

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

Melbourne, Australia | June 25-July 1, 2023

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



Resurgent Authoritarianism:
*Sociology of New Entanglements of
Religions, Politics, and Economies*



World Congress
of Sociology

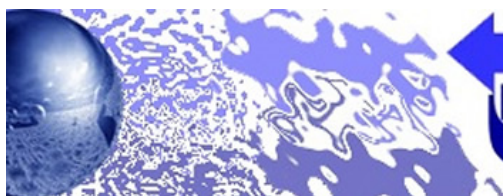


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**Research Committee 51
on Sociocybernetics**

ISA International Sociological Association

XX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY MELBOURNE SCHEDULE

Melbourne 2023	08:30- 10:20	10:30-12:20	12:30-13:50	14:00- 15:20	15:30-17:20	17:30-19:20	19:30-20:50	21:00-23:00
Sunday 25 June		Research Council Business Meeting (delegates only) 10:30-12:30		Council of National Associations Business Meeting (delegates only) 14:00-16:00		Opening Ceremony, Presidential Address, Prize Giving and Reception		
Monday 26 June	Presidential Plenary I	RC, WG, TG	Integrative Sessions	Semi-Plenaries & Australian Thematic Sessions	RC, WG, TG Associations Sessions	RC, WG, TG Ad Hoc Author Meets Critics	RC, WG, TG Professional Development Sessions	ISA Officers Election speeches (open meeting)
Tuesday 27 June	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG	Integrative Sessions Spotlight Session	Semi-Plenaries & Australian Thematic Sessions	RC, WG, TG Associations Sessions	RC, WG, TG Ad Hoc Author Meets Critics	RC, WG, TG Professional Development Sessions	
Wednesday 28 June	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG	Integrative Sessions	Semi-Plenaries & Australian Thematic Sessions	RC, WG, TG Associations Sessions Past Presidents Session	RC, WG, TG Ad Hoc Author Meets Critics	RC, WG, TG Professional Development Sessions	Assembly of Councils Business Meeting President & Vice-Presidents Elections (delegates only)
Thursday 29 June	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG	Integrative Sessions Spotlight Session	Semi-Plenaries & Australian Thematic Sessions	RC, WG, TG Associations Sessions	RC, WG, TG Ad Hoc Council of National Associations Elections (delegates only) 17:30-19:30	RC, WG, TG Professional Development Sessions	Research Council Elections (delegates only)
Friday 30 June	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG	Integrative Sessions	Presidential Session II & Installation of New President	RC, WG, TG Associations	RC, WG, TG Ad Hoc Training Session RC officers		Farewell Party 21:00-23:00
Saturday 1 July	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG New EC Meeting (members only)	RC, WG, TG 12:30-14:20 Induction session new EC officers 12:30-14:00	RC, WG, TG 14:30-16:20	Spotlight Session		The out-going & new Executive Committee Dinner (members only)	
RC, WG, TG = Research Committees, Working Groups, Thematic Groups sessions								



RC51 sessions

The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology is here. For those subscribed, your login credentials for the online program have been sent by email. Please [login to the platform](#) to start building your personal schedule and browse the program. In this document we present the program of the RC51, every session and presentation is here and we look forward to see you either connected or to meet in person in Melbourne. If you are joining us in-person in Melbourne, please review the [pre-arrival letter](#) sent by ISA with helpful information and details about the Congress and venue.

Congress APP. You can download the XX ISA WCS app from the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play](#) stores for easy access to your personal schedule and the Congress agenda on the go. Login with the same email address and Registration ID listed above.

Virtual Session Access. All oral sessions will be held in person and online using *Zoom*. You will need access to the Internet and a computer (if presenting) or a tablet/mobile phone to join virtually. To view the *Zoom* sessions during the meeting and to access prerecorded content, you must [Sign In](#) with your email address and registration ID (noted above). If you have any difficulty doing this, please email isaconf@confex.com. ***To join a session, click on the "Join Now" button which will automatically display beginning 20 minutes before the start of a session.***

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Prepare your Zoom. Download and install the [latest version of Zoom](#) prior to the meeting. If you have never used *Zoom* before, we recommend you familiarize yourself with it in advance through the [online tutorials](#) provided by *Zoom*. You can go to <https://zoom.us/test> at any time to test your audio, video, and internet connection.

Registration in Melbourne: The registration desk is located just inside the main entrance of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre at 1 Convention Centre Place. The registration desk is located on the ground floor foyer of the Convention Centre, opposite doors 7 and 8. All pre-paid in-person attendees can go directly to the **Express Check-In** stations to print their badges.

Information for Presenters Please review the [information for presenters](#) prior to the Congress.

Virtual Presenters If you are presenting live on *Zoom*, please plan to join your session 20 minutes early. If you uploaded a prerecorded presentation prior to the 12 June deadline, the Session Chair will be able to play your recording during the session through the Congress software onsite. We are not able to accept late submissions.

In-Person Presenters All in-person presenters should visit the Speaker Ready Room before their session to preview their presentation in the Congress software and confirm there are no technical issues. You must visit the Speaker Ready Room located **in the same venue (i.e. MCEC or Crown) in which your presentation will be held. Locations: MCEC: SP101, Level 1 / MCEC: SP201, Level 2 / Crown: M7, Level 2**

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne and online

*Patricia E. Almaquer Kalixto,
program coordinator and RC51 president*

Summary of the sessions

Monday, 26 June 2023

15:30 - 17:20 **SESSION 701** [Citizen-Science: Systemic Perspectives on Group, Community Empowerment and Co-Decision](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 26 June, 15:30 - 17:20

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

8:30 - 10:20 **SESSION 702** [4P and Cognitive Policy Making in Health: A Sociocybernetic Approach](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 27 June, 08:30 - 10:20

10:30 - 12:20 **SESSION 703** [Evolution of Meaning: Toward a Synthesis between Systems Theory and the Sociology of Knowledge](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 27 June, 10:30 - 12:20

17:30 - 19:20 **SESSION 704** [Sociocybernetic Perspectives on Power](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 27 June, 17:30 - 19:20

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

08:30 - 10:20 **SESSION JS-56** [Childhoods and Systemic Inequalities](#) CCH2 (Level 2, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 28 June, 08:30 - 10:20

15:30 - 17:20 **SESSION 705** [RC51 Business Meeting](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 28 June, 15:30 - 17:20

Thursday, 29 June 2023

08:30 - 10:20 **SESSION 706** [Female Biocapital, Technology and the Market: A Multilevel Research Field. Part One](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 29 June, 08:30 - 10:20

17:30 - 19:20 **SESSION 707** [Female Biocapital, Technology and the Market: A Multilevel Research Field. Part Two](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 29 June, 17:30 - 19:20

Friday, 30 June 2023

10:30 - 12:20 **SESSION 708** [Understanding Political Crises in the 2020s - a Sociocybernetics Approach](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 30 June, 10:30 - 12:20

15:30 - 17:20 **SESSION JS-130** [Complexity in the Rise of the Far Right and Populist Movements in Europe \(II\)](#) 105 (Level 1, MCEC) Join Virtual Event on 30 June, 15:30 - 17:20

17:30 - 19:20 **SESSION JS-137** [The Rise of the Far Right and Populist Movements in Europe](#) 105 (Level 1, MCEC) Join Virtual Event on 30 June, 17:30 - 19:20

Saturday, 1 July 2023

08:30 - 10:20 **709** [Understanding Digital and Surveillance Capitalism from Sociocybernetic Perspectives](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 1 July, 08:30 - 10:20

Monday, 26 June 2023

15:30 - 17:20 SESSION 701 [Citizen-Science: Systemic Perspectives on Group, Community Empowerment and Co-Decision](#) *M3 (Level 1, Crown)* **Join Virtual Event on 26 June, 15:30 - 17:20**

Session Organizer [Patricia Eugenia Almaguer-Kalixto](#), Universidad de Zaragoza

Chair: [Saburo Akahori](#), Tokyo Woman's Christian University

In principle, citizen science is the process that engages the public in scientific research, and it is said that is a key factor in augmenting political and social impact. Through citizen science, anyone can participate in the different processes of scientific research. However, this form of scientific validation still has a long way to go, although co-design and participatory action research are beginning to be integrated into scientific discourse.

