ABSTRACTS

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1. Helices, systems, environments and models: challenges to Sociology of innovation

Maria Lúcia Maciel

The scientific-technological revolution in the past twenty years has operated deep and fast changes in production ways and in the social relations that follow. Sociology's primary object, i.e., social change, becomes increasingly complex and challenges the discipline's theoretical and methodological potential. Those current processes of change can be summarized in the expression "knowledge society". Innovation (in its broader sense, technological and social) becomes a key object both for social science and for the development of policies and strategies. While sociology can build concepts with a high explanatory power for the specificity of cultural and political-institutional environments though the study of innovation processes, it has been demonstrated that most of the research on innovation and development so far carried out in Brazil does not fulfill the needs of understanding and analyzing innovation processes. This article presents a set of three closely related factors that seem to be restraining the capability to analyze and explain those processes, followed by strategic counterarguments aimed at contributing and strengthening the studies in the innovation field.

Keywords: Interdisciplinarity, social theory, sociology of innovation, helices.

2. Scientific community, State and universities in the current stage of scientific technological development

Michelangelo Giotto Santoro Trigueiro

This article discusses the relationship between scientific community, the State and university in the current circumstances of scientific-technological development. It stresses the political dimension of recent changes, specially regarding decision systems, comparing a more vertical moment and a more democratic scenario and the consequences of contemporary political changes in Brazilian society. It examines mutual relations between the State, universities and the scientific community,

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based on the understanding of each of those actors' specificities in advancing national scientific-technological development. A whole set of actions is examined in accordance with knowledge's new mode of production in order to highlight the controversial nature of the State and the conservative character of the scientific community as well as the resistance of the university in proposing new lines of action to face the challenges brought about by contemporary science and technology.

Keywords: Modern technology, knowledge's new mode of production.

3. Research, technology and competitiveness in brazilian agrarian activity

Ivaldo Gehlen

Structural changes going on in Brazilian agrarian activity interface with scientific and technological development within the field. The establishment of a new reference in agrarian Science and Technology is a new possibility for rebuilding consensus around the notion of competitiveness, which brings backs labor's positive central role, now linked to individual responsibility and efficiency, perpetuating and deepening differences through unequal access to opportunities. The study includes the conceptual conflict between agroindustries' competitive rationality, which prioritize productivity aimed at accumulation – recreating forms of submission by downplaying what is traditional and through political demobilization – and the rationality of those farmers which, through their organizations, prioritize social reproduction and sustainability of their like and production mode. The opposition between the concept of productivity and that of social reproducibility or sustainability as part of the notion of competitiveness adds to the generation of a resistance culture, specially between family farmers. Instability and decrease in public investments in research and technology, not offset by private ones, compromise Brazilian agrarian activity future competitiveness.

Keywords: Agrarian Science and technology; competitiveness and technology; productivist competitive rationality; sustainable reproductive social rationality.

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4. Individual and society in higher education policy discourse

Rubens de Oliveira Martins

This essay is an effort to understand some of society's views within the process of building official discourses legitimating public policies for higher education. Its starting point is a reflection that expresses the theoretical and methodological references of the classical opposition between individual and society in sociological theory.

Keywords: individual, society, public policies, higher education, sociological theory.

5. Globalization and inequality: issues of conceptualization and of explanation

Göran Therborn

This paper refers to three sets of fundamental issues which are still controversial and unsettled among social scientists. Two are basically conceptual or theoretical, one is both conceptual and empirical. First, what is globalization? How should it be conceptualized? Second, what kinds of inequality can be distinguished, and what are the most pertinent? Third, what kinds of processes produce the global outcomes of inequality that we are observing and experiencing?

None of the three questions above has, and can be expected to get one straight answer. The aims of this paper are to conribute to a clarification of alternatives and their implications, to argue a certain conceptual-analytical viewpoint, and to provide some empirical arguments for a multi-faceted approach to the production of inequality in the world. Globalization and inequality are two crossroads of the social sciences and of social philosophy. This writer is reaching them from a background as a sociologist and as a political scientist.

