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Empowerment and Democratic Innovations at Local Level"**

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## ABSTRACTS

# **From the Crisis to the Emergence of Social Movements**

**Harry Perlstad, Michigan State University, Dept of Sociology, East Lansing, Mi., USA**

**The Plague of Athens and the Cult of Asklepios. Dealing with an Urban Health Crisis**

### **Abstract**

In the second year of the Peloponnesian War (430 BC) an epidemic hit Athens and returned twice more (429 BC and 427-26 BC). Thucydides describes rumor, panic, as well as anomic behavior including neglect of rituals, and widespread lawlessness. Several scholars claim that Sophocles included references to the plague in *Oedipus Tyrannus* and *Women of Trachis*. Sophocles held several political offices and helped introduce the cult of Asklepios into Athens. The Athenian state sponsored the cult and authorized the placement of the shrine on the south side of the Acropolis where it was visible from the Theatre of Dionysus.

This paper will apply theories of collective behavior and social movements to explain the rise of the cult of Asklepios. Social movements often arise in times of sudden changes and social unrest. They may become a source of spiritual and political empowerment. Two types of social movements are reformative that advocates for limited social change but implement that change across an entire society and redemptive, that seeks to create a dramatic change in people's lives and institutions by healing or saving them. The cult of Asklepios had aspects of both. As a reformative movement it combined the civil religion found in Pericles' funeral oration with traditional ritualistic religious practices including the theatre. In contrast to evangelical churches offered as modern examples of redemptive social movements, the cult was a less formal, more diffuse, more open religious movement. It may have legitimized the coexistence of religious medicine practiced by priests with rational medicine practiced by physicians.

**Arianna Montanari, Dipartimento di Studi Politici, Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Università "La Sapienza", ROMA, Italy**

**Movements and Political Participation in Italy**

### **Abstract**

The role of the movements has become, in front of the crisis of politics as an ideological and coherent system, particularly important and shows the necessity to go beyond old antithesis right/left. This is happening in a number of areas: the no global movements, for example, have forces in their internal that belong to different political locations. The over-reaching of traditional fronts basing himself on the idea of a major capability of participation and control from the civil society. At a local level the participation to self-help groups, civic, and voluntary organizations that are spreading themselves in the occidental countries seem to be an answer to the problems brought by globalization with the crisis of the nation states, the necessity of world coordination and local protection.

The researches on *Young adults in Italy* in 2005 and on "Young People and Political Partecipation in Italy" in 2010 show that the voluntary organizations, intended as participation to groups and local, national or international organizations is increasing but it seems not to offer major possibilities of imprinting society as before. At contrary the associations seem to have lost part of their independence from the political power despite that the political parties are perceived as distant and unable to resolve the great phenomena brought from globalization.

**Tudor Pitulac, Romanian Academy of Iasi, Iasi, Romania**

**Common economical challenges, similar political solutions, different social reactions in times of crises. Barriers against the structured social movements in Romania**

#### **Abstract**

This article will compare some social movements experienced in different European countries in a period characterized by significant political, economical and social challenges. Exploring the crisis from the social cohesion point of view, the paper intends to give an insight to the background which in times of crisis generated different reactions or even lack of reaction in Romania, compared to other countries in Europe.

Comparing impressive social movements from England through France and Italy to Greece, on one hand, and the pale reactions in Romania on the other hand there is a need of to identify the causes of these striking differences as the inputs are quasi similar in all mentioned countries. This situation can be understood both in terms of politics, communitarian structure, and economic challenges.

In Romania, the development cycles overlap the elective cycles undermining the sustainable development. Powerful social movements can develop only in the presence of the preexistent condition of strong social cohesion. Moreover, the solidarity and the social cohesion depend on the sense of belonging to a community or on the sharing of a specific identity. Destroying the community spirit in Romania was a crucial political aim in the communist era, because it would have assured the stability of the system by destroying the very core of any possible collective reaction. The terrible consequences are obvious long after the fall of the totalitarian regime. Public policies do not yet have the power to sustain the „rebirth“ of the communities.

In the years to come the political actions and the social reaction will develop a specific profile as 2011 or 2012 will be electoral years in England, France, and Romania. The result is a complex equation comprising political parties, trade unions, FMI, EMF and many other organizations. The literature considered is from national and international sources consisting of social studies, reports, and articles on the most recent events as well.

**Hans Pruijt, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

**Empowerment in the balance**

#### **Abstract**

The critical literature on empowerment tends to assess it as a power relation itself, but does not move much beyond this. This is unsatisfactory because in social movements and far beyond these, empowerment has become an important paradigm and an espoused goal.

Empowerment can be analyzed as a balancing act on four different axes, that correspond to four inherent internal contradictions. These internal contradictions exist between autonomy and control, between ambition and risk of programmed failure exacerbated by the emphasis on responsibility, between focus and stigmatization and between individual freedom and collective action.

To demonstrate that at least empirical patterns that match this theoretical frame can be found, such patterns in urban squatting are briefly examined. The paper goes on to criticize a strand in the literature that seems to suggest that empowerment is conducive to neoliberal development. Examples from the fields of welfare policy and education show that, on the contrary, the internal contradictions of empowerment can open up a space for contestation. Finally, a case of empowerment is considered that is the opposite of a neoliberal development: the strategy of organizing in the mobilization of cleaning workers for a strike.

# Social Capital Formation

**Alain Coheur, President of Social Economy Europe, Brussels, Belgium**

**Investing through social economy enterprises in time of crisis!**

## Abstract

"The recent financial and economic crisis has had – and is still having – a disastrous impact on employment and social cohesion. The current situation in some EU member states indicates that the situation could even be more alarming in the next months/years and that the number of people facing poverty and social exclusion could increase considerably.

