology of Economy

- © Creation and scope.
- © Enhancing the Network.

© On “Solidarity, Reciprocity and Economy in times of downturn”.

EASA Network for Anthropology of Economy

- © The Network was created in 2013 in order to interconnect European anthropologists working in similar topics, to provide information, to promote events and to foster research on Economic Anthropology.
 - © Open space where initiatives are very welcome.
 - © We are willing to make a very creative, democratic and dynamic space.
- © We are living a vigorous rebirth of Economic Anthropology.
 - © More students, subfields, journals and job opportunities.
- © Some reasons for the revival :
 - © Economic crisis and the pervasive presence of economic issues.
 - © Complex processes of globalization and localization (that legitimate anthropological enquiry).
 - © Decline of the postmodern critique within Anthropology.
 - © Economic Anthropology has its own theoretical corpus.

Network's activities

© Please, join the listserve:

<http://lists.easaonline.org/listinfo.cgi/anthecon-easaonline.org>

© EASA Conference at Tallinn, 2014

© Panel P113: “Local entrepreneurial responses to global forces: new and alternative enterprise re-configurations in times of crisis and economic hardship (EASA Network for Economic Anthropology)”

<http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2014/panels.php5?PanelID=301>

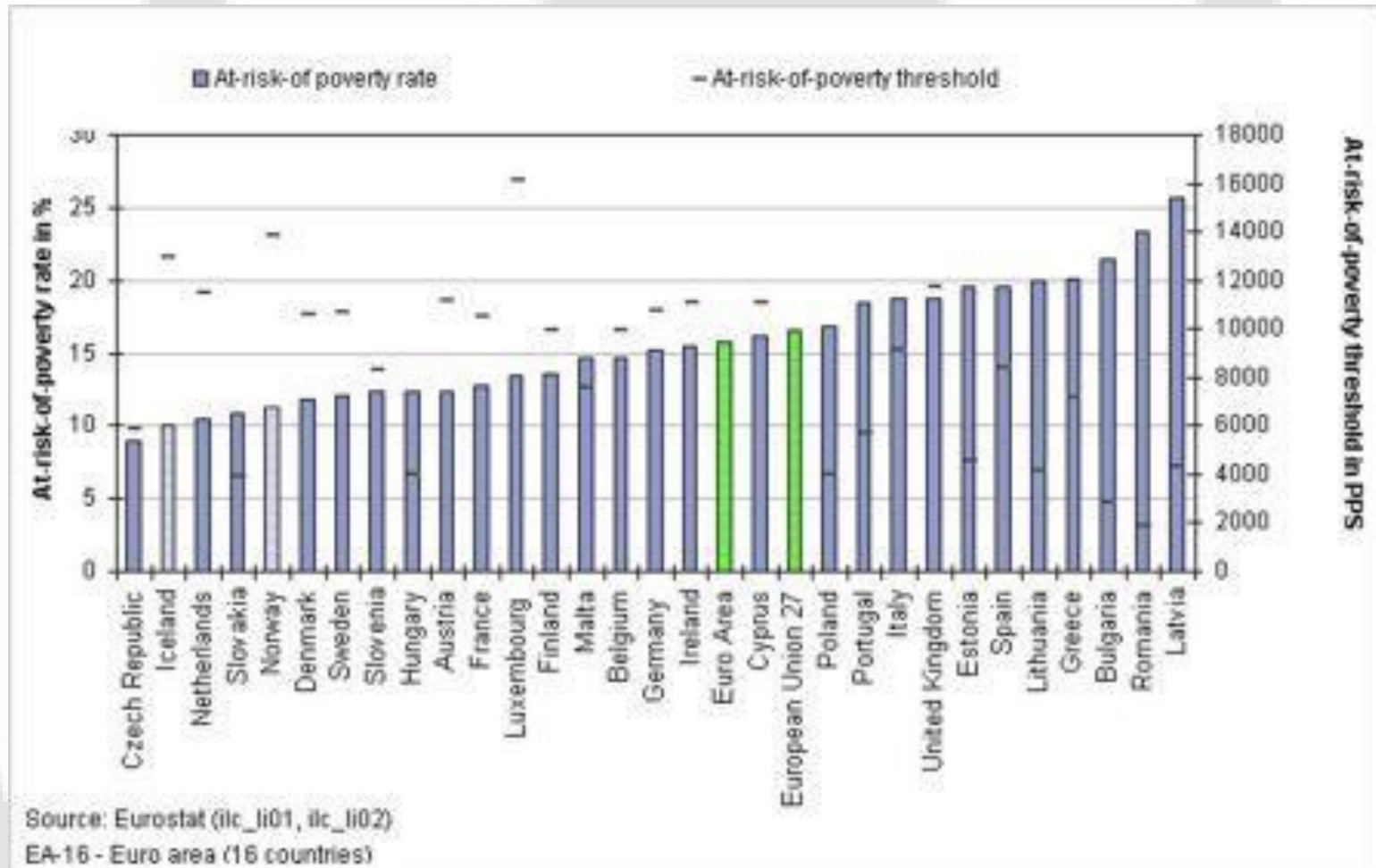


**Solidarity, Reciprocity,
and Economy in times of
downturn**

Solidarity, Reciprocity...

- ④ We have proposed a trending topic for opening this network.
- ④ The impacts of the economic crisis in Europe.
 - ④ Devastating impact in the **European periphery** (South and Eastern Europe), but also noticeable **within richer countries (class gap)**.
 - ④ It affects not only the poorest social strata, but also to a large **middle class**.
- ④ Socioeconomic consequences:
 - ④ **Poverty, labour casualization, unemployment, fall in consumption, riots, forced labour migration, evictions for unpaid mortgages.**

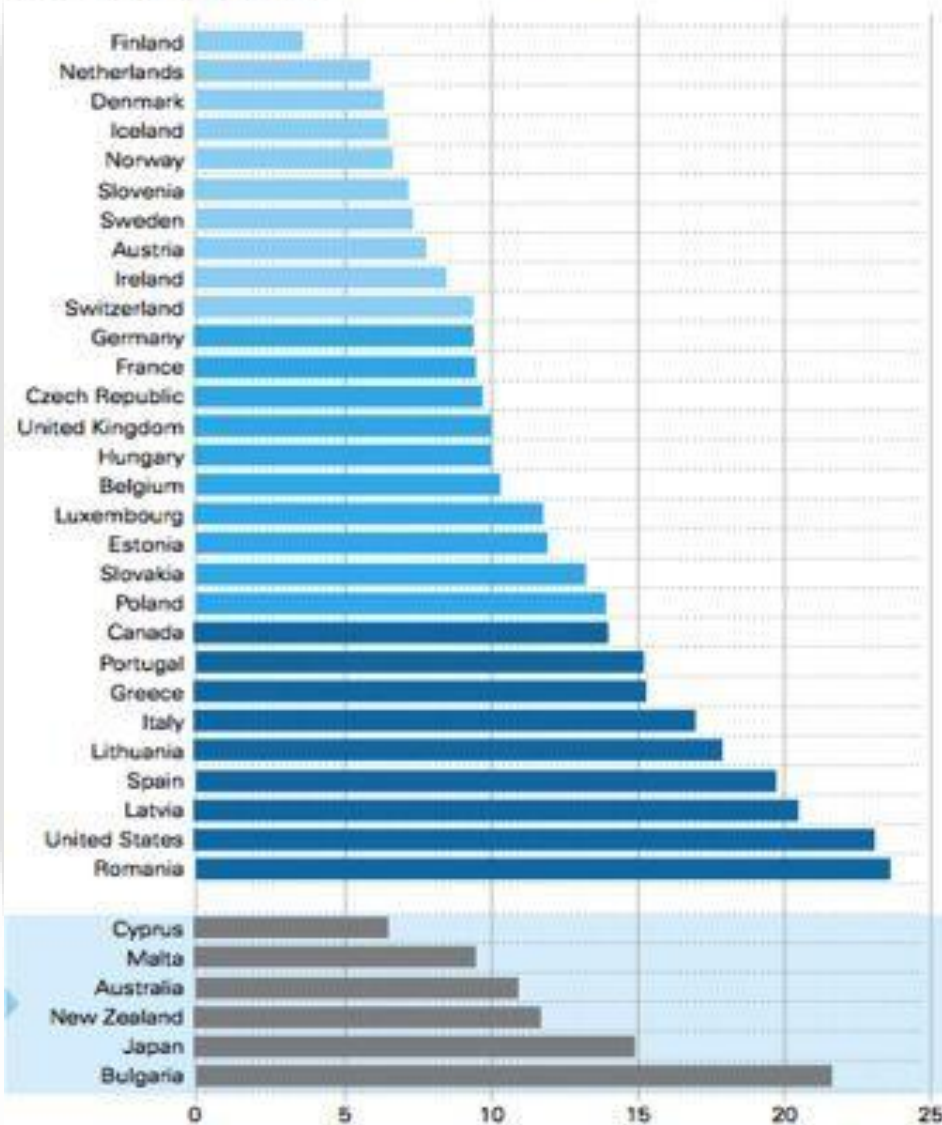
Poverty . . .



