

RESEARCH COMMITTEE 26 –SOCIOTECHNICS, SOCIOLOGICAL PRACTICE

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SESSION: Borders, cultural citizenship and sustainability: human networks in action

Abstract id# 20261

Migrant women's acculturation modes and attitudes toward women in home and host countries

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Abstract Text:

This paper examines the influence of migrant women's acculturation modes on gender relationships, through the analysis of acculturation modes' impact on perceptions and attitudes toward women in host and home countries. Three studies, already carried out or underway, are conducted in order to analyze links between migrant women's acculturation modes (integration, assimilation, separation or marginalization according to the model of Berry, 2001) and attitudes toward women assessed through the ambivalent sexism inventory (ASI, Glick & Fiske, 1996), the social dominance orientation scale (SDO, Sidanius & Pratto, 1999) and a sympathy scale. These studies have been conducted in Romania and Benin, as emigration countries, and in France, as immigration country. Four descriptions of migrant women (corresponding to the acculturation modes mentioned above) are presented to participants. After reading the description (between-subjects), participants answer the three scales. Contrast analysis conducted on first results show that each dimension of acculturation seems to have its own influence on attitudes toward women. Thus – in home countries – the support of the culture of origin may strongly increase sympathy toward migrant women and decrease benevolent sexism ; the pre-eminence of one culture on the other may increase the rejection of social dominance ; eventually, adopting the host culture might increase hostile sexism. Complete results will be presented and implications will be discussed during the 2nd ISA forum of Sociology. A discussion point will be the state of strain in which migrant women seem to be placed, expected to support the culture of origin for maintaining positive relationships with their home country but also to fully embrace the host culture in order not to be rejected. In such a situation, is the development of hybrids identities really possible? What kind of strategies can migrant women introduce in their struggle for recognition?

Abstract id# 15618

Multicultural societies: The formation of sociability territories in the city of rio de janeiro

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Abstract Text:

This paper is an extension of a former work in Cultural Identity done at the Mangueira Favela territory in Rio de Janeiro- Brazil, since 2004, now expanded to the Cinelândia territory. The objective is to depict how the multicultural character of a contemporary society may enrich the sociability of the city territories. Cinelândia focus of this work, was chosen because it was the scenario of most significative cultural and social moments of the city of Rio de Janeiro since in the First Republic. The contemporary society is inevitably multicultural and demands the recognition of cultural differences that may permit the dialog and the comprehension of one another. This work depicts the multicultural character as an influence that enriches the construction of the sociability in the city territories. The conclusion is that plural and heterogenic territories, where the differences are permanent, are fundamental to build the sociability. For instance, we focus on Cinelândia, a melting pot at Rio's city center, where almost everything fits and where difference is a vector of integration.

Abstract id# 11933

Nature corporation. the role of social actors in the production of green consumption in Brazil, through the gaze of a rhizome

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Abstract Text:

The postmodern society is showing changes in its habits and styles of consumption in recent years, influenced by the paradigm of environmental sustainability. In this context, the discussion of this new paradigm involves a complex network of social actors made up of companies, media, NGOs, government and civil society, all of them in a new configuration.

This "network" tends to be configured through a rhizome, by which all influence each other by means of mutual assemblages, for the development, creation, control and production of the look of a "green consumption". Thus, Nature begins to link itself to the consumption's logic, through the system Ecological Power. Therefore, Nature is produced as life, and also capital or "consumer good". In other words, a "new product market" on the contemporary panorama.

The present study aims to reflect the participation of different social actors in the production process of the green consumption market in Brazil, through the logic of a "green rhizome". Through the development of this new market, consumers, companies, media, NGOs and government have been organizing focusing in the production of a "green power", which circulates within this rhizome, in which nature is commodified according to a logic of rhizomatic and immaterial capitalism.

The methodological research is based on a qualitative study, through the analysis of bibliographical references, documentary research and field research in the Brazilian market.

The research results indicate that the social actors affect and control each other, producing the idea of an “*Ethos*” environment, which is expressed through the strategy of "ethical profit." This strategy is articulated as a Ecological Power , which sets the concept of nature as power’s object (according to the deterritorialized conception of the non-place) and consumption’s object, capitalizing the nature, making it profitable and with a value of socially powerful .

Abstract id# 19713

Crossing borders and overcoming exclusion: An overview of female migration in Brazil

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Abstract Text:

Through a brief overview of female migration in Brazil, this paper aims to show how women have been negotiating with other traditions and cultures, redefining traditional gender identities, and, crossing the boundaries of social exclusion.