Social economy enterprises (cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations) have proved a better resilience to the present crisis compared to conventional enterprises. The resilience of these enterprises and of their workplaces is a good indicator of their capacity to sustain their economic activities and their jobs even in crisis time. They create and maintain sustainable employment in sustainable enterprises, and thence local development and social cohesion. This is because social economy enterprises are owned and controlled by owners-stakeholders from the community (workers, service users, etc). The emphasis on the long-term sustainability of entrepreneurial activities and employment shows that social economy enterprises to not only “cure” social exclusion, but also to prevent it."

**Elena BODEANCHI, Trento Cooperative, Trento, Italy**

**The Cooperative System in Trentino: a sustainable social development model for the community**

## Abstract

The cooperative system in Trentino was founded 120 years ago based on principles of solidarity, mutual assistance and democratic participation, primarily in answer to the basic needs of the inhabitants of the poor mountainous villages of the area. Over the years, the cooperation system created has been able to respond to change brought on by new economic scenarios, reacting positively and with constant renewal and expansion of the system.

Today, that same cooperative system has become a unique organizational structure that boasts an important role in the local community, economy and social context. In fact, cooperation in Trentino covers a broad spectrum of economic activity, divided into the 4 main sectors of credit, retail, agriculture and labour-social-services-housing, each of which has its own specific service consortia represented by a single Federation.

**Mario Salomone, University of Bergamo, Bergamo, Italy**

**The social capital of a social cooperative**

## Abstract

The case study is a social cooperative of Genova (Italy), ‘La comunità’ (‘The Community’).

‘La Comunità’ is a ‘historical’ middle-size cooperative (about 50 members and 100 staff) working in the area of social services.

Year by year a lack of participation was noticed, although vice versa the cooperative has a leading role in the town and promotes cultural debates and protests against budget cuts and crisis of social services in Italy.

The management would like to improve the involvement of the associates. The research aims to understand the way for enhancing the cooperative’s social capital and the way for better and participatory governance.

The province of Trentino offers an excellent example of a real working cooperative district, with its 255,000 members (half of the local population of approx. 500,000 inhabitants), providing a widespread presence throughout the area and represented in almost all economic sectors, some of which are also leaders at a national level. The cooperative enterprise has a vital role in the local socio-economic framework, contributing to the creation of wealth and employment, and supporting the well-being of both cooperative members and the local community.

The cooperative model of enterprise has specific characteristics, inspired by cooperative values and principles, with an important social role in teaching people to act democratically, to be responsible and to actively take part in the local welfare and in building community spirit.

However, to maintain this high level of involvement and to sustain the development of the cooperative enterprise, awareness raising actions and specific training programmes are necessary, which take into account the characteristics and the central role of the members. The training of cooperative members does not only need to cater for a professional dimension, but also needs to take into consideration the importance of identity as a member, the active and conscious involvement of members, and the ability for members to act in line with cooperative principles and values. Specific ad-hoc training for cooperative members is important in order to take into account the unique characteristics of both the enterprise and the complex meaning of cooperation. This means that traditional forms of professional training are often not suitable as they are not always able to answer to the specific training needs of cooperative members.

The Federation therefore, as unique body and representative for the local system of cooperation, has fully taken on the active task of developing and promoting innovative learning methodology to strengthen cooperative identity, to valorize the competences of members and to recognize the importance of values and principles in the cooperative model of enterprise today.

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## **The CRISIS and Social Policies**

**Dean Andromidas, The Schiller Institute, Wiesbaden, Germany**  
**The Way out of the Sovereign Debt Crisis: Implement Glass Steagall**

Abstract:

This paper seeks to demonstrate that the only way out of the current sovereign debt crisis is a major financial reform based on the Glass Steagall Act of 1933 and the creation of a credit system capable of financing large infrastructure projects.

The first part of the paper will demonstrate that the so called sovereign debt crisis is in fact a financial crisis of the European banking system. It shows that the largest banking system in terms of assets and liabilities is, in fact, the European banking system. Furthermore the sovereign debt crisis follows the bailout of the banking system by governments transferring the bad debts to the sovereign.

The second part discusses the creation of the Euro as a project of the European banks, especially the role of Fernando Collor and a group of leading European banks known as the Inter Alpha Group. As part of any reform, the Euro system would have to be dismantled with credit and monetary questions revert back to sovereign states.

The third part deals with how Glass Steagall reform could be implemented, first in the United States and then in Europe. A credit system based on Hamiltonian principles extended government back low interest credits dedicated to industrial and infrastructure projects would have to follow.

The fourth part presents a series of large infrastructure projects that have been identified by the Schiller Institute which would be part of a science and technology driven program aimed at bringing the economy up to a new technological platform.

Among the projects discussed is the North American Water and Power Alliance project aimed transferring water from Alaska and Canada down into the American West. Another is the Eurasian Landbridge which envisions the creation of transportation and infrastructure corridors across Eurasia over the Bering Straits down through North and South America. These would be extended down through the Middle East and into Africa. Another project is the Transaqua Project whose aim is to transfer water from the Congo River Basin into Lake Chad.

The last part deals with how Greece can benefit from these projects by integrating its railroads and ports into the greater Eurasian Landbridge.