Child poverty...

Figure 1.1a Relative child poverty rates

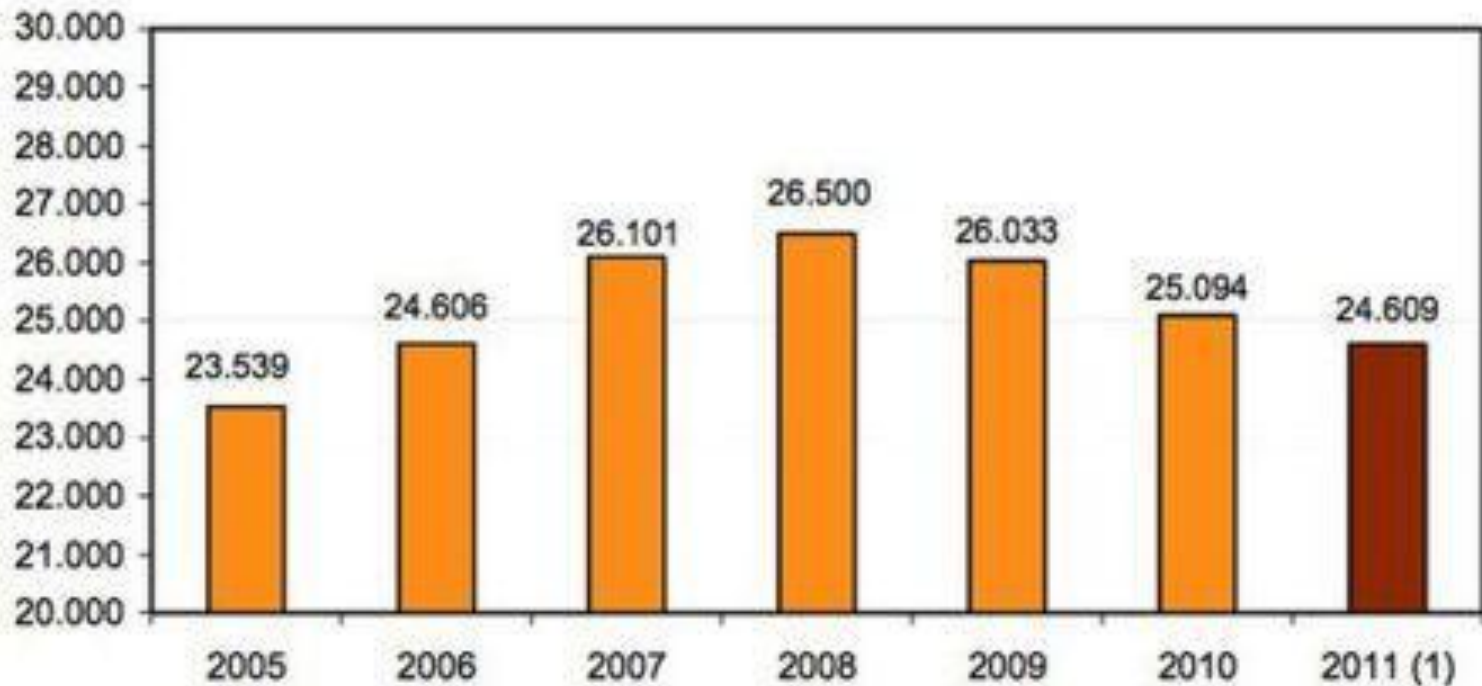
% of children aged 0-17 living in households with equivalent incomes below 50% of national median



- © 2.826.549 children un risk of poverty in Spain (33,8%)
- © 1.807.700 households with all their members unemployed.
- © 3 million people in risk of severe poverty
- © Major gap ever between poor and affluent people.