The "journey" begins in Africa, between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries, when they migrated to Brazil as slaves, about 4 million Africans from various ethnic groups / nations, with a large contingent, however, uncertain of women. Although, in the nineteenth century, the abolition of slavery was announced, it came unaccompanied by policies of social inclusion for african descent, who had no place in the everyday work of Brazil, taken by European immigrants. On the other hand, patriarchy, with all his force, kept women oppressed. Racial disparities coupled with the strength of patriarchy imposed hard boundaries to women, who used to overcome them, creating some very interesting strategies of survival and overcoming.

The journey of black women, and their descendants, who, in the diaspora context, (re) created an "imagined" Africa in Brazil, is a good example. Through the maintenance and transmission of sacred African oral traditions, they gave power to a religious-mythical world in which, as "mother of saint" assumed the highest office in the hierarchy - against both African tradition and Western, where men traditionally hold authority.

Outside the religious sphere, but sharing the refusal by passivity, young women, coming from the disadvantaged sections of the population, have also been working great

"miracles." Through the joint (and informal) solidarity in networks of mutual support, they migrated from the country's poorest regions, mainly in the Northeast, to Rio de Janeiro, and can overcome everyday adversities. In search of better living conditions and social recognition, the young migrants and their networks also come across borders (geographical and subjective), without losing the marks of their cultural identity.

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Title:

SESSION: Cellular globalization: Social theory as projected on applied sociology

Abstract id# 16584

Local globalization, environment and archaic social relations

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Abstract Text:

One of the striking evidence of local globalization is a sharp increase of crime and wide-spread corruption at a local level of rural communities in Russia. The bulk of shadow economy including its criminal and corrupted components is sized by Russian experts up to 40% GDP. At the beginning of 1990s the extortion racket (the systematic robbery of businessmen) was widely in use; over the last five years the corrupt practices are gaining the advantage. Many sociologists estimate the current situation in the Russian society as critical while using the term ‘system corruption’ to characterize it (the latter understood as corruption that have pervaded all the levels of social system and become an integral part of the system of government). In my paper I consider the economic banditry (racketeering) and system corruption as a form of parasitical (negative) economic relationship that lock out normal economic development through the deformation of the market relationship and systematic withdrawal of the considerable amount of social product. At the same time the specifics of my point of view would be making the parallel between the criminal-corruptive and some ‘archaic’ (primordial, pre-class, early class) economic relationships, which, in the situation of radical socio-economic transformation, are being brought back to life. Under the conditions of economic crisis the parasitical economic relationships characteristic of most developing countries as well as countries with transitional economies (countries of so-called ‘peripheral capitalism’) prove to block the effectiveness of struggle with emerged economic and social menaces; they are the phenomena worsening the economic crisis. All this raises a whole range of philosophical and methodological questions: what is the nature of post-Soviet societies? What conceptual apparatus has to be applied to the analysis of “transforming” societies? What is the proportion of “cultural-mental” and properly economic factors in the development of post-Soviet states?

Abstract id# 22655

Local / global interplay: Social solidarity and ecological risks

Dmitry EFREMENKO, Sociology and Social Psychology, Institute for Scientific Information on Social Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

Abstract Text:

The paper discusses the problems of social solidarity in the context of environmental risks. Such a risks can cause a new type of solidarities both on local and global levels. The conceptual basis of the research are the theory of risk society and the concept of cellular globalization. Accumulation of risks in the era of global turbulence produces multiple risk-solidarities.

There are conflicts between solidarities of risk-producers and risk-recipients especially under conditions of technogenic catastrophe or natural disaster. People' mobilization is a response to environmental challenges. Several cases of emerging risk-solidarities will be considered. The mobilization of local communities and members of civic networks demonstrates growing potential of social solidarity and self-organization. An important aspect of the problem in question is the key role of Internet communication as a factor of emergence of solidarity' networks.

Abstract id# 23435

Analyzing global social disorder: on relevance of classical theories of anomie and alienation

Ekaterina LYTKINA, General Sociology, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Abstract Text:

The proposed paper reanalyzes the problem of social disorder which has become a crucial issue in the global context. With the “occupy Wall Street” demonstrations some groups within the society have been struggling against the commonly apprehended goals of the existing culture, dominant in the society, which R. Merton viewed as a culture of success where money have become a commonly apprehended value, an aim or a means of prestige gaining.

Still the classical terms of sociology seem to have become irrelevant in describing this new reality. For example, is the rebellion against the culture in terms of Merton to be seen as a deviant or anomic behavior where intervention of the institute of normalization is needed? Are such demonstrations to be viewed as a sign of system crisis or are they to be viewed as certain permanent fluctuations?

The aim of the paper is to examine one of the classical concepts of social disorder, anomie and alienation. It is proposed to take certain cases of social disorder worldwide that will on the one hand meet the classical theoretical assumptions (as, for example the world economic crisis in the relation to the concept of anomie of E. Durkheim) and on the other hand will characterize the contemporary society (as the occupy Wall Street demonstrations). Thus such cases will enable the researcher to conclude whether the concept is still relevant in describing the contemporary social reality.