In this session we look forward the sociological analysis of experiences of citizen-science within a systemic and reflective perspective (in other words, with a sociocybernetic perspective). We look to discuss how such processes lead to group and community empowerment. Particularly attention is given to the challenges and dilemmas at a methodological level as citizen-science is principally inter and transdisciplinary, engaging different levels of practical and theoretical knowledge, scientific debate co-designing and co-decision.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

15:30 [701.1 Technological Enablers of Citizen Science – a Diagnosis of Technological Advancement of NGOs in Poland](#)

Magdalena ROSZCZYNSKA KURASINSKA, *Univeristy of Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmiescie 26/28, 00-927 Warsaw, Poland* and **Nina WROBLEWSKA**, *University of Warsaw, Poland*

Abstract

Citizen science is a social innovation that requires adoption of proper technological solutions. According to Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (Venkatesh et al., 2003) a perceived likelihood of adopting an innovation depends on four key constructs, including facilitating conditions – ‘the degree to which an individual believes that an organization’s and technical infrastructure exists to support the use of the system’ (Venkatesh et al., 2003). Facilitating conditions can be understood as compatibility of an innovation with norms, values, and beliefs of targeted population. People are more likely to adopt a technology if it feels familiar. If an innovation is very different from what people are used to using, the adoption process might take longer or not be picked up at all.

In our research we studied technological solutions that NGOs working for the protection of the environment in Poland are using to diagnose their potential to implement citizen science projects. We have decided to study all NGOs, regardless their experience in running citizen science projects, to better understand the context in which the social innovation is supposed to take place.

We interviewed 28 board representatives, managers and initiators of social movement and conducted a desk research of 65 NGOs in Poland. Every technological solution was recorded and later categorized. Altogether, we found and coded 45 different technological solutions used for communication, education, data gathering, and data visualization.

Our study shows that although majority of NGOs see a great potential in citizen science, they are lacking proper technological solutions to implement and manage such projects. Only a few NGOs run citizen science projects in the past for which they mostly used internationally recognized applications like Amber or GLOBE program; two used platforms developed locally. We will discuss how affordances of today's technologies influence the future of citizen science.

15:50 **701.2** [SDG Rural Labs: Approaching Rural Contexts to Social Citizen-Science.](#)
Patricia Eugenia ALMAGUER-KALIXTO, *Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain*

Abstract

The ODS RURAL LABS project is based on a complex systems perspective (García 2000, 2006), participatory action research and citizen science. From this approach, it is essential to recognize that social problems have a complexity that transcends scientific disciplines and that a diagnostic and prospective analysis is necessary to know what to intervene and how to complement knowledge to make transformations in the social system.

The mission of the ODS Rural Labs project is to contribute to the implementation of the ODS in rural and peri-urban contexts through participatory action research, generating dynamics of collaboration and citizen science with a community vision, involving different sectors of the population and university experts.

The project seeks to consolidate the proposal to use the context of the ODS Rural Labs project, which is developed in rural contexts in Spain and Colombia, as an input to develop practices linked to the service-learning perspective, exploring the concept of citizen science. To do this, we promote dialogue between teachers and non-teaching professionals, in order to build a comprehensive perspective and strategies that take advantage of the environment of ODS Rural Labs, the territories in which it affects and university student practices. The team involved includes teachers from different disciplines. The professionals involved are members of local associations, youth technicians, specialists in the field of culture and local entrepreneurship projects. From this experience, the paper reflects on the systemic perspective applied to Group and Community Empowerment.

16:10 **701.3** [Citizen-Social Science in Spain: A Second Order Observation](#)
Pedro ESCRICHE and **Chaime MARCUELLO SERVOS**, *Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain*

Abstract

Citizen science is the process that engages the public in scientific research, and it is said that is a key factor in augmenting political and social impact. Through citizen science, anyone can participate in the different processes of scientific research. However, this form of scientific validation still has a long way to go, although co-design and participatory action research are beginning to be integrated into scientific discourse.

This framework seeks to analyze social phenomena from the perspective of the actors involved. It implies a range of participatory methodologies that involve the actors in the design and execution of research projects, whose results are useful for a community. It also promotes a link between professional and non-professional scientists that requires another type of interaction than the classic researcher-researched approach.

Citizen Science implies that the research community raises new questions and, in a kind of co-creation, develops a common research program. The different types of voluntary participants acquire new knowledge and skills, while helping, through different types of intervention to understand social reality. Citizen science makes it possible to integrate different approaches to the social fact with a transdisciplinary approach insofar as it integrates disciplinary knowledge but also practical knowledge from citizens.

This presentation explores the state of the art of citizen social science, particularly oriented to social intervention projects in Spain. It contrasts the existing frameworks with systemic, reflective perspective and sociocybernetic concepts such as second-order observation, reflexivity and systemic change. Particularly attention is given to the challenges and dilemmas at a methodological level as citizen-science is principally inter and transdisciplinary, engaging different levels of practical and theoretical knowledge.

16:30 **701.4** [A Constructive Criticism of Social Complex Systems Modelling from Gilles Deleuze's Rhizome Theory and Bruno Latour's Actor-Network Theory](#) **Alvaro MALAINA**, *University Complutense of Madrid, Spain*

Abstract

A complex social system (Gilbert and Troitzsch 2005, Epstein 2007) is generally defined as a self-organized system of reflexive and intentional human actors (individuals, groups, organizations, among others) that, in their nonlinear local interaction, elicit the emergence of global properties that are not reducible to these individual actors: structures such as the State, language, the market, cities or social phenomena such as urban segregation or cooperation.

In our paper we elaborate a constructive criticism of the anthropocentric common theorization of social complexity that serves as the basis for the multi-agent modeling of Complex Adaptive Systems science, as well as of its systemic closure that serves to run its simulations and models.

We base our critique on Gilles Deleuze's rhizome theory and Bruno Latour's actor-network theory.

From the Deleuze conceptual framework of the rhizome, we propose that the social complex system should not be closed in a coherent holistic unification but should be apprehended instead as an expansive multiplicity characterised by a subtraction of unity from the system ($n - 1$), which at the same time does neither reduce it to its parts, overcoming the dilemma between the One and the Multiple.

From Latour's actor-network theory, we posit that the non-holistically unified social system must emerge from an acentric and expansive network of heterogeneities that is not reduced to self-reflexive human agents but also incorporates, on an immanent level, of ontological equality, non-human agents (actants), thus amplifying horizontally the system's own internal complexity and its internal network of interaction and agency, always open to new connections.

The complex social system understood from this perspective would therefore not be reduced to computational modeling and simulation and should thus resemble more an "image of thought" like Deleuze's rhizome, as a map of non-unified and expansive multiplicities, within a social theory open to complexity.

16:45 **701.5** [The Spatial Operation of Power: The Tension between Administrative Boundaries and the Living World: The Example of the "Toilet Revolution" Project in Rural China](#) **Hui PAN**, *Nanjing University, China*

Abstract

This article investigates how state power is practiced in a spatial sense by the case of the "toilet revolution" policy in rural China. This policy is part of China's rural revitalization strategy, which aims to convert the latrine pit in rural households to toilets to improve the habitat environment of rural areas. By the case of the "toilet revolution" policy implementation in a northwestern Chinese village, this article shows how China's government tried to turn its modernization imagination into reality by means of spatial regulation. And, beyond the state's purpose, this article also discusses what impact did this sanitary toilet renovation have on the daily life of rural people and how did they understand of this change? According to the field observations, the rural people and the state regime do not share a common understanding of the rural space. In the eyes of state regime, the rural space is a data collection presented in drawings and documents with administrative boundaries, it tends to carry out various planning and transformation projects to it; while in the eyes of the rural people, the rural space is their living world but with no prospect of economic development, so most of them choose to move to the city for their livelihood purposes. The tension between 'transformation' and 'mobility' leads to double confusion about state governing to both the government and social members. On the one hand, rural people are not really interested in national projects such as toilet renovation because it does not directly improve their economic situation, accordingly, the state regime is unable to achieve its governance goals through these renovations. Moreover, the identity confusion of rural people generated in their livelihood mobility further exacerbates this governance confusion.