**Joachim K.H.W. Schmidt, SoReGa, Koln, Germany**

**Technosciences Organisation as Alternative to Present Political State  
- Meditation on proceedings of Stuttgart 21 -**

**Abstract**

The author proposes a replacement of the institutionalized so-called democratic party state, widely known as *Leviathan* of Hobbes, by a network of cooperatives. The state as organizer of social life is by no means a necessary institution, but only represents, *historically seen*, a special case. No healthy individual or social collective will ask for a butcher for disemboweling himself and/or themselves, only sick individuals or sick collectives gather around the feeder of Circe, presently filled by Social Democratic parties. Already Thrasymachos (450 BC) asked for a protest against the institutionalized repression of the state and the inability of rulers to manage it. On the one side the author analyses birth and growth of the state, its different appearances, structures and kind of legitimation, and will propose networks of cooperatives as alternative on the other side. Formerly free collectives lost their freedom by imposing a foreign law on them, the decayed Roman law of Byzantium, allegory of oriental despotism. The question is: space or time, hierarchies or networks, citizens or netizens, analogical or digital procedure, etc. Sociotechnics will be described as non-Aristotelian *technosciences*, the leading science of third millennium, which allows a transformation of rigid and positivistic socio-political conditions into performances of collectives: Governance by intelligence for collectives having left the Platonic cage.

**Rochman Achwan' Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences  
University of Indonesia, Indonesia**

**A tale of Two Regions: Clothing Entrepreneurs in Indonesia  
Social policies, entrepreneurship and social cohesion re-examined**

**Abstract**

The 1997 economic crisis followed by the step down of president Soeharto in 1998 changed the landscape of Indonesia's economy and polity. It was the beginning of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in cooperation with the Indonesia's democratising state sailed to a new economic destination. Preaching market solution to social and economic problems become new medicines for healing Indonesia's economy. In contrast to current mainstream of market paradigm, this paper argues that the state, the economy, and the social organisation are mutually embedded in any society and country. Under what circumstances this mutual embeddedness promotes or hurdles regional clothing entrepreneurs to develop. The objective of using the embeddedness' perspective is to advocate policy makers on the importance of local social organisations in the formulation of public policy in Indonesia.

Bali and Central Java are chosen as sites of research for a number of reasons. Both are the strongholds of clothing producing regions. Large and small-medium entrepreneurs respectively dominate clothing industry in Bali and Central Java. More importantly, Bali and Central Java were dubbed respectively as success and failed stories of liberalisation of clothing industry in the 1990s and 1960s. The data are collected from primary statistics, the existing literature and publications on the Indonesia's political economy, and from in-depth interview. 20 key informants in Central Java and 15 key informants in Bali who have direct and indirect knowledge on clothing Industry have been interviewed. All data were collected from January 2010 up to January 2011. This paper shows processes of business inclusion and exclusion as consequences of dynamism of embeddedness. A negative embeddedness that characterised current exclusion of clothing entrepreneurs from international and domestic markets is the results of the absence of institutional innovation within the state and the community of clothing entrepreneurs. Cooperating, not competing, with new foreign clothing actors has to become a new organising principle for salvaging clothing industry in Indonesian regions.

# Local Development and Participation

**Michela Freddano, University of Genova, Genova, Italy**

## **Participation and ICT into decision making: an experience of deliberative pooling**

### **Abstract**

More frequently local governance promotes direct forms of participation increasing the role of both stakeholders and citizens. Citizen participation in decisional processes can be carried on by the use of new information and communication technologies. Online tools are just applied in a great field of public administration to improve not only the inside trials but also the relationship between administration and citizens.

The aim of this article is to show the role of participation in public policy, through the experience of e-democracy promoted by the Province of Genoa, using online deliberative pooling.

An evaluative study has been done to show how top down participation forms reflect proponents' goals (in our case of public administration) in terms of aims, procedures and contents of participation so that inclusivity of participation is just formally determined. Another question regards more precisely the outputs and the outcomes of the online participatory processes in term of learning process of both public administration and citizens.

Methodologically, it has been done an evaluation of the participatory process promoted by the local public administration. A secondary data analysis and a field research had been done, using the tools of social research such as participant observation and semi-structured interviews to some stakeholders. The results are shown by descriptive analysis that focus on strengths and weaknesses about the selection of participants, the ways of participation and outcomes.

**Agnese Karaseva, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences/ University of Latvia & Linda Ziverte University of Latvia, Faculty of Social Sciences, Riga, Latvia**

## **Empowerment of local community leaders through collaborative action research activities**

### **Abstract**

This study investigates the potential of the collaborative action research to empower formal and informal community leaders in Latvia and, therefore, to provide a route for overcoming the social exclusion. Aims of the action research undertaken are to consider its potential for empowering formal and informal leaders in the communities and providing a route for overcoming social exclusion. Main elements of this action research will be facilitated in three ways: through the transfer of knowledge and skills; by enhancing the leadership potential of the participants; and by developing a platform for improving the social inclusion activities in local formal and informal communities. Currently Latvia undergoes the difficult economic transition and, due to the rising risks of social exclusion, is in need for a new balance in the field of social relationships and social security. Thus, empowerment of leaders and activists within the local communities becomes crucial as under economic hardships their role significantly increase. Recent studies of the local NGO's show the existence of significant restrictions preventing them from serving the needs of local communities. The most serious problems derive from the lack of specific skills, cooperation, knowledge, and material resources as well as a weak participation in decision-making process at the municipal level. This study is one of the first attempts to investigate the potential and advantages of action research approach in post-crisis society in Latvia and to develop a close collaborative and synergetic cooperation between local communities and social researchers in Latvia while considering the impact of the participatory action research approach on the local empowerment. It belongs to National Identity project founded by the government of Latvia and was started on 2010 as a result of collaboration between Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences and University of Latvia.