Abstract id# 28259

Social theory in melanesia: Cellular globalization in the mountainous rainforests of the island of malaita

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Abstract Text:

This paper seeks to bring sociology to the rainforest by looking at what social theory, through applied sociology, can reveal about emerging Melanesian cell phone practices. As there has been a paucity of qualitative, ethnography-based research on this topic, much work needs to be done not only in regards to generating ethnographic material, but also in regards to identifying and establishing a theoretical framework that accounts for the particularities of Melanesian modernity and its global encounters. The purpose of this paper is, therefore, to examine the dimensions of this theoretical framework by analyzing where Social Theory can be applied to intervene in both academic research as well as the engagement between Melanesians and globalization through cellular technology.

Latour's actor-network theory and Boltanski's pragmatic sociology of critique, among others, will be brought to bear on the case of cellular technology in the secluded mountains of the Kwaio jungles on the island of Malaita and in so doing this paper brings Sociology in Anthropology's backyard, Melanesia. In the backdrop of a protracted civil war generative and symptomatic of a failed state, this paper argues that the arrival of digital technology allows for the emergence and creation of a "second-state".

Chair

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Title:

SESSION: Community empowerment and regional cohesion policy in times of crisis

Abstract id# 26438

Global Governance, Civil Society Awareness, Mobilization And The Information Communication Technology: The Convention On Biological Diversity Through Brazilian Community Voices

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Abstract Text:

Tools for social mobilization and participation through the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in order to promote public awareness and education are advocated in the Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 and in the Article 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which deal with Education and Public Awareness by promoting the use of vehicles and methods of formal and informal networking to increase public awareness about environmental discussion.

Empirical research about the use of social networks and online communication can reveal interesting aspects related to the interactional dynamics of global, national and local stakeholders and actors related to environmental governance. It is noteworthy that the environmental discussion originated in the 1960s from transnational activist groups that contributed to attitude and perception change of public opinion on the environmental impacts of human activities (Wapner, 1995).

This research maps the dynamics of both global and national CBD governance accountability online communication (www.cbd.int, www.cdb.gov.br) - the global and national institutional platforms levels – among it selves and with respect to civil society online communities, identifying how information is produced, transmitted and disseminated within the communities, including the ability of these platforms to receive positive and negative feedback from local up to global levels.

The methodology of the study encompasses online ethnography of websites in the environmental public sphere debate in Brazil, assisted by Pearltrees add-on in order to gather, visualize, organize and browse studied sites; as well as ethnographic content analysis regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity global and national platforms by means of computer assisted qualitative data analysis software AtlasTi, as a tool to organize and analyze collected data related to their communication patterns.

We intend to point out some empirical opportunities and challenges in this yet asymmetric online participatory framework.

Abstract id# 29629

The plague of athens and the cult of asklepios as collective behavior and a social movement

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Abstract Text:

This paper will apply theories of social movements to explain the rise of the cult of Asklepios in Athens. The cult helped reestablish norms and supportive institutions in the wake of the plague. Social movements often arise in times of sudden changes and social unrest, becoming a source of spiritual and political empowerment. Two types of social movements are redemptive and reformative. The cult of Asklepios rose to prominence after the plague as a social movement was both redemptive and reformative. Drawing on cultural and religious institutions the cult impacted healing practices and beliefs to increase social cohesion and was part of a political strategy to build an alliance with another city-state. In addition the movement may have supported the growth of rational Hippocratic medicine which was in its infancy.

Abstract id# 19738

Reconstruction of communities following the great east Japan disaster

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Abstract Text:

The earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011 not only caused extensive direct damage to people, but triggered a nuclear power plant accident bringing the terror and reality of radiation. Reconstruction of communities in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures presents enormous problems. While communities affected only by the earthquake and tsunami can be rebuilt physically and socially, it will be very difficult for people in the radiation-contaminated areas in Fukushima to reconstruct. Many residents fleeing the radioactivity have already dispersed far and wide throughout Japan. The social bonds among both groups of sufferers have changed. Though some people have already redeveloped ties in the quake-tsunami disaster areas, others, especially those whose houses were not destroyed by the tsunami, have hesitated to communicate with less fortunate friends and neighbors because of 'survivors guilt.' In Fukushima, the additional nuclear disaster inflicted quite another kind of damage on people. It was not only physical, but mental. Many farmers have had to transfer to other areas because their crops became unmarketable due to radioactivity, real or feared. The government forces many other people to evacuate to areas far from the nuclear plant and so far from home. While older people wish to return to their hometowns, younger people have determined to find new jobs in other areas. This too strains ties. The purpose of the paper is to inventory and clarify the particular problems of conflict in communities such as the loss of confidence in neighbors caused by the disaster and to explore the possibilities of rebuilding communities, especially indicating how to cope

with ‘social demise of communities’ where local people had formed and occupied all their lives.