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

08:30 - 10:20 SESSION 702 [4P and Cognitive Policy Making in Health: A Sociocybernetic Approach](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) **Join Virtual Event on 27 June, 08:30 - 10:20**
Session Organizer: [Chaime Marcuello Servos](#), Universidad de Zaragoza
Chair: [Toru Takahashi](#), Chuo University

The Covid19 pandemic has shown that current national health systems have been overwhelmed by a generalized crisis that has not yet been resolved. Two of the most salient facts have been: (i) the inappropriate response to an infrequent situation, but with dramatic effects; and (ii) the need to establish public health policies capable of addressing generalized crisis situations quickly and effectively. Health at all costs seems to have become authoritarian in different parts of the world. It is necessary to design a new health policy that takes advantage of and integrates individual talent and intelligence into the collective structures of the health systems. It is necessary to integrate the local and the global in the search for solutions to crisis situations. This requires the development of decisional tools (analytical and informatics) that, in complex situations, allow co-creation and co-decision between individual actors and institutions.

This session proposes to explore and discuss the cognitive orientation in the processes of citizen participation applied to public decision-making for the better management of contemporary societies. To this end, 4P framework (Product/Process/Person/Planet) is proposed. In short, it seeks to incorporate the local context in the resolution of global problems such as pandemics. The session will be an 'open space' to present papers with strong empirical foundations and theoretical and speculative papers, both are welcome. It proposes to intensify the exchange between Sociocybernetics thinking and practical problems of the complex field of health and public policies. The challenge is to anticipate and steer new scenarios.

08:30 **702.1** [Assessment of the Commitment of Citizens to Public Policies Using Sentiment Analysis and Social Network Analysis on Twitter through Machine Learning](#)

Alberto TURON, Jorge NAVARRO, Juan AGUARÓN and José María MORENO-JIMENEZ, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Abstract

In this work we apply a procedure that we have developed in the Grupo Decisión Multicriterio Zaragoza (GDMZ), within the framework of the multidisciplinary project *Cognitive Citizen Participation in Public Decisions. Socio-sanitary applications* of the Government of Aragon, to identify the affinity of the social mood with that of those responsible for decision-making (politicians, administrations) at critical moments. The method is based on the analysis of the messages published on Twitter, through which indices of influence and emotional valence (positive or negative) are obtained from the different participants in the decision-making process and from society as a whole, using techniques of social network analysis and sentiment analysis. The results show that it is possible to evaluate the degree of harmony that exists between political leaders and citizens, which can be useful to assess the impact of public policies and the involvement that citizens will have in critical decisions such as those recently taken in some countries, including Spain, regarding energy restrictions, rising interest rates, taxes, public expenditure restraint, etc.

08:50 **702.2** [Sentiment Analysis on Twitter of the Different Stakeholders Involved in the COVID-19 Vaccination Process in Spain By Using Machine Learning](#)

Jorge NAVARRO, Alberto TURON, Alfredo ALTUZARRA and José María MORENO-JIMENEZ, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Abstract

We present a procedure based on the combination of machine learning techniques, in particular sentiment analysis and multivariate statistical methods, to evaluate the evolution of the mood of the different stakeholders involved (central government, opposition, regional governments, and citizens) during the vaccination phases against COVID-19 in Spain. This procedure was developed in the Grupo Decisión Multicriterio Zaragoza (GDMZ), within the framework of the multidisciplinary project *Cognitive Citizen Participation in Public Decisions. Socio-sanitary applications* of the Government of Aragon. A total of

41,669 tweets from users in Spain published between 27-02-2021 and 31-12-2021 were analysed. Different sentiments were assessed using a list of Spanish words and their associations with eight basic emotions (anger, fear, anticipation, trust, surprise, sadness, joy and disgust) and three valences (neutral, negative and positive). In addition, we examined how the different emotions were distributed in the tweets using various descriptive statistics and obtained a trajectory graph, which is a representation of narrative time versus emotional valence. The results achieved illustrate that this type of analysis could help assess the mood of the different stakeholders involved and gauge social support for policies aimed at mitigating the effects of the pandemic and achieving the desired herd immunity.

09:10 **702.3** [Public Health, Citizen Participation and Individual Responsibility: A Socio-Cybernetic Approach.](#) **Chaime MARCUELLO SERVOS**, *Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain*

Abstract

The pandemic caused by the Wuhan virus has been a challenge for all public health systems in all countries. In each case, different public policies, more or less authoritarian, have been applied on the basis of scientific and health arguments. This paper proposes a critical reflection based on the 'local experience' of Spanish society with respect to the role of citizen participation processes as they affect public decisions regarding the best management of public health systems. This is approached from a socio-cybernetic perspective in the context of contemporary Spanish society, emphasizing that individual health is a personal and non-transferable responsibility. For this reason, decision making regarding the health system cannot be only a management of experts who impose policies based on arguments supposedly validated by scientific processes. However, the logic of the Spanish system has been the opposite since the 1980s.

This paper presents an exploratory analysis of some key points in the management of covid19, its variants and evolution in Spain. This is connected with the paradigm shift that took place in the Spanish public health system in the 1980s. At that time, there was a shift from a model in which, quickly said, everyone was responsible for their own health to one in which the State guaranteed the necessary benefits for individual health. This aspect, central to the fragile Spanish welfare state, has generated social inertias that have systemic political effects. Individual decisions have public effects and vice versa. A mapping of the elements that make it possible to describe the system and its relationships is proposed. The relationship between the subsystem of experts and scientists and policy makers is sketched. In addition, some of the decision-making models applied, the forms of information/propaganda used, the economic interests at stake and the citizen intelligence brought into play are described.

10:30 - 12:20 SESSION **703** [Evolution of Meaning: Toward a Synthesis between Systems Theory and the Sociology of Knowledge](#) *M3 (Level 1, Crown)*

Join Virtual Event on 27 June, 10:30 - 12:20.

Session Organizer: [Saburo Akahori](#), Tokyo Woman's Christian University

Chair: [Chaime Marcuello Servos](#), Universidad de Zaragoza

Systems theory can be applied to a variety of fundamental problems in sociology, of which the sociology of knowledge is an example. Niklas Luhmann is a representative figure who, under the keyword *Semantik* (semantics), approached the vast subject of epistemological transformation of society through sociological systems theory, in other words, through sociocybernetics. In Luhmann's case, under the keyword *Sinnevolution* (evolution of meaning), he discussed the differentiation of society and the transformation of "ways of thinking" associated with them. Following this idea, the sociology of knowledge in the 21st century can discuss epistemological changes in society in relation to transformations in communication media (the ICT revolution, social media revolution, digital transformation, and so on). Based on the above ideas, this session invites reports dealing with the "evolution of meaning" with respect to a certain topic. Topics can be love, purpose, time, rationality, etc., as found in Luhmann's literature, or, given that this World Congress of Sociology is being held in Australia, a discussion of the Global South. Both theoretical and empirical studies are welcome.

10:30 **703.1** [Change in Meaning of "Organization"](#) **Ayumi HIGUCHI**, *University of Fukuoka, Japan*

Abstract

Organizations, both private enterprises and public institutions, have been built around a core of full-time employees. Today, however, there is a shift toward a combination of various forms of employment in terms of work-life balance and cost reduction. Individuals and professionals not in full-time employment, such as independent contractors, are increasingly becoming involved in the organization's management. The mobility of organizational members is a broad phenomenon that is related not only to the professional managers or consultants, but also to the increase in gig work with the background of IT technology.

