Europe and Beyond: Boundaries, Barriers and Belonging

Abstract Book

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For a Theory of “Paramafia”. When Non-Mafiosi Act as Mafiosi

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Is it possible that people unrelated to mafia develop mafia-type organizations? This paper aims at investigating in deep how mafia modus operandi has spread into non-traditional areas also generating imitative processes; in particular, the focus will regard group of people who are totally extraneous from mafia contexts, such as entrepreneurs, politicians, officials, with no connection to organized crime. Studies on mafia hybridization put emphasis only on criminal groups that evolve into a mafia-type one. This research has a different focus. For ‘paramafia criminality’ we mean the systematic assumption of a modus operandi typical of mafia repertoire by organizations whose members are formally and originally unrelated to traditional mafia organizations. Members of a paramafia group are connected to each other in a lasting relationship, are hierarchically ordered according to a division of labour and aim to achieve profits and power, committing systematically crimes. The research investigates two case studies localised in Bergamo, a district in Northern Italy. The research uses qualitative methodology, mainly through with analysis of judicial documents and interviews A paramafia phenomenon could rise when there is an extended, strict (monopolizing) relationship between a group with public functions (politicians, entrepreneurs, officials) and the social fabric in which the group is operating. The group also needs a large relationship network, and the settlement area must be relatively small – therefore, there is a high density of social relationships. The target of the research is developing an ‘intermediate’ model of organized crime, complementary to mafia model and economic crime.

Corporate Governance in the Contemporary Corporation

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Corporations have experienced significant transformation from the traditional model to the contemporary modus operandi. The term “corporate governance” has a widening of meaning; the semantic evolution of the word usage is referring to evolutions and progress in the micro and macro levels. According to this assumption, the external environment had a continuous influence on the corporate context because of the progression of the sociocultural and economic living forms. The modern corporation contributes to the health and welfare of society, recognizing its ethical responsibility to both shareholders and stakeholders. Therefore, corporate governance is about enhancing economic efficiency, financial stability, and sustainable growth. To this extent, we will make a special reference to accounting. Corporate governance should apply high ethical standards by taking into account the interests of stakeholders. In this regard, the role of corporate governance in the contemporary corporation is influential because ethical leadership values as integrity, mutual respect, and ethical behavior, create a trusting work environment and ensure transparency, corporate disclosure, and profitability. The scope of this paper is to analyze through an initial study, the quality of the relationship between stakeholders in the work environment. Primarily, we examine the quality of ethical leadership relations in the Greek corporations, based on subordinate’s perceptions. In this context, we consider the importance of ethical values as a key element for corporate responsible conduct. Greek corporations confront the challenge of global competition, in the context of corporate social responsibility. Socially responsible conduct is part of the corporate culture and of the proactive leadership that both define corporate strategic decision. This aspect of the ethical corporation will probably conduct to a competitive edge, creating a different perspective on the contemporary corporation. Keywords: corporate governance, contemporary corporation, corporate culture, ethical values, ethical responsibility, ethical leadership, work environment, strategic decision, accounting. *This work has been partly supported by the University of Piraeus Research Center.