Abstract id# 20782

The global info-cash (GIC) as practical way for europe to emerge of the cultural and economic crises

George GANTZIAS, Cultural Technology & Communication, Assoc. Professor, Athens, Greece

Abstract Text:

Digital technology has changed the traditional way in which we communicate, express our ideas, understand freedom and make transactions in our everyday life. In 2011, more than 50 per cent of the world’s population had access to some combination of mobile phones, the Internet users are about two billion. The broadband subscribers are more than 100 million and the majority of transactions are digital in the global free market economy. The cultural and economic crisis is an opportunity, not a barrier, in that it provides the European countries with a platform from which distinctive solutions can emanate. European political and economic cultures should be reformed due to recent monetary crisis in order Europe to be an active player in the info-communication globalisation. This paper examines and analyses the role of the info-communication globalisation in recent cultural and economic crisis. It introduces the digital form of currency and the cultural economy as analytical ‘tools’ to examine the European crisis. Moreover, it analyses the European crisis together with the recent crisis in the USA. Finally, it strongly recommends that a practical way for Europe and the USA to emerge from the recent cultural and economic crisis is: to switch off the physical form of the Euro and dollar currencies, i.e. the cash payments using different currencies such as the Euro and the Dollar 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.

Chair

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Title:

SESSION: Ecologies of local welfare services and citizenship participation

Abstract id# 30104

Cultural policy and creative industries: The info-communication network industry

George GANTZIAS, Cultural Technology & Communication, Assoc. Professor, Athens, Greece

Abstract Text:

Nowadays digital technology is part of our everyday life. The info-communication network industry becomes a fact of life for civil society worldwide, involving many actors – politicians, newspapers, broadcasters, activists, non-governmental organisations, info-communication firms, software providers and political parties. The info-communication network industry has transformed the online newspaper and online broadcasting experience. Instead of having content trapped on static print pages and on traditional television channel that are updated daily, the online edition can offer timely breaking news much like a online television or radio news show, and like online television, provide online video access to important news events and newsmakers. This raises obvious questions for the role of the newspapers, the television and the radio in the recent cultural and economic crisis. As the info-communication network industry gets more complex and chaotic, regular citizens/users/consumers are gaining access to digital entertainment, information and education anywhere and at anytime.

This paper examines and analyses the digital content production, the structure of the info-communication network industry and the role of digital content management in the information and knowledge society. Moreover, it analyses the crisis in the cultural policy together with the recent crisis in the creative industries. Finally, it strongly recommends that the info-communication network industry is likely to be the main digital platform for producing and disseminating the digital content in the free market economy.

Abstract id# 17830

Social movements in Italy as new forms of participation

Valentina GRASSI, Studi Aziendali, University of Naples , Naples, Italy

Abstract Text:

Social movements in Italy are now an important new form of democracy and participation. In recent years more than in the past, they have influenced the policy agenda and policy choices in general and the state election. The recent fall of the

Berlusconi government seems to have been caused, among other things, by the action of the mobilization of some movements. They are formed around specific topics of political debate (as in the case of the women's movement "Se non ora quando"), or around colourful characters involved in the critique of power (as in the case of "Grillini"). For what it concerns the various forms of political communication, a feature of the movements is the extensive use of social networking, that is taking hold now among institutional political figures also. Compared to the parties, they take on characteristics such as random membership, which is not linked to militancy, non-entry in the "institutional" politics, with certain limited exceptions.

Social movements are forms of anti-politics or new ways of doing politics? What is their relationship with "traditional" politics? What is the relationship between the structure of Italian society and such forms of mobilization?

Abstract id# 18522

“democratic changes”. governance in public policies

Antonello CANZANO, Legal and social sciences department, University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti , Italy and **Thea ROSSI**, University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti, Italy

Abstract Text:

This paper analyzes the evolution of democratic system in the context of the frequency, intensity and style of governance which is limited to a few important aspects, as a consequence of the transformation of democratic systems in the context of globalization, of the economic and financial crisis and of the impact on society of public policy responses.

From the perspective of the relationship between particular political actors, groups and social formations the view has now been acquired that the weakness of political power often gives more power to other actors who can gain ground in the headquarters decision, but it is not appropriate to support outright expropriation of control of decision-making by traditional actors, which lose any ability and control to mediate interests.

The problem must be approached differently. Currently mediation interests are conducted in a general redefinition of roles that proposes a new model of interest representation in which the processes of Governance are increasingly affirmed.

Increasingly active participation of new actors in the processes of public decision is particularly needed to see/understand to what extent this participation occurs (in terms of frequency, intensity and style).