In addition, companies are increasingly encouraged to collaborate with other organizations at an early stage to speed up the development of new technologies and products, rather than completing the development by themselves, as conceptualized as "open innovation". In this type of management, transparency and openness of organizational boundaries are said to be important. Under such circumstances, how to observe organizational behavior and organizations as a unit, has become a difficult question.

From the perspective of autopoietic systems theory, it is a situation in which the organizational boundary itself are becoming more diverse and multilayered as it incorporates a variety of actors and activities. Organizations operate in a way that integrates such diverse and multilayered boundaries, and sometimes transform themselves through organizational decisions. Such a way of management is socially accepted and is shifted.

In this contemporary context, the word "organization" itself is undergoing a transformation. Some researchers, such as Karl Weick, argue that there is no such thing as an organization, but only the verb "organizing" exist. While others, such as Niklas Luhmann, incorporated the dynamic nature of organizations into their theories through autopoietic systems theory. This presentation will examine the transformation of the term "organization" while focusing on the boundaries of organizations.

10:50 [703.2 Massive Information Flow and Social Reality: A Sociocybernetic Consideration on the Social Construction of Meaning](#)

Toru TAKAHASHI, Chuo University, Japan

Abstract

Radical modern art has been challenging the existing meanings (including norms, values, and normal ways of understanding). In dada, surrealism, and the literature of the absurd, Baudrillard (1994) saw the destruction of the order of meaning. Modern art intentionally "infected" itself with mass culture, consumerism, and even politics (Groys 2018). This indicates the will and consistent efforts of art for its permanent innovation. Regarding our knowledge of social reality, journalism is playing a key role in providing daily updates. However, journalism's monopoly in disseminating socially relevant information has been undermined, especially since the 2000s, when we saw the proliferation of major social network platforms.

Web 2.0 has brought about the diversification of content generators on the web. Experts, journalists, politicians, and laypersons with diverse social and political interests are participating in the massive transaction of information today. The expansion of information flow is accompanied by the problem of misinformation and disinformation. Pomerantsev (2019) reports the concern about the accuracy of information has been spreading in Europe, Asia, and North America. Are we witnessing the destruction of the life-world based on reliable information and knowledge?

Building a wall is a familiar way to protect the "order" inside from the "chaos" outside. The same logic has been driven in the communicative process of the online public sphere, especially through algorithmic filtering and echo chambering. People may form virtual or face-to-face forums to share and exchange information and opinions. However, our perspectives must be open to considering investigated facts and distancing from themselves in order to avoid tribalism. Journalism, science, art, and a sense of humor should be the salt of the public sphere. This presentation will focus on the role of experts and investigated materials in discussing public issues and examine today's condition of the social construction of meaning.

11:10 [703.3 How Can the Digital Revolution Transform the Meaning of Modernity?: A Systems Theoretical Reconsideration](#) **Saburo AKAHORI**, Tokyo Woman's Christian University, Japan

Abstract

In sociology, there has already been an accumulation of discussions on the transformation of modernity for decades. It can also be said that modernity has been in constant transformation. However, how can sociology provide a more accurate description than "constant transformation"? To answer this question, we will discuss here not the transformation of modernity, but the transformation of the interpretation schema of modernity.

The focus here is on rationality, among the various concepts that construct the idea of modernity. Although Niklas Luhmann also discussed the transformation of the interpretation schema of rationality, in his case, he mentioned the dissolution process of the "rationality continuum", or the narrowing of the meaning of rationality, in response to changes in the structure of society (functional differentiation of society). In contrast, what we consider here is the relationship between the digital revolution and the semantic transformation of the concept of rationality. The clue is algorithmic decision-making, which has been expanding in recent years. According to the classics of sociology, the foundation of the modern concept of rationality is computational clarity. However, in algorithmic decision-making, it is not clear whether it is the decision maker or the Artificial Intelligence that does the calculation. Here, we can see a shaking of the concepts that form the foundation of modernity, such as subject, choice, and decision-making. The blurring of concepts for interpreting modernity makes it difficult to describe what is currently underway.

In conclusion, what the digital revolution has brought about is not so much a transformation of modernity as a transformation of the interpretation schema of modernity, and to describe this more accurately, it is necessary to approach the distinctions that construct concepts such as rationality, choice, and decision-making from a meta-level perspective, that is, a sociocybernetic point of view.

11:30 **703.5** [Unintentional Exposure to Political News on Facebook's Religious Pages during the 2022 Italian Election Campaign](#) **Fabio GIGLIETTO**, *Università di Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy*, **Nicola RIGHETTI**, *University of Vienna, Austria*, **Rita MARCHETTI**, *University of Perugia, Italy* and **Roberto MINCIGRUCCI**, *University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy*

Abstract

Incidental exposure to news content has been longly debated in media studies (Berelson 1949; Esser et al. 2012). Digital media has revived the interest in the topic, because it makes it easier for users to be unintentionally exposed to politics (Tewksbury et al. 2001; Fletcher and Nielsen, 2018). However, most studies do not examine how incidental exposure occurs. With this paper, we aim to reduce the gap by analyzing networks of Facebook pages, groups and accounts ("entities") that occasionally but systematically share political news.

Applying established computational methodologies (Giglietto et al. 2020) we detected several Facebook networks quasi-simultaneously sharing political news during the 2022 Italian electoral campaign. Surprisingly, some were religious pages that from time to time published political news too, de facto exposing to political information subscribers supposedly following these accounts for reasons related to faith rather than politics.

To dig deeper into this phenomenon with potentially massive effects, we collected all the posts published by religious pages in Italy on Facebook and analyzed them by asking two research questions:

1. What is the extent and potential impact of the phenomenon? In particular, how large are the pages in terms of accounts and reach? What is the proportion of political posts and engagement over the total?
2. What is the logic behind the pages' activities? In particular, does the publishing of political news follow identifiable patterns in terms of political factions and themes that are given visibility?

By mapping an unprecedented phenomenon using computational methods on a large dataset of religious posts, this study provides an original contribution to the literature on incidental exposure, political communication, and digital religion.

17:30 - 19:20 704 [Sociocybernetic Perspectives on Power](#) **M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 27 June, 17:30 - 19:20**

Session Organizer: [Jorge Cardiel](#), National Autonomous University of Mexico

Chair: [Saburo Akahori](#), Tokyo Woman's Christian University

When we consider crucial contemporary issues such as governance, authoritarianism, or social movements, we always face the complex character of what power is. This is a process that traverses all social systems. From the point of view of emerging social forces, power relates to a faculty of self-organization that boosts self-determination. Yet, at the same time, the specific exercises of power produce endless asymmetries that become embedded in social forms, creating multiple forms of resistance.

The goal of this session is to encourage further discussions about power from a sociocybernetic and systems-theory framework. Our main objectives are to examine how the mechanisms of power operate, and to discuss the tools of sociocybernetics that can contribute to the understanding of the complexities of power. We welcome theoretical dissertations, research findings or case studies that broaden and develop the analysis of power, its operations, its modes and/or its mechanisms.

17:30 **704.1** [Terminatio - Nomenclature As Disciplinary and Modulatory Power](#)

Mikael KIVELÄ, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

Trying to establish a shared set of terms for complex phenomena is a fascinating site for sociocybernetic and systems-theoretical inquiries on power. What or who gets observed and included or left out? What is featured or suppressed in the included matters? What is the ostensible purpose or rationale of the shared terminology and for whom? And in what way do the attempted process and its products affect the future trajectories of approaching the phenomena in question? In this paper I approach the complexities of power with case examples from a project creating categories and descriptions for contemporary learning spaces in a European research university. Its goal was to create categories and descriptions to enable users to quickly and reliably find rooms suitable for their learning activities. Drawing on deleuzoguattarian ideas of systems I try to provide a genetic account of the produced actual set of terms examining 1) selection, 2) differentiation, 3) differentiation, 4) structuration, and 5) territorialization involved. The process philosophy of Deleuze and Guattari arguably has quite a lot of resonance capability towards as well as shared territory with The Principles of Sociocybernetics as defined by Hornung in 2005. Thus, this present paper contributes both a case study on power as well as incentives to converse with traditions and theories explicitly affiliated with cybernetics as well as observation and processes, for example Pask or von Foerster. Such conversations can broaden analyses on power by examining the blind spots and modulatory mode of power encountered when employing a particular approach or theory.