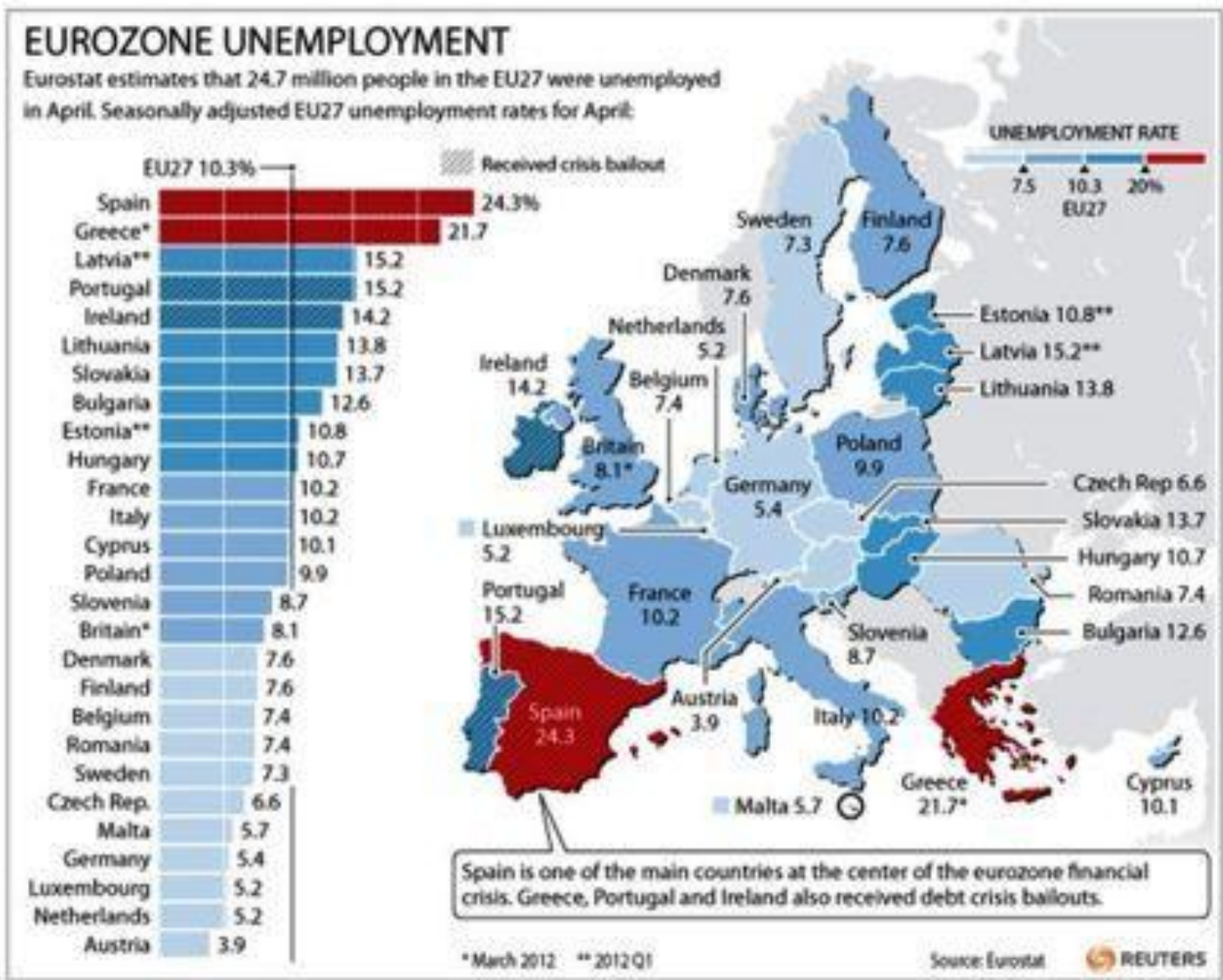
Household income and consumption...

