

Summary

The aim of the proposed thesis is to examine the crisis facing the trade union movement in Greece, at least during the last three decades of its history, focusing on the role of organised trade union forces within it and especially in the period from 1990 onwards, when the direct intervention of the state in the internal issues of the movement seems to stop. We will then examine proposals for trade union revitalisation both from the various trends in the trade union movement and from the academic literature and to what extent this revitalisation has progressed in practice and explore in detail the case of grassroots, radical trade unionism which has experienced significant growth in the years of the crisis.

The phenomenon of grassroots radical unionism in Greece will be compared with the grassroots trade union movements in Spain, a country with a rich tradition in the current of syndicalism. Through the study of the literature, but also through research in primary archival material (conference proceedings, union and trade union faction announcements) we will attempt to see the exogenous and endogenous causes of the crisis of formal trade unionism and whether grassroots forms of trade union organization can be an alternative solution to overcome the crisis of the workers' trade union movement. In addition to literature research and primary material from the organizations, we will study the phenomenon of social movement unionism through semi-structured interviews with members of grassroots unions and groups in Greece and Spain in order to see how the subjects of the union struggles themselves understand and interpret their action.