**Ilona Matysiak, The Robert B. Zajonc Institute for Social Studies, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland**

**The rural self-government “reinvented”: village representatives as facilitators of the “grass-root” civic participation in rural communities in Poland.**

#### **Abstract**

In the historic context, the institutions of rural self-government in Poland can be referred to as a „long term” ones (cf. Braudel 2006), because since the Middle Ages, there used to be a „representativeness” of some sort between the rural community and the higher level authorities. At present, the institutions of rural self-government include: the function of village representative, which is an executive body, the village council as an advisory body and the village assembly – the legislative body. According to the available statistics, in 2009 there were more than 40 000 village representatives in Poland, the percentage of women was about 30%.

According to the tradition, village representatives are usually perceived as being responsible for solving of everyday problems or difficulties in the village, e.g. snow removal, roads maintenance, etc. Apart from that, in the context of the idea of local governance, the importance of modern village representatives is strongly related to mobilization of the civic engagement, regarding joint voluntary work on behalf of the village and the participation of residents in the decision making processes within the village assembly as the legislative body and the village council. This role is particularly significant in relation with the so-called village fund - the new institutional and innovative resolution, within which the residents actually decide on designation of the funds warranted in the commune budget for their village.

In this context, the paper will present the examples of strategies of mobilizing the grass-root civic participation, especially the involvement of the village’s residents in decision-making processes, used by the village representatives in chosen villages located in different parts of Poland (10 different communes). Interestingly, these strategies are deeply embedded in day-to-day practices and are based on the idea of building of a sense of shared responsibility for the community.

**Jurga Bucaite-Vilke, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences  
Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania**

**Effective tools for local community governance: the question of creating institutional partnerships**

#### **Abstract**

The aim of the presentation is to identify and analyze the mechanism of local community (as an institutionalized form of CSO) governance mechanism and to present how various public and private initiatives collaborate and establish partnerships on the local level. The theoretical discussion concerns the concept of the local community as a set of inter-organizational networks and strives to explain importance of the emerging network form of governance in so called “new democracy” context. The empirical test is provided by the case study of the local community partnership network<sup>1</sup> as it happens to function and bring together the state and local civil actors. The research reveals the problems of institutional partnership and supporting network collaboration in representation of the collective interests on local level as well as challenges the efficient decision-making and managerial tools.

*Our assumption* is that in the post-soviet settings the structure of public interest decision-making, especially related with the civil society organizations, are influenced by rationality of allocation of different economic and political resources using the power of subordination as well as acquaintance, formal and informal contacts and norms of reciprocity. The research problem is framed by the question: is a particular new form of local community governance emerging? The empirical research reveals the problem of vague and floating institutional interaction which influences the implementation of rational decisions. Another question is the ability of the leaders from the third sector to represent collective interests and participate in decision-making processes concerning the “*local*” issues and public interests.

The main results of the research imply the changes in the interaction mode and networks supporting public interests between the state, market and the civil society organizations. The relational dimension of the *issue networks* (as it was the object of the case study) may be considered as the significant social force and the concept of *network form of governance* is useful since it highlights common understanding which brings together different actors and coordinates particular interests in the non-hierarchical manner of bargaining. Thus, the state-centric and corporative approach is being avoided by giving analytical space for multiplicity of local state and non-state actors. Such a conceptualization could be conceived as *governance without/beyond/despite government*.

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**GABRIELA-VIOLETA IORDĂCHIȚĂ, CJRAE-CJAP (Regional Resources Center and Educational Assistance), Galati, Romania**

**Emergency Management: floods in Galați, România, between coherence strategy and political games**  
**Abstract**

In this study we are interested to make an analysis about community action and competent authorities in managing emergencies. The case that we have in attention is about flooding of the Danube and Siret River in Galati area, in period 4 to 10 July 2010. The situation had a high risk for 350,000 residents of Galati, a city surrounded by three rivers: the Danube, the Siret and the Prut. The town was in real danger of being flooded. In fact it was a big area even of town where water entered homes and filled streets. The local authorities and community participated in construction of some dams to stop water.

We started this sociological research with some simple questions: intervention in case of flooding was in Galați a success due to excellent organization at local level or just a game of hazard? Emergency management that would have been due to interests of the government's image of politicians and not of coherent decisions of the institutions involved?

To answer these questions we undertook a methodological approach based on a content analysis of media at local and central for our topic, plus interviews with actors involved in the management of emergency situations, representatives of institutions (municipality, prefecture, the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations) and other people participating. The conclusions appear very interesting beyond to the responsibility of managing an emergency request, we will see in fact a series of political games and power far exceeding the original from which we started.

**Cynthia Bogard, Sociology Department, Hofstra University, NY 11549 USA**

**What Can Sustainable Education Mean in Post-Earthquake Haiti?**

**Abstract**

The impoverished nation of Haiti was beset with a failing educational system in which only 20% of youth attended high school and 50% of children never attend school at all even before the catastrophic January 2010 earthquake. The earthquake leveled over 5,000 schools, leaving the current generation of Haitian youth at risk of receiving even less education than their parents. This project considers what sustainability could mean in the redevelopment of an educational infrastructure in post-earthquake Haiti. With schools as important centers of community and hope for the future because of their youth development function, rebuilding schools sustainably could potentially include: urban social capital development (in the form of parent associations to support schools); modeling sustainable, earthquake resistant building technologies in newly built schools; upgrading educational quality through teacher training programs, distance learning and teaching/school partner programs; and financing the educational infrastructure through Haiti's most stable source of national income – remittance from Haitians living abroad. The curriculum, which severely needs updating, could also include an emphasis on exploring what sustainability could mean to Haiti and Haitians. These topics are explored through providing examples of efforts already taking place in Haiti and/or plans for future education redevelopment. Haiti's history of failed development projects is also employed as a cautionary tale.