Evolución de los ingresos medios por hogar
Euros



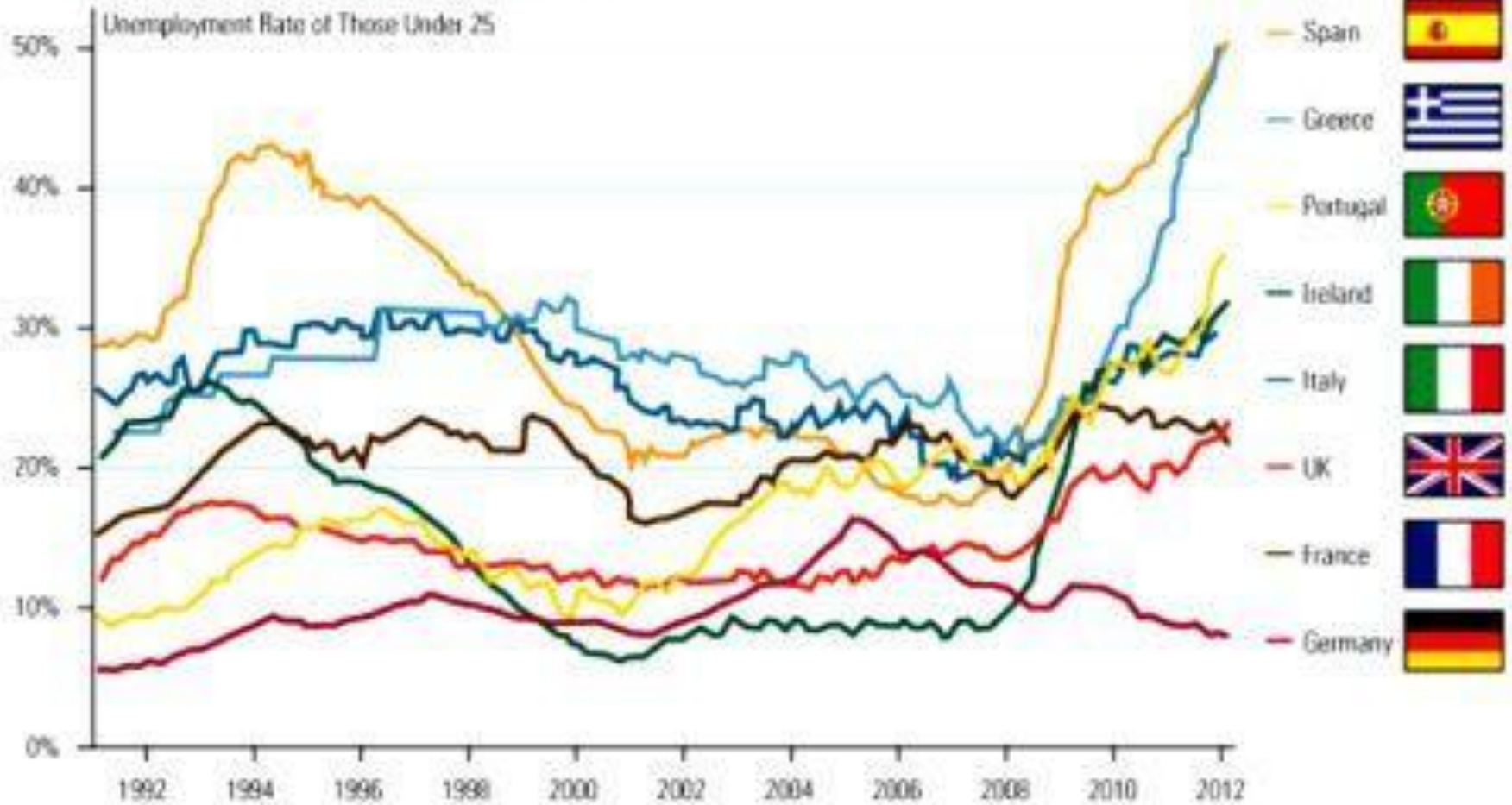
(1) Datos provisionales

Unemployment . . .



Youth unemployment...

