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## **Tolerance towards Racism and the Far Right in Greece**

Greece has been appearing for the last year on the spotlight at a European level, not only as the epicentre of the Euro zone crisis, but also due to the unprecedented rise of far right parties in the national public sphere. The radical right LAOS participated in the coalition government in 2011, while the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn entered parliament in 2012 after having gained 7% of the total vote in national elections. At the same time, anti-migrant rhetoric and xenophobia have been transformed into a routine discourse and racist violence an everyday phenomenon all over the country, tolerated by both authorities and public opinion.

Departing from two case studies concerning the limits of the presence of immigrants in the centre of Athens (2010-2011), this paper aims at understanding how far right ideology managed to become a legitimate part of mainstream politics in an apparently short period of time. Through the study of official media (print and electronic) and interviews with politicians and civil society actors, we examine what frames of interpretation are used to explain, reject or justify intolerance towards the immigrant 'other' amidst a national and European crisis. We argue that key aspects of far Right ideology emerge as embedded in national political culture, as this has been developing during the last decades, and do not constitute a radical shift in thinking and acting within the national con-

text. Moreover, putting this case study within a European perspective leads us to the conclusion that intolerance.