**Akira Kurashima, Sociology Department, Kwansai Gakuin University, Nishinomiya, Japan**

**From Imagination to Intercorporality: a Case Study of "Face to Face" Relief Donations in Post 3.11 Japan**

**Abstract**

In the days following the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11th and the ensuing reactor meltdown at Fukushima, the Japanese people came to realize the incompetence of domestic media and the government to adequately mediate the disaster-stricken areas and the intact areas, in both information and material terms.

Media globalization had revealed the inadequacy of domestic media at an early stage; it did not broadcast certain information that was readily available on foreign Internet broadcasts. Eventually, many came to realize that the government and media are downplaying the severity of the ongoing disaster in the interest of the current nuclear energy policy. Material mediation was also far from adequate; while more than 250 billion yen were collected as donations for survivors, only about 15 percent had been distributed as of early June, due to lack of organization.

Instead of alleviating the social opacity that inhibited the delivery of information and material, domestic media repeatedly broadcast fragmented sentimental episodes of rescues and losses, which, together with the video message

from the Emperor, did strengthen the Japanese imagined community; but it was clear to many that the community was only imagined.

In this context, this paper examines a relief donation project named "Heart on Coin" as an exemplary case of a new form of social bond that potentially penetrates the opacity. The project aims to create lasting "Face to Face" partnerships, by asking donors to provide information about how the money was earned, and asking the recipients to report how the money was used. This process enables both the donor and recipient to appreciate the money as something fundamentally connected to the bodily existence of each other, creating an intercorporeal link that is both emotional and material. This paper concludes by pointing out the project's implications to the Japanese imagined community.

**Antonio Augusto Pereira Prates, Sociology Department, Federal University of Brazil Minas Gerais, Minas Gerais, Brazil.**

### **Social capital, weak ties and collective action among poor people**

#### **Abstract**

This paper deals with the issue of the relationship between social capital and "weak ties" in the poor communities' context. I suggest that the concept of social capital refers to the interaction density within a community; as such it must be seen as a collective property (J. Coleman 1990). On the other hand, weak ties (Granovetter, 1973) can be defined as connections between the poor community and the institutional actors as local public agencies, politicians and altruistic NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations). These connections (weak ties) relating the community with the public local agencies may be of two kinds: the first one is the connection made by the civic associations coming from the community. In this case, it is clear that there is a stock of social capital being used; the second one, are the connections (weak ties) articulated by "rent-seeking" leaderships or politicians, through patron-client ties, looking for winning, for example, the coming elections. In this case we think that there is no social capital in action, but **individual social capital** that is being used for providing collective goods or public benefits to poor communities. The research's methodology is mainly a qualitative one, but we also work with some descriptive quantitative data.

**Luis Llambi, Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research, Caracas, Venezuela**

### **Participatory Democracy and Territorial Development Processes in Latin America**

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#### **Abstract**

In most Latin American countries, current re-democratization processes at the national level are creating the conditions for local processes associated to the inclusion of a broader spectrum of citizens in public life with an increased circulation of information and greater transparency in public policy decision-making. These participatory governance experiences are taking place in both urban and rural spaces. Participatory budgeting councils launched by local governments in Brazil (*e.g.* Porto Alegre), Ecuador (*e.g.* Otavalo, Cotacachi and Tungurahua) are some examples. Also, in Mucuchies (Venezuela) and Soconusco (Mexico), other bottom-up and negotiated institutional approaches involve local actors in finding solutions for territorial development issues. The paper attempts a comparative analysis of these local development processes in the development literature. How to explain these processes? What were the conditions that led formerly excluded local actors (*e.g.* peasant organizations, indigenous communities, and urban slum dwellers) to adopt such institutional innovations? What are the distributive impacts of these participatory experiences so far? What were the relationships between institutional design, social inclusion, and the democratization of the national political process? What are the conditions that may contribute to the long-term sustainability of these processes? The paper's two main normative messages are: first, that local endogenous development is only possible under specific conditions, and while these conditions hold; secondly, that a sustainable strategy for nationwide rural development requires the implementation of territorial and social cohesion policies, consistent with national and supranational development strategies.

**Mridula Goel' & Devika, Dept. of Economics, Goa, India, Research Student, Dept. of Economics, Goa Campus, Zuari Nagar, Goa, India**

**Empowering Marginalized Sections of Women through Initiatives by Community Based Organizations: A study from India,**

### **Abstract**

Social capital is the mainstay of India's development process. Because of the family and community values prevalent in Indian society, this network of relationships which encompasses trust and solidarity is fundamental to development especially at the grassroots level. Moving higher, the intermingling of foundations, co-operatives and non-governmental organizations that make up the social economy is an essential part of social capital. It transcends the intrinsic hierarchy in the social order based on religion, economic status or in India's case, the caste system. Social economy includes all organizations that operate mainly to achieve social and environmental goals. These institutions along with the ties among the people involved form the social capital of a nation. Community based organizations (CBOs) occupy a major space in the social economy of India. From primary education to palliative care, there are organizations operating in each field in a manner that makes their team members and volunteers a part of the community rather than outsiders. Bringing about improvement can be achieved by mingling with and understanding the beneficiaries rather than just providing funds or facilities. Two organizations which have taken an innovative approach towards women development in specific social situations are Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC) and Decimal Foundation.