European Youth Unemployment Skyrockets

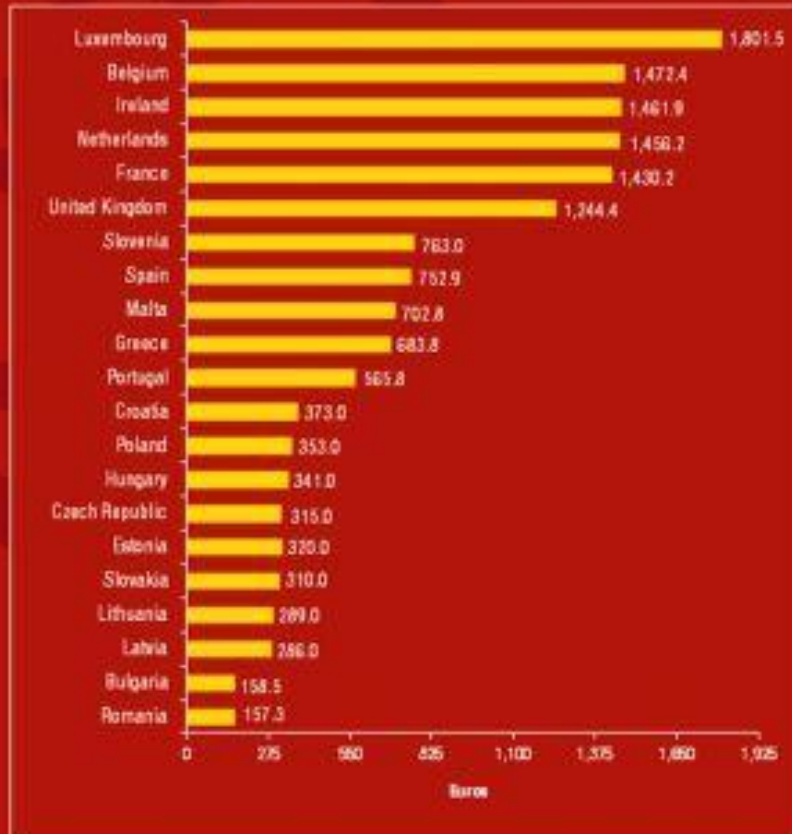


Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream, Eurostat
Reuters graphic/Scott Barber 4/2/2012

Minimum wages in Europe...

Minimum wages in Europe 2013

Gross salary, full time job 23+ years old (January 2013)



Source: Compiled in-house from Eurostat and other data



United Explanations

www.unitedexplanations.org

- ⊙ Job destruction and labor causalization.
- ⊙ Mini-jobs, low-paid jobs, jobs in practice, etc.
- ⊙ Lost of labor rights and benefits.

Mortgages and evictions...