Keywords: Globalization, inequality, capability.

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6. Globalization and exclusion

Tania Steren dos Santos

The purpose of this work is to rethink the process of capitalist development, pointing out to some of global society's numerous contradictions. Two central issues are examined: the growing process of social exclusion of a sizable part of the world population and the role of the nation-state. The latter is seen as extremely relevant in the light of the system's intrinsic trend to concentrate wealth while expanding poverty, when the state comes as the only real safeguard for vital interests of those excluded in each country. Some aspects of the current crisis in the capitalist system and the impact of the neoliberal model in deepening social contradictions and polarizing class interests are also discussed. A reflection on alternative forms of social organization is put forward.

Keywords: Globalization, social exclusion, capitalism's contradictions, role of national States.

7. Globalization and its consequences on "stable" workers: Oil workers at Fafen/Petrobras

Frederico Lisbôa Romão

The article is aimed at contributing to the debate on so-called stable workers, their organizations, worker's subjectivity and the factory's environment in the state of Sergipe in the 1990s, in the particular case of the Fafen/Petrobras fertilizer maker. Tabulation and analysis of collected data points out to some conclusions: 1) Changes in the factory environment show impoverishment in work conditions, materialized as: less positions, more tasks, less safety, less stability, loss and flexibilization of rights. That process strikes workers seen as stable, which shows the inaccuracy of calling them "elite" or privileged.; 2) Their Union, in spite of their leaders'

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experience, who were ahead of the national movement since the 1980s, eyen though it has a high organizational level and inside-factory links, was not able to find alternative ways to face the Company's canceling several prior benefits and co-opting old leadership, generating a weakness feeling and directly damaging worker's subjectivity.

Keywords: Globalization, unions, stable workers, impoverishment.

8. Crisis-paradigmatic regeneration of sociology and economic system

Renato P. Saul

The article analyses currents aspects of sociology's development having as its starting point the polarizing of its concerns, defined between the fields of economy and politics. It aims at establishing the historical connection between paradigmatic changes in sociology during the last forty years, the crisis of Keynesian economic policy with its consequences in the political relations arena and the process of globalization. It also attempts to examine the discipline's perspective in the face of the new circumstances seen in the developments in the knowledge process, specially after the spreading of theories favoring the unification of scientific fields.

Keywords: Sociology, paradigmatic changes, social theory, social thinking.

9. Education and cooperation: related practices

Walter Frantz

Education and cooperation are two social practices which somewhat contain each other. We can identify cooperative practices in the former and educative ones in the latter. Both entangle and empower each other. Organizing cooperation demands communication of interests, objectives from its actors, on which they

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need to talk, argue and decide. Education happens in that process of interlocution between each one's knowledge. Therefore, there is a strict relationship between the two phenomena: in cooperative practice, beyond its purposes and specific interests, knowledge, learning, education are produced; in educational practice, as a complex process of human relations, cooperation is produced. Thus, cooperative practices in school can become privileged "pedagogical spaces", to which subjects acquire awareness of social life's several dimensions.

Keywords: Cooperativism, education, organization, co-operative, school cooperativism, cooperative education.

10. Morality and responsibility in somber times

Adriana Benedikt

This essay aims at debating the morality issue from British psychoanalyst Donald Winnicot's point of view on the appearance of the concern for the other and Polish sociologist Zygmund Baumann's ideas on morality and responsibility. We close with the suggestion that our challenge might reside precisely in developing our imaginative capability in order to overcome the proximity-morality/distance-immorality equation. Perhaps only the power of imagination - "the power through which one person can imagine himself or herself in the other's place" - is able to give some hope and allow us to feel morally responsible for each other.

Keywords: Morality, responsibility, proximity, distance, imagination.