This paper begins with empirical research that the authors have conducted on the evolution of education policies in Italy and Chile specifically and in other countries of European Union. Research is focused mainly on the role of new local political actors

with other social forms that aim to achieve mediation in education policies and in the introduction of models of Governance inside of decision-making.

Abstract id# 20120

Individuals vs parties: Changes in the political cultures of italian younger politicians

Flaminia SACCÀ, DEIM, Università della Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy

Abstract Text:

In the last few decades the political situation in Italy has gone through deep changes. As far as younger generations are concerned, if during the 80's Italian studies (Cavalli et al.) registered a drop in youth attention towards politics and a renewed evaluation of the private sphere, in the 90's and the first years of the new Millennium what seems to be a deep process of changes has started to take place. Sociologists have started to wonder whether young people are retreating from politics or if they are simply activating new forms of participation. The paper will analyze political attitudes and values both of young politicians and of young people who have not chosen politics as an important part of their lives. The first results show us that the national political bribe scandal (Tangentopoli) in the early '90's, the Berlin wall crack, and the new International and Italian political asset has had a deep impact on both groups and on both political sides, making us speak of a generational bond (Mannheim).

Since the 90's younger generations have started to look at politics with growing contempt. Even those who have chosen politics as an important part of their lives and to candidate themselves, seem distant from political parties. The political socialization is growingly carried out by agencies other than parties or trade unions. We will analyze the implications and effects of this new political culture on the government of local institutions.

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Title:

SESSION: Governance, civil society and new models of democracy

Abstract id# 25626

Post-reform Russia: Rethinking recent democratization lessons

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Abstract Text:

The past twenty years of modern Russian history have been marked by profound changes in the country's political life. But despite the extent of these changes, post-Communist Russia can still be described as a society "in transition", the prospects for the democratic evolution of which are by no means certain. Among the main obstacles to the development of democracy in Russia, the finger is pointed not only at the country's leaders but also at society itself, which has apparently been disappointed in democracy. However, research over recent years indicates that the situation concerning democracy in Russia and its acceptance by the country's population is not as straightforward, unequivocal or hopeless as is sometimes imagined.

First of all, a significant number of Russians adheres to many democratic values and institutions. At the same time over the past decade social and political practice has, to an extent, changed Russians' ideas regarding the importance of the various components of democracy.

Russians clearly distinguish normative ideas on democracy from what is actually happening in Russia. Moreover, the main claim against the version of democracy being implemented in Russia is its lack of effectiveness.

When we talk of the effectiveness of democracy, it is important not just to measure it as an institution but also to measure the level of public trust in the authorities and social institutions. This is a much wider phenomenon with many more variables: the nature of the political regime, the influence democratic institutions have over politics, the dynamics of growth and quality of life, the extent of corruption, genuine guarantees of human rights and civil liberties etc. Together these have long been relatively successfully identified within the format of public opinion as "*the workings of democracy*". Most Russians (72%) are not satisfied with how democracy works.

Abstract id# 16164

Twenty years of Russian reforms and establishment of a civil society in post-reform Russia

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Abstract Text:

At the end of 2011 Russia will mark 20th anniversary of taking the path of radical social-economic reforms aimed primarily at structural reorganization of the Russian economy. Becoming one of the symbolic events in contemporary history of the country, economic reforms have affected all spheres of the state and social activity.

Debates about the political heritage of their main initiators are still actual for the considerable part of population. Especially under the condition of modern – highly ambivalent – epoch partly inheriting the policy adopted by the reformers and partly being opposed to it.

It is obvious that activity of the reformers of the decades passed often had spontaneous character and were in many respects forced, generated by the conditions of a total system crisis which has broken in the collapsing USSR, when there were no time for the search of «sparing», step-by-step ways of reforming. At the same time mass consciousness is inclined to forget a historical context under which the reforms were carried out, to mythologize and simplify many things. That is why it is so important to turn back to look at the events of twenty years' prescription, to examine them from the point of view of the present generations of Russians.

At the same time it is very important to analyze in what way the changes occurred have affected life of the Russian citizens, their social and material welfare, possibilities of self-realization, evolution of their world outlook installations, national self-identification, opinions as regard the world around, role and place of the state, democratic institutions and norms in life of the society.

The article is based on the results of the national-wide sociological research «Twenty years of reforms through the Russians' eyes» conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in April, 2011.