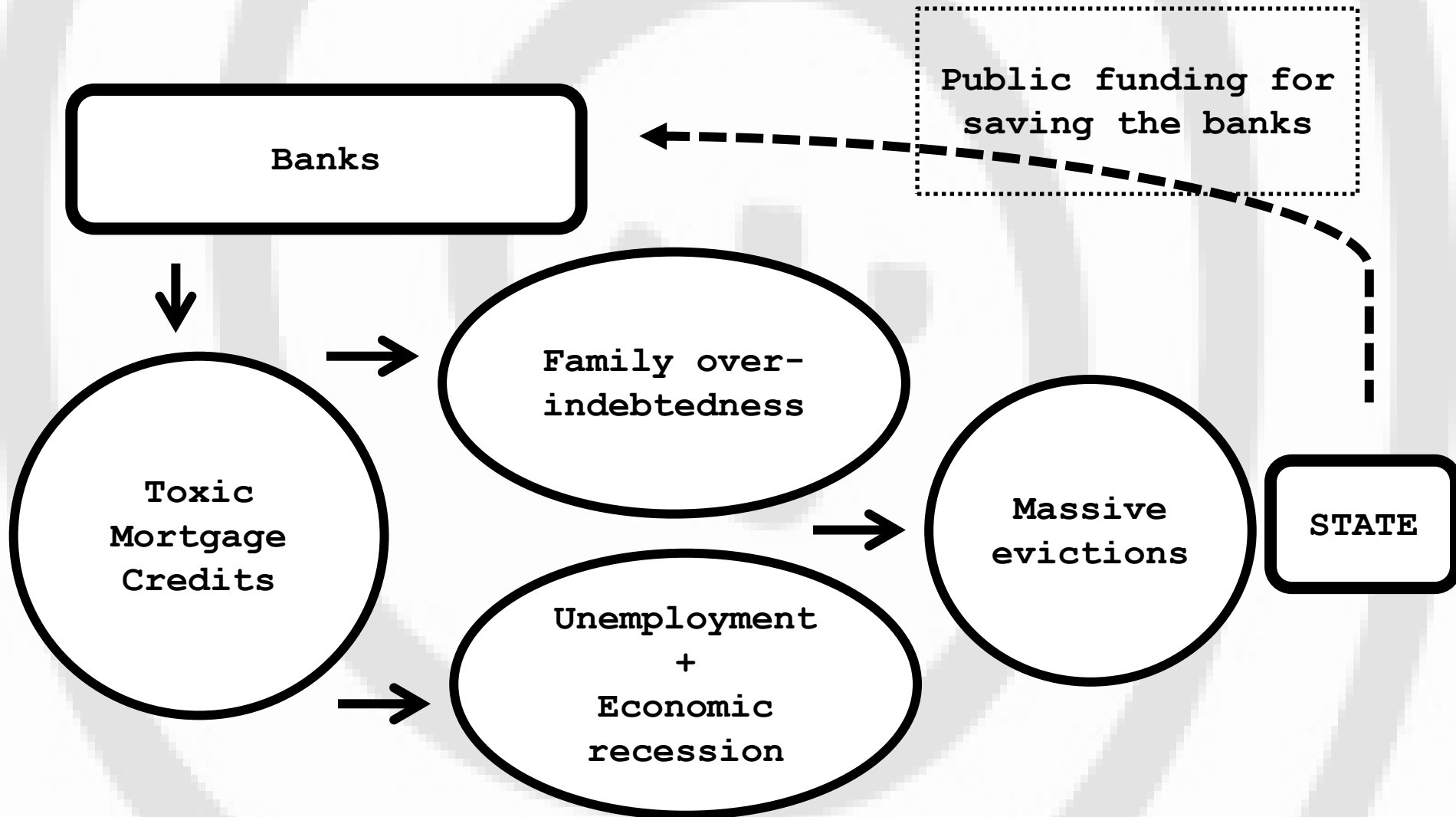


First semester 2012: 46.559 forced evictions (517 per day!)

First trimester 2013: 19.468 evictions

Suicides.

Paradoxes and Civil Indignation



The collapse of the Welfare State

- Ⓒ Right-wings and neoliberal policies.
- Ⓒ Privatization
 - Ⓒ Health
 - Ⓒ Education
 - Ⓒ Social services
 - Ⓒ ...
- Ⓒ Public promotion of entrepreneurship



STARTUP
SPAIN



**Civil Responses to
Economic and Political
Pressures**

Civil reactions and political turmoil...

- ④ Ideological resistance and economic needs.
 - ④ Peaceful demonstrations.
 - ④ Riots.
 - ④ Boycotts and vandalism.
 - ④ Black economy (25% GDP)

Civil reactions and economic alternatives...



Civil reactions and economic alternatives...