AAWC works with women prostitutes in Mumbai. Mumbai is India's largest metro with a population of around 12 million and is the most densely populated city in the world according to United Nations. Since prostitution is illegal in India, these women survive at the margins of society with no legal identity and no access to any development scheme run by the Government. AAWC's work is extremely complex and at the same time special. It includes providing these women with identification, insurance, medical care and social re-integration. They strive to save children of these sex workers from being forced into second generation prostitution by providing them day care, education, vocational training and a gateway through a wall of obstacles.

Decimal Foundation addresses the concerns of another unheard section of women in Mumbai- the domestic workers. They have a special project called "Maid in India" that caters to these women who work in the informal labour sector with no minimum wage or healthcare coverage and suffer domestic violence and in some cases, sexual abuse. They ensure proper identification and ask the household-owners to provide for health coverage, standard wages and insurance. In turn, they provide a standardized channel for hiring and replacing workers, a facility that is very useful for households. Their project stands out as they are clear about not reinventing the wheel. They are trying to bring domestic workers into the formal labour force—all they ask for is what the workers already deserve.

Our paper is an attempt to study the working of these two organizations in order to arrive at responses to the following issues:

1. The extent to which they have been able to make a visible impact on the lives of target persons.

Has their presence/support improved the invisible quality of life of their target persons through creation of emotional security/confidence/optimism/etc?

Documenting of practices and methods used by these organizations along with the outcomes that were perceived by the workers.

Have they been able to relate to Government funding and policy making and gather support for their work?

What are the challenges faced in increasing effectiveness and reach for these organizations: funds, social acceptability, recognition, manpower etc.?

## **Organisational Innovations**

**The Worth of Opening up Developmental Work - Justifying a New Business Driven Spirit of Open Source Software Development**

Bertil Ronaldson, Jan Ljungberg, Magnus Bergquist, Sociology Department, Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden

Open source software development (OSS) used to be associated with an ideologically driven movement built around communities of voluntary members, organizing resistance against proprietary software development. Today, however, OSS is also perceived by software firms as a source of innovation. Previous research have investigated what this change has meant to movement driven OSS, but we still need more knowledge about what this change means to the professional programmers who organize business driven open source software development in practice. This article investigates the interpretative guidelines or justifying arrangement that emerge under such changes, and that guide these programmers. The analysis is based on 30 interviews that were

done during 2008-2009 with programmers who were employed either by software firms that had come to a point where they started to adopt open source, or by firms that always based their business on open source software development. Theoretical concepts that were used in the analysis mainly derive from the economic sociology of Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thévenot, and the results indicate the emergence of a new spirit of business driven open source, consisting of a combination of different justificatory logics. This new spirit is described as an arrangement guiding how professional programmers in today's software industry perceive the worth of using open source code in their developmental work.

**Georg Pantoglou, Director, Business Analysis, European Patent Office Munich, Germany**

## **STRATEGY ON THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY – THE ROLE OF PATENTS AS AN INCENTIVE FOR INNOVATION**

### **Abstract**

The economic benefits of the patent system are derived from its roles in promoting innovation, and encouraging investment, economic growth, knowledge sharing and the efficient use of resources. A patent is a legal title granting its holder the exclusive right to exploit his invention in a limited area and for a limited time period. By offering protection in exchange for disclosure, the patent system creates incentives to invest in research and development and it fosters technical innovation, which is crucial to competitiveness and overall economic growth. The European Patent Office supports innovation, competitiveness and economic growth across Europe through a commitment to high quality and efficient services delivered under the European Patent Convention.

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**George K. Gantzias, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication at the University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Greece.**

## **The Info-communication Industry and the Global Info-Cash (GIC): Convergence of technologies, markets and Currencies**

### **ABSTRACT**

The digital communication is part of our everyday life. The digital technology becomes a fact of life for our society, involving many actors – software providers, hardware companies, activists, journalists, non-governmental organisations, broadcasting companies and social media. Nowadays, MySpace and Facebook attract an even bigger audience: over 290 million active users a month for Facebook (with more than 140 million logging on each day), and about 100 million for MySpace. Facebook and MySpace, along with other "social" sites such as Twitter, YouTube and Photobucket, exemplify the new face of the digital communication in the twenty-first century. This raises obvious questions for the role of the convergence of technologies, markets and currencies in the recent cultural and economic crisis. This paper examines the creative industries and the info-communication industry. It is also analyzing the info-communication globalisation and the cyberspace together with the economic, political, and cultural crisis. Finally, it strongly recommends that a practical way for Greece to emerge from the recent crisis is: to switch off the physical form of the Euro currencies and switch on the digital form of single currency the Global Info-Cash (GIG), i.e. the info-cash payment using the digital subdivision of the Global Info-Cash, such as Info-CashGR and Info-CashUSA.

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**Katharine Sarikakis, Institut für Publizistik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft der Universität Wien, Wien, Austria**

## **The governance of communicative space in times of crisis: implications for a sustainable Democracy**

### **Abstract**

The current declared state of 'emergency' in the Euro-zone and in particular in relation to the 'bad Europeans' of the South has brought to the fore old questions of democratic participation anew and new forms of political claims. These forms of participation are taking place within public and communal communicative spaces challenging institutionalized forms of communication and democratic practice. This paper is exploring the ways in which the financial crisis is probing a political crisis as an opportunity for the formation of long-term sustainable political communities. It discusses the emerging phenomena of protest as a form of communicative action and juxtaposes them to the institutionalised

forms of journalistic practice in Europe. The paper aims to theorize the current events from the perspective of governance of communicative space as a process that underpins the development or decline of participatory democratic action.