Abstract id# 17218

Global governance and the transformation of democracy

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Abstract Text:

Western democratic systems are more and more interested by a process of de-legitimation, a phenomenon that imposes to reconsider the dynamic and progressive conception of democracy – the “common western sequence” – that influenced many European and American scholars starting from the '60 until the end of the 20th century. According to this vision the democratization processes are conceived as expansive, positive and necessary processes. This paper considers some basic anomalies in the advanced democracies, starting from the conception of economic policies as independent from the level of the general development, and from the level of democracy. I call “dis-advanced democracies” those democracies in which politics is subordinate to the economy, and the attainment of the fundamental rights is compromised by the tyranny of market. Dis-advanced democracies are characterized by the enormous public deficit that burns resources and undeceives expectations. Dis-advanced democracies are democracies “without democracy”, in which the progressive ‘marketization’ of labor, health and education are creating a process of deconsolidation of democracy. In the dis-advanced democracies the possibility to think a notion of general interest, connected to the fundamental rights, is not contemplated, the “common good” is continuously cannibalized by the economy, and replaced by partial and personal interests.

Abstract id# 18553

European union beyond lisbon: From "democratic deficit" to "compounded democracy"

Erica ANTONINI, SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME - DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES, Italy

Abstract Text:

Since 1979 it has been talking of “democratic deficit”, when referring to EU. European Parliament is actually still considered as poorly influential on european policies, so that the traditional democratic mechanism is highly invalidated by that.

Anyway, the special set-up of the Union, which has gradually institutionalised as a “multiple division of powers” system, makes EU a “system without a government”, since no institution is entitled to take the ultimate decision. So, the authoritative allocation of decisions and values in the EU is the result of a deliberative process

involving a plurality of actors, performing within mutually divided institutions and promoting both intergovernmental and comunitarian views. Instead of talking of “democratic deficit”, it would be better to move onto a new model of democracy for EU, as Fabbrini suggests. USA can be a point of reference in that, since the federation was created on the ground of a constitution, whose *demos* represents a “construction” built by political élites, in line with an “artificial” idea of the public sphere. This is well embodied by the concept of *compounded democracy*, a new idealtpe for political systems which “govern without a government”, such as the unions of states.

Anyway, the main difference between EU and other compounded democracies such as USA is that the latter has developed upon a constitutional text, which has made it a *political union*. Quite to the contrary, EU has been developing through a number of inter-statal treaties, which were originally oriented to create an *economic union*. So, one of the main problems of EU is that in a union of states with different traditions the only material constitution – if EU has acquired one, in terms of social practises creating an institutional and legal order – seems insufficient to solve the numerous debates about its finalities.

Abstract id# 20795

Civil society versus political society. the Indian lesson for western democracies

Tito MARCI, Studi Politici, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy

Abstract Text:

In contemporary democracies social conflicts often arose by clashes of communal identity based on race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, cultural diversity and marginalization. Thus, the central concern of this paper is the integration of cultural differences.

To this extent new approaches to the study of the interrelations between State and society were developed in India, beginning with the analysis conducted by the groups of the *Subaltern Studies*: they have offered a new understanding of State and civil society.

The dichotomy of civil society versus political society which has been stressed by Chatterjee explicates the universal ideal of the liberal nationalism – based on individual freedom and on the acknowledgment of equal rights without race, religion, language or cultural diversities– as opposite to social domains based on cultural, educational, economical differences, inequalities, backwardness, whose claiming may be regarded as communitarian and sectarian.

As far as contestation over rules and regulation emerges as the cause of conflict and instability, legality, as the baseline criterion of civil society, is often challenged by the claims of minorities and marginalized groups whose needs do not correspond to those of the entire population and whose actions often emerge as offences.

On the same time, such conflicts are often shifted to the judiciary which is asked to provide solutions based on a delicate balance of values and norms, providing justice to previously marginalized groups and addressing social and economic injustices stemming from structural injustices and inequalities that are often the causes of conflict.

The identification of a different political space beyond civil society and the struggle for its integration into the democratic processes appears of greatest interest for a better understanding and dealing with some important issues which are challenging the older western democracies and the basic features of their welfare systems.

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Title:

SESSION: Sustainable communities, social capital and the globalisation of work

Abstract id# 23321

Principles of support of social solidarity and integration of sociocultural systems in the context of pitirim sorokin`s theory o

Ksenia LAZEBNAYA, General Sociology, National Research University "Higher School of Economics", Moscow, Russia

Abstract Text:

The purpose of my report is to present some directions of Pitirim Sorokin`s Theory of social symbol and try to **reconsider role of** symbolic mediators in the process of backing social solidarity and integration of sociocultural systems in the modern world. These directions have great significance for understanding the trends of the present stage of globalization. According to Sorokin, one of the factors of social solidarity and social development is the preservation and transmission of cultural values between generations in social interactions. Obligatory elements of social interaction are symbolic mediators; they appear as connecting link between generations, let them interact and overcome space and time. Symbolic mediators are able to accumulate and transmit cultural values, collective experience and knowledge. But how symbolic mediators keep value during their life? And how it property of mediators can be connected with integration of sociocultural systems? Probable answer is found in detailed description of the nature of the social symbols as the connector of material and ideal, person and person, generations and generations, as well as sociocultural systems. This description becomes more complete and clear if we analyze Sorokin`s properties of mediators and to make an extra classification of symbolic mediators (in addition to Sorokin`s classification) based on distinctions between fetishized («long-date symbolic mediator») and defetishized symbolic mediators («up-to-date symbolic mediator»).