17:45 **704.2** [The Grounding and Self-Referential Character of Communication - the Cases of Social Stability and Social Change](#) **Prof. Fernando ILHARCO, PhD**, *Catholic University of Portugal, Portugal*

Abstract

This paper tries to develop a fundamental account of a self-referential system of communication that grounds human societies. We aim to show that our model can appropriately describe central aspects of society, both in the cases of stability and change. We will apply our model to the social sub-systems of mass media, the legal system, and economic competition, highlighting their self-referential mechanisms and relevant power implications. These social subsystems' distinctions include news, illegalities, and losses or anomalous profits.

Revealing the above distinctions, framing a power system, communication favors either stabilization or change in society. In a context of stability, our model suggests, for example, that the more illegalities today, the fewer illegalities tomorrow; in a context of change, the more and more illegalities today, the more likely it is that the meaning of that distinction will change. The more distinctions in the subsystems, the better society evolves as a whole; that is, the more likely it is to survive. We submit that this self-referential logic can be applied to all subsystems of society.

The bodies of theory on which our work mostly relies are Luhmann's (1927–1998) account of society and communication (*Die Gesellschaft der Gesellschaft* (1997); Heidegger's (1889–1976) phenomenology of humanness (*Sein und Zeit* (1927); and Maturana (1928–) and Varela's (1946–2001) theory of

autopoiesis. All these authors reject the subject/object dichotomy, arguing that human recursion and reflexivity make it impossible. Luhmann abandoned the notion of the subject, replacing it with an autopoietic system. Heidegger quitted the notion of 'man', replacing it with a verb, a mode of being he named *Dasein*, being-there, considering self-referentiality at the core of human existence.

Pushing for a coming together of the self-referential streams of early Heidegger and systems theory, we submit that self-referentiality is a fundamental systemic feature of human societies.

18:00 **704.3** [Money As Information: A Complex Systems Perspective](#)

Czesław MESJASZ, *Management Process Department, Cracow University of Economics, Krakow, Poland*

Abstract

Money, as one of the most important human inventions, has become a topic of discussion beginning from philosophy, theory of economics and finance, through sociology, psychology and ending with specific considerations such as physics (entropy and value theory, econophysics), information theory and environmental studies.

There were several attempts to develop new theories of money, e.g., Modern Monetary Theory. From a social theory perspective, the MMT is just another confirmation that money is a social construct. This conclusion is obtaining a new meaning in the era of information overabundance, the development of information technology, the invention of cryptocurrencies, and the expansion of derivative instruments. Money as socially constructed information is becoming decoupled from a real economy, and as a result, it can bring about environmental damage by overexploitation of natural resources. Without pretending to develop a universal theory of money, it can be stated that treating money as the information constitutes the core theoretical conclusion stemming from the above phenomena.

The paper aims to show how interpretation of money as socially constructed information, can be helpful in a better understanding of its role in modern society. Money is treated as an instrument of control (cybernetics) and socially constructed information. It is also shown that the entire money-based control system is complex and hierarchical.

This theoretical concept will be used in two preliminary examples. The first one shows that economic inequality is unavoidable in the modern world. In physical systems, the levels of hierarchy are separated by substantial energy barriers. In contrast, in a hierarchical information-based system, the higher levels of hierarchy, possessing the information, require only a limited relation to physical reality (tangible resources and partly intangible). The second example will show how the financial derivative instruments treated as social constructs can become irrelevant to any real economic activity.

18:20 **704.4** [Evolution of Causality from Aristotle to Einstein. a Cognitive Tool for Everything](#)

Iris BALSAMO, *A360, SU, Argentina*

Abstract

Since the Greeks, cause means "action", implying a sense of "consequence" in a time dependent and/or independent from space.

Aristotle distinguishes four genders of causes: material: those from which a thing is made or exists; formal: the phenomenonic expression of the structure of what is studied; final: the end of the thing, its purpose; efficient: the agent that affects or has effects on something.

Under the explosion of the Arts and Sciences in the Renaissance, only the efficient cause satisfied the condition of experimentation of Modern Science. During four centuries, efficient causality, recalled as a necessary and sufficient condition, has been the tool for the advancement of modern science.

Until the uncertainty principle in quantum physics revealed the insufficiency of modern causality for the advancement of science.

Einstein accepted the challenge and established the conditions for an useful new causality for quantum phenomena. These conditions are: - the metaphysical concept of causality is not sufficient; - the concept of causality should be extended and refined; - should conform to the notion of experimentation in modern

science; - it would be formulated as a strict law; and it would be useful to understand the complex phenomena of quantum physics.

At the end of the last century a new causality was formulated according to these conditions. It was formulated as a causal law, a cognitive tool for everything, in science and technology, applied to understand complex phenomena in quantum physics, including the quantum entanglement.

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

08:30 - 10:20 SESSION **JS-56** [Childhoods and Systemic Inequalities](#)

CCH2 (Level 2, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 28 June, 08:30 - 10:20

Session Organizers and Co-Chairs: [Ilknur Oner](#), Firat University and [Patricia Eugenia Almaquer-Kalixto](#), Universidad de Zaragoza

The session will be focusing on reviewing childhood as a process under systemic inequalities. We welcome papers that trace those inequalities through worldwide childhood experiences in different social and cultural contexts which include physical and digital environments. Following the context of the ISA Conference, we want to bring sociological attention to childhood experiences affected by new entanglements of religion, politics, and economies. There are different experiences in the real and cyberworlds. Contemporary childhood is interwoven with complexity with migratory processes, armed conflicts, pandemic issues, and domestic economic crises that lead them to be part of a vulnerable population, which is often invisible. Children who are left behind and benefit from having remittances from their immigrant parents, but are in turn subject to other deficiencies. Children who are the product of commercial agreements such as surrogacy processes. Children are subject to abuse in many different ways and subject to inequalities in access to resources, depending on gender, age, and ethnicity, which can leave children vulnerable to exploitation and neglect. At this session, we would like to discuss more complex and thoughtful conceptual frameworks that allow us to address the complexity of the physical and virtual scenarios in which their identity is built.

08:30 **JS-56.1** [Structure, Agency and Risk: How Does a Background of Care Affect Graduate Transition?](#) **Zoe BAKER**, *University of York, United Kingdom*

Abstract

Care-experienced students (those who have spent time in the care system often due to childhood neglect or maltreatment) overcome profound challenges to access and progress through higher education (HE). Such challenges include educational disruption (Sebba et al., 2015), and mental health issues arising from childhood trauma (Harrison et al., 2021). Cumulatively, these explain why care-experienced students are one of the most under-represented groups in UK HE (Ellis and Johnston, 2019; Harrison, 2017). Yet, for those who successfully access and complete their HE studies, we know little about their onward trajectories as graduates. Recent quantitative evidence of care-experienced graduate destinations presents a complex pattern; they are less likely to be employed (Harrison et al., 2021), though are more likely to move directly into postgraduate study (Baker et al., 2021). Dominant theories in the sociology of education would predict a continuation of disadvantage, which only partially exists here. To provide reasons underpinning this complexity, the presentation reports on empirical and conceptual findings from the first phase of a British Academy funded study which qualitatively and longitudinally explores care-experienced students' transitions from HE to graduate life in England and Scotland. The study accomplishes this through employing Margaret Archer's (2003, 2012) notion of reflexivity to conceptually identify what roles structural enablements and constraints, as well as individual agency, play in these transitions. This is coupled with a life course perspective (Giele and Elder, 1998) to understand how individual care histories in childhood shape constellations of structural enablements and constraints upon graduation. In reporting on these findings, the presentation will provide insights into how inequalities are reproduced (or not) for care-experienced graduates to understand whether HE helps to transcend early life disadvantages.