## **Sustainable Communities and Institutional Modalities/Greece**

**George, O. Tsobanoglou, Sociology Department, University of the Aegean, Greece**

### **On Governing the weak ties in Networked Economics -Greece in the EU**

#### **Abstract**

Local Institutional Capacity Building remains a local prerogative during the development process and is determined by the problem of institutional supply which is dyadic in nature. Institutional supply has a political control component (party politics in various forms, one dynamic of which is patronage politics) and a social control whereby state sets *policy* in partnership with labour and capital.

The political control component is defining the market and the allocation of labour to positions reflecting the political interests of the “patrons” as he straggles to maximise his political power. He defines the state action as he represents a minute «politiki arithmesis».

The social control component bearing “market institutions”, is being formed in order to regulate the exchange of labour and capital and the associated issues of employment security, health, education and culture. New mediation regimes, for information based social control accounting practices and their corresponding networks, have been essential in order to develop new “organisational” space to account for the new general (social) forms of exchange.

Countries such as Greece, having experienced patronage politics, and long periods of dictatorial rule, may seem to lack the required “state institutions” and civil society organisations to coordinate socio-economic exchanges and enhance the value chain in the EU monetary system. Political controls under a patronage “regime”, characterised by fragmentation, seem to define the “division of labour” in the “body politic” domain.

This system of political controls embedded, as it is, in Greek institutions, has become articulated with issues of social control as a result of Greece’s entanglement, over the past thirty years, with EU social institutions. This articulation may have produced a type of “modernisation” effects, due to consumption patterns promoted as a result of the unequal exchange practices in place between unevenly developed states. The way external and internal actors are articulated, in a usually asymmetrical socio-politically relationship, may define the future of “redundant” institutions. Usually developing regimes define a legal plateau whereby the nominal and the effective are not only referring to law but to regulation and administration. Informal practices and the distance between the deontic and the factual constitute the very capacity to form policy, a key absence in such regimes. When this distance is considerable, a dual system is established with no common rules. This duality may mirror other dualities between the state and its “civil society” form.

The transition from political to social control, and its associated labour institutions, maybe one of the key issues defining Greece’s European trajectory

This paper will focus on this rather neglected aspect of Greece’s relationship with the EU. The focus on labour’s (social) forms will be a test case for the status of social market mechanisms in Greece. There are subsequent conclusions to be drawn for the weak capacity of the European Union’s Institutions to establish themselves in its periphery.

**Pantelis Sklias, Dept. of Political Science & International Relations, University of Peloponnese, Corinth, Greece & Eugenia Vathakou, Political Technology Research Group, University of Peloponnese, Corinth, Greece**

### **Non-State Actors in the era of the economic crisis: the case of Greece**

#### **ABSTRACT**

The paper aims at evaluating the challenges, both opportunities and restrictions that Non-State Actors (NSAs) face in the era of world financial crisis.

We will assess the main approaches addressing the issue. Expansionist views consider the financial crisis as an opportunity for NSAs to re-consider the institutional and operational framework in which they operate, re-address their focus, develop new strategies, establish further networking links and relationships. On the other hand, reductionist approaches face financial crisis as a restrictive variable. In this context, NSAs are considered as mere implementers and operational tools of state policies without further opportunities for development and appraisal. In this broad context of approaches we claim that truth is somewhere in the middle. Scarcity of resources and institutional re-arrangements is a challenge for both state and non-state actors. A new context of discourse may arise.

In the above framework we will evaluate the case of the NSAs within the context of the Greek financial crisis. We use specific indicators in order to assess the impact of the crisis on the institutional and operational context Greek NSAs exist and operate. Finally, we will reach specific recommendations for the way forward.

**Alexiadis Stilianos, Ministry of Rural Development and Foods, Department of Agricultural Policy and Documentation, Division of Agricultural Statistics, Athens, Greece, Kokkinou Aikaterini, University of Glasgow, Department of Economics, Glasgow, Scotland & Ladias Christos, University of Central Greece, Department of Regional Economic Development**

### **The Cumulative Nature of Economic Development**

#### **Abstract**

Regional economic development is dynamic in nature. The process of regional economic development depends upon a series of factors, including inter-sectoral relationships, backward/forward linkages, increasing returns to scale, interactions between demand and supply, technological evolution, and so forth. Nevertheless, disparities in almost every aspect of the economic and social activity seem to be persistent across regions. This paper provides a review of the various theories that put forward to explain the process of regional growth. Particular emphasis is placed upon the 'cumulative' nature of regional growth. To be more precise, it is argued that the beneficial effects of economic development are not distributed evenly across space, sustaining the existing regional disparities. This sustainability provides the strongest rationale for regional policies. The evolution of regional policies, is also examined in a critical context while some recommendations for future regional policies is offered.

**Kalerante E.,Mormori P.,Mormoris M., University of Makedonia, Kastoria and University of Pireus, Pireus, Greece**

### **University Candidates' Targets in a changing, unstable and unpredictable economic Environment**

#### **Abstract**

Our study explores university candidates' educational and career choices against an unstable economic background that may necessitate the reformulation and readjustment of choices to innovative concepts of advancement and future development as they may apply to youngsters of different social class and gender. The sudden call to precipitated maturity is a shock, as eighteen- year olds are now expected to sit for exams and simultaneously opt for an education-conduit to vocational security.

More specifically, we designed a case study concentrating on two different geographical areas: the Northern suburbs and western Attiki, taking into consideration the class-related socio-economic and political traits of their population. Our research also estimates the extent to which educational choices are determined by gender.

Our research utilizes closed and open- end questions to unravel the societal considerations and selection tactics of the subjects, which is semantically revealed to lead to gingerly realistic steps on the quick sand of political and economic instability.