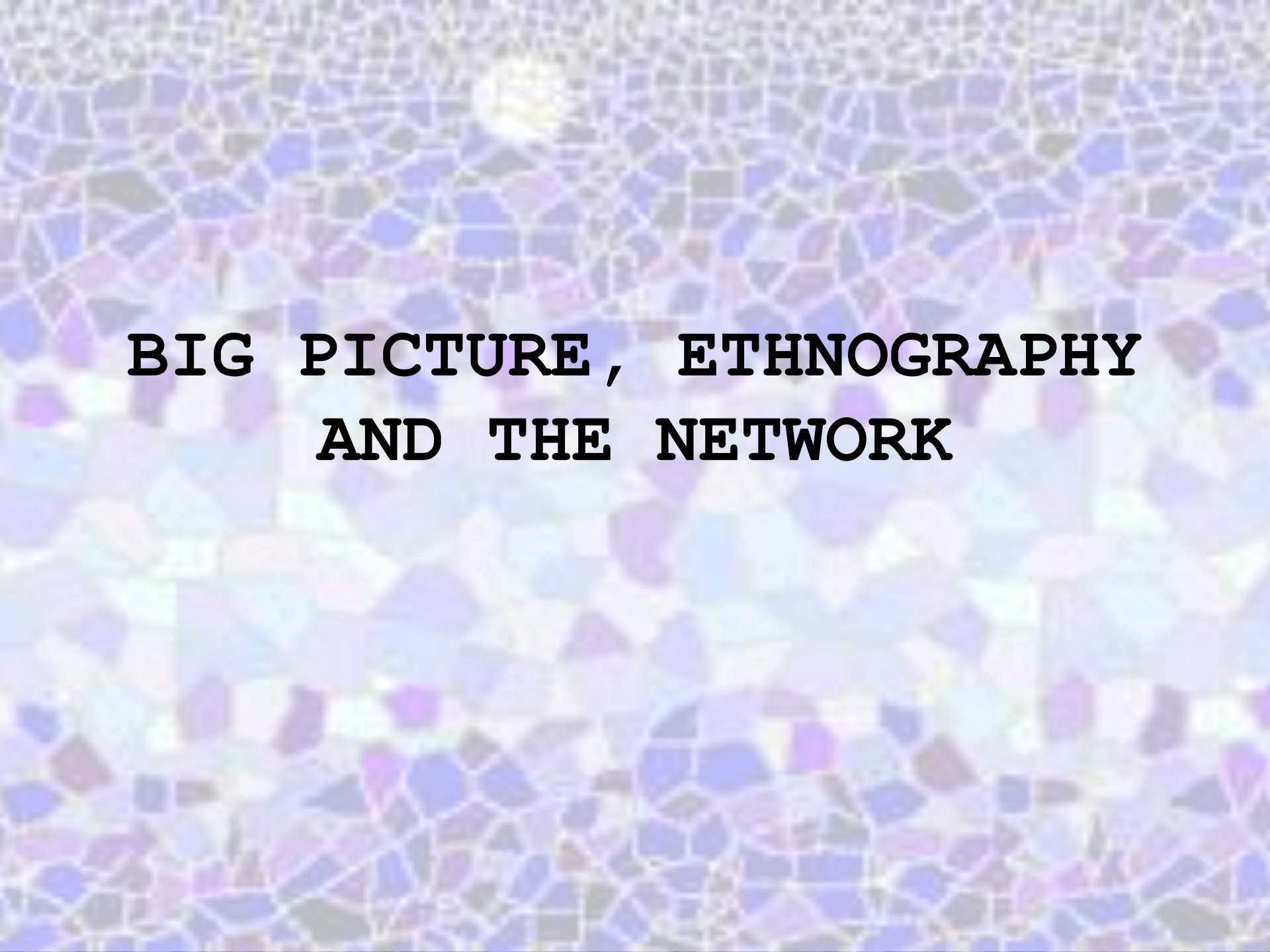


Civil reactions and economic alternatives...



Civil reactions and economic alternatives...

- ④ “New” forms of consumption, distribution and production to overcome crisis.
 - ④ Slow food.
 - ④ Cooperative consumption.
 - ④ Low cost consumption.
 - ④ Barter networks.
 - ④ Ecological cooperatives.
 - ④ Social currencies and LETS (Local Exchange Trading Systems)
 - ④ Time Banks
 - ④ Post-executive enterprises (democratic, horizontal management)
 - ④ ...



**BIG PICTURE, ETHNOGRAPHY
AND THE NETWORK**

The big picture and research questions

- ④ Local reactions to Crisis and Neoliberal expansion.
- ④ New emergent phenomena.
 - ④ Production, consumption and distribution.
- ④ Theoretical sounding concepts: “social and human economy”, “moral economy”, “plural capitalism” ...
 - ④ Are these new economic alternatives of old (community) strategies?
 - ④ What’s the role of the State?
 - ④ How do civilians face these difficulties?
 - ④ Are we experiencing a new European reality in the making...

The power of the network

BIG PICTURE

Disconnected, local, ethnographies.

Shared theoretical agendas and established research teams

A need to generate comparative and multi-sited fieldwork and ethnography

A REAL RESEARCH NETWORK

Thanks for coming!

- ③ Name and Institution
- ③ Research interests
- ③ Details, comments, etc.