08:45 **JS-56.2** [Socioeconomic and Gender Inequalities, Country-Level Social Support, Face-to-Face Bullying and Cyberbullying Victimization Among Adolescents. a Multilevel Cross-](#)

[National Study](#) **Patrick CHANDA**, School of Graduate Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Abstract

Prior research shows that socioeconomic conditions (such as family socioeconomic status, income and gender inequalities) influence aggressive behaviours and victimisation across societies. Nevertheless, it is not well known how such structural level factors interact with country-level social support to influence face-to-face and cyberbullying victimisation across countries. Thus, the aim of the present study was to: 1) examine the association of family socioeconomic status (FSES) with face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying victimisation; 2) analyse how gender inequality relates to face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying victimisation; 3) examine how income inequality relates to face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying victimisation; and 4) examine how country-level social support moderates such associations. The study merged individual data from 2013/14 Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) Survey with country-level data from the United Nations Development Programme and International Labour Organisation. Multilevel binary logistic regression models were used to examine the relationships between variables. The study found that odds of face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying victimisation are higher among adolescents with low family socioeconomic status. However, the impact of low family socioeconomic status on bullying victimisation is lessened in nations with higher social support. Adolescents who live in countries with greater levels of income inequality are at higher risk of being victims of face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying. The results suggest that odds of bullying victimisation decrease as values of income inequality decrease in countries with higher social support. Additionally, the results reveal that odds of face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying victimisation are higher in countries with higher levels of gender inequality, especially among female adolescents. Thus, the effects of bullying victimisation on adolescents (especially, among females) are exacerbated in countries that do not provide adequate social support. In this case, low levels of social support cannot protect adolescents from victimisation by bullying across countries.

09:00 [JS-56.3 More Playgrounds, Police Officers or Other Kids to Play with? Children's Reflections on How to Improve Their Leisure in a Suburb of Curitiba, Brazil](#)

Fernanda PISMEL, CNRS Centre Max Weber UMR 5283 - **Fernanda PISMEL**, France

Abstract

"If you had the power to change anything, what would you do to make your neighborhood and your city cooler for kids?" This was one among the questions I asked fifty children who live in low-income neighborhoods in the city of Curitiba. For my interlocutors the city is neither a "model for Latin America", nor the "ecological capital", nor the "smartest and most connected city in Brazil". Their proposals for improving the city are, however, divergent. Children belonging to the more stable fractions of the popular classes tend to defend that structural changes - such as investment in security, improvements in traffic and solving problems related to drug dealing and public cleaning - would make their childhoods more pleasant. On the other hand, children in more vulnerable situations tend to propose changes that directly affect their daily lives, proposing a greater diversity of spaces and leisure activities, sports, and culture. Besides the social properties of individuals, the length of time the family has lived in the neighborhood and its practices more circumscribed to the living space have structuring effects on their representations and daily practices (Authier, 2007, p. 213). Even though they live in the same neighborhood and study at the same school, these children do not live the same world (Lahire, 2019). The differences in terms of parenting strategies, contribute to children educated under the natural growth view (Lareau, 2003) having a more accurate view of what the state could do to improve the urban experiences of this social group (Qvortrup, 1995).

09:15 [JS-56.4 Childhood in First Person](#) **Iskra PAVEZ**¹, Juan ORTIZ², Pablo MARDONES³, Valeria ACUÑA¹, Jendery JALDÍN⁴, Sius-Geng SALINAS³ and Iciar DUFRAIX³, (1)Universidad

Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile, (2)Universidad Las Américas, Chile, (3)Universidad de Tarapacá, Chile, (4)Universidad Arturo Prat, Chile

Abstract

La infancia en primera persona: niñas, niños y adolescentes migrantes no acompañados en Chile. El objetivo de esta ponencia es caracterizar el fenómeno de la migración no acompañada de niñas, niños y adolescentes en Chile, desde el cruce de diversas categorías de desigualdad (edad, sexo-género, origen nacional), conocer las trayectorias migratorias infanto-juveniles desde la enunciación protagónica y aportar en el diseño de políticas públicas de inclusión social. Se presentan resultados de un Proyecto FONDECYT 1221337.

Hasta ahora, eran pocos los casos de ingreso por pasos no habilitados, pero dada la nueva ley migratoria (que impuso la exigencia del visado consular) y el cierre de fronteras debido a la pandemia, se han comenzado a registrar un incremento de situaciones de niñas, niños y adolescentes que migran sin compañía adulta, tal como ocurre en países de mayor tradición migratoria. El crecimiento económico del país continúa siendo un factor que incide en que Chile sea un destino de la migración intrarregional. No obstante, el estallido social de 2019 vino a cuestionar desigualdades persistentes y fruto de eso, hoy nos encontramos en un nuevo proceso de pacto social. También ha contribuido a reconfigurar los flujos migratorios. En este sentido, resulta oportuno plantear el presente estudio para conocer el fenómeno de la migración de niñas, niños y adolescentes no acompañados.

El estudio se realizará en la zona norte del país (Arica y Parinacota y Tarapacá), por ser el principal punto de ingreso y área de frontera, y zona centro (Metropolitana y Valparaíso) principales ciudades de asentamiento de la población migrante. La muestra del estudio serán personal técnico, activistas, dirigentes de organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG), profesionales de servicios públicos y autoridades regionales y nacionales que trabajan en el tema de la infancia y adolescencia migrante no acompañada, a quienes se les aplicará una entrevista en profundidad.

09:30 **JS-56.5** [Babies, Children and Wars](#), **Anete ABRAMOWICZ**, *Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil*, **Gabriela TEBET**, *Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil* and **Tatiane RODRIGUES**, *Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Brazil*

Abstract

This paper intends to problematize, analyse and configure the way by which the different forms of wars highlight the children and the babies, and the kind of agency they feature. The contemporary wars assume a range of facets and dimensions always crossed by political, economical, biological, religious, ethnic and racial interests; and they have also transactional and local nature (the civil wars, and Brazilian "stray bullets" - always finding and killings black bodies).

This paper discusses the presence of infant actors in contemporary wars and the way by which they are affected from their perspectives, and, points out statistic data of the participation of these actors in the transactional and international collection of these agencies. We take as an objective to highlight the protagonism and the role of babies and children in different wars and the way how they emerge in the social atmosphere in different experiences of wars.

To this end, we use as a methodology the bibliographic research, documental research, besides statistic data as well as the study of iconography about the wars and the accounts of experiences. The data were organized in order to emphasize the role of babies and children in war as well as the singularity of adult centered culture in these events

09:45 **JS-56.6** [Staying Online: Experience of Cyber Childhood in Transnational Families, the Case of Moldavian and Ukrainian Left-behind Children](#) **Eva LASZLO EVA**, *UBB, Romania*

Abstract

Labour migration among citizens from Eastern Europe to the European Union has steadily increased over the past decade. Economic hardships and the search for higher living standards have led numerous Moldovan and Ukrainian citizens to seek employment on a permanent or seasonal basis in the European Union. While certain families migrate as a unit, many children remain left behind by one or both of their parents/caregivers, resulting in the growing phenomenon of transnational families. Cheap communication technologies and the internet allow children to develop coping strategies to overcome their challenging circumstances. This research is based on CASTLE project in which we address the stay-behind children's situation in the context of migration. Empirical data was collected through 102 semi-structured interviews and 10 focus groups with adult and child transnational family members and caregivers, and 24 interviews with experts from relevant organizations. The results analyzed how the children living in these families can develop a hybrid identity through using technology in daily family life. Even if they grow up in Ukraine or Moldova, through the transnational relationship mediated by ITC, their identity also contains elements from their parent's countries of migration. Most of the LBC project themselves into a future outside their country, transnationality being interpreted through educational opportunities. Being part of the digital native generation, for left-behind children by parents' labour migration, the use of ICT makes a more personal and introspective meaning, being an active part of family life. By living a lot part of their family life through digital technology, they have a childhood with a greater cyber component.