We also profited from a multitude of interpretative versions and research bibliographies, so as to uncover the role that gender and class-related inequality plays in shaping and directing educational and vocational choices

The crux of our problematic is centered in a liquid status quo with individuals making judgments according to the social and educational capital established in the class and gender-related correlations within the collectivity.

Our research proceeds to expose vast vistas of continually redefinable prospects, renewable explorative models and a systemic complexity that regenerate youngsters' choices.

It is noteworthy that information has for the first time become available on education being tied to vocation, not only against the backdrop of an economic and value crisis but also the end decade- long governmental providence.

**Ioannis K. Nasioulas, Sociology Dept., University of the Aegean, Greece  
Towards a Greek Satellite Account on Social Economy. Challenges of modern social statistics**

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the practical methodology integrating the identification process of the Social Economy field in Greece. The register of all juridical entities accountable as Social Economy actors (Nasioulas, 2010) can now provide for the methodological basis on drawing up special national-accounting contexts monitoring monetary and non-monetary transactions in the Social Economy. We discuss the already internationally applied practices and highlight on the most significant challenges eventually to emerge in the process of recognizing Greek Social Economy in terms of the National System of Economic Accounts.

**Giannis Ioannides, Hellenic Open University, Cultural Organisations Management MSc; Cultural Manager,  
Municipality of Moschato- Tavros, Athens**

**Cultural voluntarism in Greece: From idealization of civil society to state control upon social initiatives.**

This article looks at a specific field of voluntary activity – cultural voluntarism – that has developed in Greece during the last thirty five years.

After the fall of the military junta (1974), there was an explosion of voluntary cultural activities. The organisations responsible constituted a massive cultural movement, characterised by a high degree of voluntary participation. In spite of this, cultural development has in practice taken place under the aegis of the political parties. Also, during the 1990s voluntary organisations have been operating against a background of declining participation. The individual rationales of members of voluntary organisation for their collective activity are, to a great extent, post-materialist and individualised motivations, expressed through the demand for substantial and responsible roles with obvious effectiveness. The Olympic Games of 2004 in Greece offered a good example of this mixture of motives. Most of the interviewees in studies of Olympic voluntarism said that they considered their participation in the Olympic Games as a valuable experience for their future career.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, within the stifling environment of a receding participatory culture, a powerful and multi-faceted micro-level voluntarism has developed. Modern Greek volunteers can be described as follows: on one hand they claim and adopt functional roles that can provide them with social recognition, and on the other hand they expect some return of their contribution.

In recent years, particularly the last two years where in Greece we're going through with the crisis period, a new and dominant trend is reflected: The State patronize the NGOs (Non-governmental organizations) assigning them to implement social and cultural programs in collaboration with Local Authorities. The NGOs recruits unemployed in a flexible form of five months job relation, at low wages and they "rent" them in Local Authorities. There is a consideration that in this way the labour cost is reduced, while at the same time, the unemployment problem is dealt. In reality, with this way, relationships of dependency are formed. Organizations that ends in a form of Subsidiary Organizations controlled by the central government, providing a locally continuity.

**George M. Korres, Visiting Fellow, University of Newcastle, Centre of Urban and Regional Development Studies, CURDS, Newcastle, United Kingdom and Associate Professor at the University of Aegean, Department of Geography, Mytilini, Greece & Aikaterini, Kokkinou, Department of Economics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK**

### **E-Learning & Training Skills: A Study for Greece**

#### **Abstract**

Human capital accumulation is an important determinant of individuals' earning capacity and employment prospects, and therefore plays an important role in determining the level and distribution of income in society. Education should be understood as a method of sharing and disseminating information. It deals not only with obtaining the right information in the right time, but also with fully understanding and processing the information in the given context. Education is also considered to be associated with various non-economic benefits. Across countries, there is a broad consensus that some degree of government involvement is essential in the provision of educational services. This paper attempts to examine e-learning educational policy in Greece and also to analyze the relevant policies towards e-learning education. It also attempts to measure the effects in a benchmarking study of Greece within E.U..

**Akira Kurashima, Kwansei Gakuin University, Nishinomiya, Japan**

### **Globalizing a Cultural Bodily Perception: A Comparative Study Based on Fieldwork of Tai Chi Classes in China and the UK**

#### **Abstract**

French sociologist and anthropologist Marcel Mauss coined the term "body techniques", to show that each culture has its own ways of using the body. Following Mauss, sociologists still tend to take for granted the correspondence between culture and body technique. This enables us to understand the individual acquisition of technique as the embodiment of a collective culture, which is convenient in that the instable nature of individual acquisition - possibilities of delay, failure, improvisation or invention - are leveled out and deemed negligible.

However, this understanding of acquisition seems no longer valid in the global environment, where telecommunications technology and international capital disseminate various body techniques across national and regional boundaries. When the correspondence between culture and body technique is thus broken, sociologists must examine the instable nature of individual acquisition face on: we must turn to the people's subjective and fluctuating perception of his/her own body, focusing on how they orient themselves in the global flood of body techniques.

In this context, this paper compares a traditional, community-based Tai Chi class in Xinxiang City, Henan Province, China, and a modern, commercial-based Tai Chi class in Manchester, UK, based on empirical data gathered by participant observation in China (in September 2006) and the UK (from January 2007 to January 2009). It shall be shown that the students in the UK tend to practice Tai Chi more as a result of deliberate assessment of efficacy of techniques than Chinese students, who can rely on communal culture to evaluate Tai Chi efficacy. However, it shall also be demonstrated that bodily perception of efficacy is irreducible neither to deliberation nor culture, and must be individually attained on the sensual level.