Abstract id# 19089

Citizens and/or strangers: EU free movers' associations in southern european civil societies

Ettore RECCHI, Dept. of Legal and Social Sciences, University of Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy and Luca RAFFINI, Legal and Social Sciences, University of Chieti-Pescara, CHIETI, Italy

Abstract Text:

In the global population of migrants, European citizens living abroad within the EU enjoy a quite exceptional legal status, as they are entitled to the same rights as nationals of that state (with the only exception of voting at general elections). compared to

‘average world migrants’, ‘EU movers’ enjoy the privilege of living in societies where being an immigrant does not imply any second-level status *per se*. Technically speaking, citizens of EU member states who have moved to another EU member state *are* international migrants. That is, they fulfill the requirements of the standard UN definition of migrants as ‘persons who move to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least one year’. On the other hand, their status makes them very similar to internal migrants. They are citizens and strangers at the same time.

Especially after the 2004 and 2007 enlargements of the EU and the subsequent waves of East-West continental migration, the number of EU movers has grown and their impact on receiving society more visible. Drawing on a recent survey of the associations of Poles, Rumanians, Britons and Germans (see www.moveact.eu), the paper shall assess the impact of movers on civil society in Italy, France, Spain and Greece, showing diverging demands and strategies of active citizenship for Eastern and Western European movers.

Abstract id# 19945

Democratization through social innovation - pirate party Germany and new methods of civic participation

Dmitri DOMANSKI, Social Research Center, TU Dortmund University - Sozialforschungsstelle Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

Abstract Text:

The purpose of this paper is to show by applying the concept of social innovation how a political party can contribute to an increasing democratization of a society and its political system. This will be illustrated by the example of the Pirate Party Germany, which has gained importance within the party system due to new methods of civic participation.

Social innovation is understood as a new combination of social practices in certain areas of action or social contexts prompted by certain actors or constellations of actors in an intentional targeted manner in order to better satisfy needs than is possible on the basis of established practices. The growing significance of this concept can be comprehended in light of the paradigm shift of the innovation system, characterized i.a. by co-ordination between different groups of stakeholders involved in innovation activities and increased involvement of users/citizens in processes of co-development.

In Germany, as in many other countries, civil society beyond the party system has been very active in developing new ways of democratization. However, the Pirate Party (founded in 2006) demonstrates that a political party can also successfully contribute to creating a new model of democracy. This model’s main features are a significantly increased civic participation and transparency of political decision-making, which are achieved through internet and the method of LiquidFeedback, allowing every citizen to participate in formation of the party platform.

In this context, internet and the LiquidFeedback software as technical innovations enable a social innovation: new way of political work characterized by participative, gradual, decentralized and transparent opinion-shaping and decision-making, which can be permanently revised and updated by everyone. As innovations are measured by impact, 8.9% of votes in the Federal State of Berlin parliamentary elections prove that this new model is an innovation and not a mere invention.

Abstract id# 29628

Assembling the social as governing capacity building,

George TSOBANOGLOU, Department of Sociology, University of the Aegean, Aegean, Greece

Abstract Text:

Institutional Capacity Building remains a local prerogative in the development process and is determined by two sources. The first concerns the problem of institutional supply. Countries which have been dramatically moved towards integrated public market regulations (BRICS) have adapted to global networks. New “social institutions” have been formed to regulate labor reproduction based on territoriality and information based accounting practices (for inflation). Distribution networks as new “organizational” regimes control production. Countries such as Greece, with strong patronage politics, may seem to lack the required “state institutions” and civil society organizations to coordinate socio-economic exchanges to enhance the value chain in the EU system.

The other issue concerns the already embedded institutions which may be an obstacle to new ones. The way external and internal actors are articulated, in a usually asymmetrical politically relationship, may define the future of “redundant” institutions. Usually developing regimes define a legal plateau whereby the nominal and the effective refer to law and to social assemblages as administration. However such social assemblages to be constituted require local partnerships and the social economy to become the centre in state policy. A pro-poor capacity building constitutes the elemental driver for a social assemblage essential to steer sustainability. Usually socially undemocratic regimes rule by means of poverty governance by imposing to the excluded a system of private trade of their basic needs (health, education, transport). As a result of political patronage, Greece formed administrative silos which neither communicate horizontally nor cooperate among themselves.

This paper will focus on Greek labor and its organizational status in an advanced European Union. We will focus on two issues of key importance for social assemblages; the health system and the local rural development process.