15:30 - 17:20 [705 RC51 Business Meeting](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown)
Join Virtual Event on 28 June, 15:30 - 17:20

The business meeting is oriented to make RC51's activities known.

Do you want to know the topics we work on in this research committee and the main collective actions we carry out? Members and non-members of RC51 are welcome to know the latest updates of our research group. Join at M3 (Level 1, Crown) and online.

Thursday, 29 June 2023

08:30 - 10:20

[706 Female Biocapital, Technology and the Market: A Multilevel Research Field. Part One](#)

M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 29 June, 08:30 - 10:20

Session Organizer and Chair: [Consuelo Corradi](#) Lumsa Università

The human body has long been the object of economic exploitation. Today, technological developments allow for conservation and exportation of cells, fluids, and tissues, which are sold (often for a fragment of their final value) and purchased in a globalized, transnational bio-market. Exploitation of female body parts is a profitable business. Egg extraction, genome editing, fertility tourism, and fetal imaging constitute market sectors on the increase. While key drivers of emerging markets for female biocapital are women's low status and income, shifting cultural norms and changes in policy regulations also impact on market development.

Applying a complex, multilevel approach to this research field, the session aims to discuss empirical examples of female biocapital exploitation. The presenters will discuss the theoretical and empirical implications of reproductive technologies on women's autonomy and commodification. Is the expansion of the reproductive market coincidental with an increase in women's autonomy? Is the feminist understanding of motherhood affected by these changes? What is the future of the female biocapital market?

08:30 [706.1 The Waning of a Beautiful Rhetoric: Current Protests and Development of the Egg/Surrogacy Market in Japan](#)

Yoshie YANAGIHARA, Tokyo Denki University, Japan

Abstract

In this research, I explain the latest developments of egg donation/selling and surrogacy in Japan. Then, I analyze the social structures used to construct a Japanese market of women's bodies that is mainly rooted in economics instead of "autonomy."

Although there is no law that bans IVF to use third party's eggs and surrogacy, Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology prohibits using them by their guideline. Hence, most Japanese clients and the egg donors chose to be involved in cross-border reproductive services. In 2020 COVID-19 limited human mobility. Agencies developed a new scheme to harvest eggs from Japanese women without cross-border transportation. The new scheme creates a more exploitive situation for egg donors than pre-COVID-19. The industry's growth is accelerated by the Japanese government. The Diet quickly passed a civil law in 2020, which leads Japan toward legalizing egg donation. In 2022, Japan's major political party plans to legislate a new law that extends Japanese egg market and legalizes surrogacy.

Conversely, the general public sentiment is not as urgent as the major party. Their draft bill is highly criticized as expanding the exploitation industry. This criticism is louder now than the last three decades when Japanese mainly discussed legalizing egg donation and surrogacy. Due to Japan's stagnated economy which deepened women's poverty, people's viewpoints are shifting from being a buyer to being a seller.

This highlights the bio-market is established on poverty instead of popular rhetoric such as "women's autonomy," "helping the others," and "giving life." When surrogacy was imported in the 20th century, Japanese regarded themselves as consumers; therefore, the above perspectives were useful. However, after realizing they could be possible sellers, the rhetoric subsided. This reveals that becoming a provider is not from the women's will, but fundamentally from their economic status.

08:45 [706.2 Las Experiencias De Las Mujeres Gestantes Mexicanas En La Industria De La Subrogación: Significados De La Práctica y El Cuerpo. Análisis Sociológico Con Enfoque Feminista.](#)

Eleana PROO, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

Abstract

La *gestación subrogada* es una industria que se ha acentuado durante los últimos años en el contexto internacional y que de manera paulatina cobra mayor fuerza en México, donde es legal en los estados de Tabasco y Sinaloa. Este procedimiento sucede cuando “[...] una mujer se presta a gestar un niño para, una vez nacido, entregárselo a la persona o personas que se lo han encargado y que van a asumir su paternidad/maternidad” (Comité de Bioética Español, 2017).

Sobre las ganancias que genera a nivel global, el *Surrogacy Market Share Report 2025* estimó que durante el 2018 la facturación del mercado de la subrogación fue de 6 mil millones de dólares y proyectó que sus ganancias incrementarán hasta 27.5 mil millones para el año 2025, con un crecimiento anual del 24.5%. La práctica ha involucrado extensos debates sobre su regulación o prohibición desde distintas disciplinas y discursos sociales. Una de las aristas constantes versa sobre el uso de los cuerpos de las mujeres gestantes y su capacidad de *decidir* con *autonomía* dentro de estos acuerdos, por lo cual se evidencia la necesidad de un abordaje sociológico feminista que tome en cuenta sus experiencias, sus condiciones sociales y objetivas de vida, así como la problematización de conceptos como *autonomía* y *libre elección*.

Además de realizar un breve recorrido sociohistórico para situar al mercado de la subrogación a nivel global y local, en este trabajo se expondrán algunos resultados preliminares de la investigación doctoral que aborda tal planteamiento. Desde una metodología cualitativa, a través de entrevistas en profundidad y un acercamiento etnográfico digital con mujeres gestantes mexicanas, se mostrarán algunos significados que construyen en torno a sus cuerpos y la práctica, en virtud de sus experiencias subjetivas.

09:00 [706.3 Gestational Surrogacy in Spain: Online Markets and Discourses](#)

Patricia Eugenia ALMAGUER-KALIXTO, Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain and Ana Lucía HERNÁNDEZ-CORDERO, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Abstract

International commercial surrogacy (ICT) is an increasingly transnational and ‘cross-border’ phenomena that have consolidated in Europe. The disparity of the legal policies and jurisdictions has enabled to flourish a range of agents that offer services to “guide” the process of intended parents in countries where surrogacy is prohibited. The paper contributes to explaining the modus operandi of such entities that act as gestational surrogacy brokers. We analyse 11 entities advertising in Spain that promote surrogacy in countries abroad. Through discourse analysis of their online public information, we propose a typology based in their narratives: 1) For-profit surrogacy brokers selling legal and medical expertise; 2) For-profit surrogacy entrepreneurs selling personal experience (former parents of surrogate children), and 3) Associations that act as intermediaries for their associates and political lobbyists. Our findings show that this active sector still rising even in the context where gestational surrogacy is officially banned, COVID-19 still existing and regional conflicts have arisen. We consider this can be useful for further analysis of countries where similar brokers have emerged. This is a sector accountable to no one, with marketing mechanisms maintained in the borderless realm of the World Wide Web. This agents makes possible the economic exploitation of women body promoted and purchased in a globalized, transnational bio-market.

17:30 - 19:20 **707 [Female Biocapital, Technology and the Market: A Multilevel Research Field. Part Two](#)** *M3 (Level 1, Crown)* **Join Virtual Event on 29 June, 17:30 - 19:20**

Session Organizer and Chair: [Consuelo Corradi](#) Lumsa Universita

Continuation of the previous session, same rationale (see previous description)

17:30 **707.1 [Rhetorics of Choice and Coercion on Surrogate Motherhood](#)**

Zairu NISHA, *Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, India*

Abstract

Surrogacy is one of the desired and choice-based reproductive technologies for family formation, yet surrogate mothers are subjected to unethical treatments and victims of unbalanced power relations in India. Such treatment obscures women's free decision-making and can be detrimental to their maternal self. Recently, the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, December 2021 has received the President's approval to regulate surrogacy practices by limiting them for altruistic motives which has again provoked the burning debates regarding reproductive technologies, women's emancipation and procreative labour. The primary question that needs to be explored is whether surrogacy is really a choice providing technology or it is just another illusion of patriarchy. The paper thus explores women's agency, maternal freedom, and surrogate arrangements in Indian society. The complexity of the implementation of the law, vulnerability of surrogate labour, woman's bodily autonomy and reproductive choices have been analysed. This has been done through comprehensive feminist discussions on motherhood experience in terms of enforced vs. voluntary to find the way to protect women's freedom and subjectivity in the task of 'mothering as empowerment'.