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Title:

SESSION: The info-communication network industry and sociality

Abstract id# 29822

Greek higher education institutions (HEIs) and european union drivers: Some observations on organisational changes

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Abstract Text:

Since the 1960s successive Greek governments have increased investment in universities, TEIs, and distance education (Hellenic Open University) with both general and targeted funding expanding the range of programming and institutions. Some of the obvious benefits have been : improved access; attracting back to Greece higher quality academics, significant economic benefits locally/regionally from direct, indirect spending; greater social mobility; improved life long learning opportunities; commercialization of research (such as FORTHnet); and improvements in linking universities to knowledge economy and engaging communities. Also, since entering the EU, Greek Universities have benefited greatly from access to various infrastructure, research and ‘community’ funds which have enhanced their role in expanding public benefits.

Some of the differences in the educational performance and general success of HEIs in meeting societal needs between Greece and the rest of Europe are a result of the differences in investment per student (with Northern European institutions investing anywhere from 2 to 5 times the amount in Greece). Other significant differences include organizational issues (with Greece amongst the most centralized bureaucratically). Closely related, there is less diversity in teaching and research programs particularly in arts/social sciences and less emphasis on strategic roles attached to HEIs for social and economic development. The current monetary crisis represents a unique challenge for these organizations as they seek autonomy and a new relation to the “market” for skills and jobs.

Abstract id# 29631

Start Time:

Theory and methodology of sociotechnics : A non-aristotelian topics

Joaquim SCHMIDT, SoReGa EV, Board ISA-RC26, Berlin, Germany

Abstract Text:

Sociotechnics and its methodology will be put into the framework of recently developed *Technosciences*.

Understanding of >technics< within sociotechnics proves in Third Millenium as fundamentally different from that of Second Millenium. Former >hardware< has become somehow replaced by that, what we presently understand under Software, i.e. technics has changed into proceedings based on information. This requires a new methodology, too. This new methodology presents as *non-Aristotelian* topics to be presented. Aristotelian topics are space related, while non-Aristotelian topics are time-related. It doesn't matter any longer in our Third Millenium what is going on around positions, but what happens in-between them, i.e. group processes matter. Like architects help to construct buildings and landscapes, sociotechnicians will be educated to help cooperatives and citizens initiatives to define their goals and piloting their way through the jungle of already existing institutions.

Abstract id# 6409
Politics of netroots

Nicolas BENVENU, Centre de sociologie de l'innovation, Mines ParisTech, Paris, France

Abstract Text:

Politics of netroots. Challenging democracy through information and communication technologies (ICT)

Since the 1990s, the widening of Internet access capacities and the development of devices rendering possible the circulation of information and the coordination of user activities have fostered numerous experiments and new practices in a wide range of domains.

The Internet is harnessed by individuals or groups mobilizing for the design and experiment of methods and tools. These methods and tools are aimed to politically configure some of these initiatives. The Internet indeed opens arenas in which problems may get public and discussed, and from which propositions for the treatment of these problems may be crafted and debated.

Groups able to be vocally involved in these experiments are not necessarily limited to the intermediaries and specialists who are traditionally in charge of the management of public problems. One can identify as netroots the groups that are concerned by a specific stake, and organize themselves through the Network in the same time as they are shaped by its technical modalities.

How are these networks composed and how do they organize? What does their politics look like? How does it get settle down? How is it articulated with existing modes of political management? What concepts and categories emerge from it?

I propose to consider the politics of netroots through such questions. The paper focuses on the politics of netroots through the angle of the machinery required for its functioning, as well as through the problematization of democracy it enacts.

Abstract id# 30103

Media and information networks in cities

Shehina FAZAL, Department of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University, UK, London, United Kingdom

Abstract Text:

Visions of connectivity have been in the forefront since the middle of the last century and the idea of the information society began in Japan in the 1960s (Ito, 1981) where information was perceived as a vital commodity in the post-industrial era. In the same vision, information and wealth were perceived to be synonymous as well as an addition to social and cultural resources. This paper maps the extraordinary developments that have profoundly changed the nature of urban infrastructure, from railways and highways in the 20th to information highways in the 21st century. Specifically, it explores these changes through case studies of cities that have shown an exponential growth in their number particularly in the so-called developing countries. This unprecedented change, the paper argues, has necessitated a complete overhaul of urban planning strategies. The paper will examine the strategies that necessitated the use of communication technologies with a particular focus on info-communication transactions and their contribution to the visions of urban metropolis in the 21st century. This includes mapping policy changes at governmental level into future planning of cities at one level, and at the other examining the notions of creative cities or in some cases ‘media cities’ that have been assisted by the growth of the information and communications technologies.

Chair

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Title:

SESSION: RC26 Business Meeting

Type: Oral

Language:

Research Committee:

RC26 Sociotechnics, Sociological Practice (host committee)

No people added