17:45 **707.2 [Changing the Female Biocapital Market Via Reproductive Technologies](#)**

Amarpreet KAUR, *University of Birmingham, United Kingdom*

Abstract

This paper is a theoretical exploration of how social changes and scientific developments could change the female biocapital market. The paper uses the framework of reproductive technologies currently in development across the globe, such as in vitro gametogenesis, genome editing technologies, and ectogenesis, to consider what the potential future use of these technologies could mean for the female biocapital market. Discussions are situated in relation to Ulrich Beck's (1992) concept of risk society. First, the paper explores social shifts in cultural norms and values, and how these changes could impact policy changes in the United Kingdom (UK). Suggestions for potential policy changes are grounded by triangulated findings from indicative primary research on attitudes towards human germline genome editing (hGGE) as a reproductive choice. The research consisted of an online survey of a tailored sampled of 521 members of the British public, 13 semi-structured interviews with experts and professionals who could speak to the landscape of hGGE in the UK, and structured interviews with 21 people affected by monogenic conditions. Second, the paper discusses how policies surrounding reproductive technologies influence applications and the use of reproductive technologies in a globalised, transnational market. Finally, the paper considers how reproductive technologies currently being developed may impact fertility tourism, social inequalities, and women's lives.

18:00 [707.3 What's in an Image? the Public Life of the Digital Fetus](#)

Maria Carmela AGODI, **Ilenia PICARDI** and Sole Alba ZOLLO, University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Abstract

Based on the analysis of a corpus of pregnancy online texts, this paper examines the growing dissemination of fetal images on the web. The public life of fetal 3D images – followed through ethnographic observation on different social media - elicit questions about “surfacing the body interior,” (Janelle Taylor, 2005). How has ultrasound imaging surfaced the fetal body into public view? This is not simply a matter of technology but of fetuses becoming public, socially and culturally. Fetal sonograms are representations that emerge out of particular material, and ways of working with bodily and other matter (Barad, 2007). Once we conceptualize the body as materializing in and through social practices, new perspectives open. It becomes possible to recognize bodies as having contours and boundaries that are not simply given by nature but accomplished through histories of collective human activity and power struggles. The concept of the *public fetus* (Duden, 1991) has been used by feminist scholars to describe the increasing use of obstetric ultrasound and the spreading of public images of fetuses. Declining critical multimodal discourse analysis in an STS perspective, the analysis of the collected web-ethnographic corpus explores the key concepts of body, gender, normality and disability as used in the process of entangling scientific knowledge and narratives of women's pregnancies on the web while performing the social representation of the fetus. The female bodies, conceived in the field of biomedical diagnostic as the site of pregnancy control, become the site for the social construction of the *digital fetus* due to the embedding of imaging technologies and communication practices on the Web. At the same time, the dis-embedding of the fetus from the mother's body becomes a performative result of sociotechnical dispositifs while it enforces the possibility of thinking of it as a commodity in a newborn bio-market.

18:15 [707.4 For a Sociology of Placenta, a Neglected Form of Woman and Child's Biocapital](#)

Daniela BANDELLI, LUMSA, Italy

Abstract

Placenta, and its cord, is a temporary organ that represents communication between mother and child. It is generally thought as ‘hospital waste’ and it is little known by pregnant women in societies where childbirth is a medicalized event. However, along with the development of regenerative medicine, around this organ several competing interests have revolved. For example, to maximize the efficacy of biobanking, the cord needs to be clumped in the first minute after birth, and the child is deprived of part of natural transfusion from the mother. In home-birth mothers are given the option to keep the placenta connected for days (lotus birth), to have it processed into naturopathic capsules, and to eat it (placentophagy) to cope with post-natal depression. Also, placenta canvas and burial are becoming popular trends.

As a whole bench of literature has been developed on the economic exploitation of women's body parts (breastmilk, eggs, gestational capacity and hair), this organ has gathered so far little interest in sociological scholarship on female biocapital. Anthropology contributes especially to the knowledge on placenta rituals; a few recent studies in sociology of science point at how medical discourse influences social perception of this organ as disposable; sociology of health and STS reflect on individualistic /solidarity paradigms of biobanking. Yet, placenta is far from conquering a space in sociology of the body, little is said by scholarship on women's consent in reproduction, and meanings advocated in alternative childbirth communities are under-investigated.

I will make a case for the need to develop a sociology of placenta by drawing from a review of the few existing studies and by acknowledging contemporary social practices involving this organ. Is the notion of biocapital applicable to organs that are not traded or processed through medical technology but are simply self-consumed?

Friday, 30 June 2023

10:30 - 12:20 SESSION 708 [Understanding Political Crises in the 2020s - a Sociocybernetics Approach](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) [Join Virtual Event on 30 June, 10:30 - 12:20](#)

Session Organizer [Andrew Mitchell](#) Kumamoto University

Chair [Fabio Giglietto](#) Università di Urbino Carlo Bo

The growing instability in politics worldwide has been accelerating over the last couple of years, with both national and international norms collapsing one after another. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread damage not only to global health but also to national economies. The wider socio-political effects of the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID (e.g., lockdowns, mask mandates, the closing of borders) remain unclear. War has broken out in Eastern Europe, shaking to the core the established norms of the post-Cold War world. The EU is struggling to adapt to this and other political situations (e.g., Brexit, immigration, intra-block disagreements) while military groups such as NATO and the Quad now find purpose in their aim to reinstate a Western-led international order. Global markets are in turmoil, triggered in part by the effects of all these crises on global supply chains and leaving many in the Global South facing rapid inflation and at risk of food insecurity. In all cases, political responses thus far have been left wanting.

In such a world a systemic understanding and response is demanded. This session aims to bring together speakers to discuss these national and international political issues that have emerged over the last few years and how a sociocybernetics approach can understand them. We welcome both theoretical and empirical studies which touch on the wider impact of the various crises we face today and on the ability for politicians and policymakers to tackle them.

10:30 708.2 [Identitarianism Malgré Lui: Europeanness and Anti-Immigration Movement in Turkey](#)

Daghan IRAK, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom

Abstract

Despite being partially located in the continent, being part of Europe is the pillar of modern Turkish identity. The Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 as a secular, European nation-state that dictated a total rupture with the Arabic and Persian influences of the Ottoman Empire. The lukewarm reception of the Turkey's Europeanness claim by its Western counterparts, along with its common roots with Eastern cultures, drove Turkey into a never-ending identity crisis that often entails an overemphasis of Europeanness. During Islamist Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's period as the country's leader, the secular Republic as an institution witnessed an illiberal and conservative shift that is often met with contempt from the country's secular population. Erdoğan's immigration policy that welcomed Syrian refugees based on religious similarities was perceived by some as a further effort towards the country's "Islamisation." Even though the immigrants were hosted as part of a deal between Turkey and the European Union, the arrival of over three million Syrians in Turkey was perceived by some seculars to be a scheme to drive the country away from Europe and towards the Middle East. These anti-immigration feelings were expressed mostly on Twitter, the platform of choice for dissident Turkish seculars, under hashtags like "Syrians to Syria." As a result, an online-driven far-right party was founded with the slogan "we will ship them back to Syria."

The paper aims to analyse the anti-immigrant expressions on Twitter using Social Network Analysis, positioning users within the network based on the hashtags and keywords they used on immigration. The study will discuss the role of Turkey's Europeanness debate in the anti-immigrant expressions, and also compare the anti-Eastern, anti-Arab expressions with the "Western exclusivity of Europe" argument of European Identitarian movements, even though Turkey is not accepted as Europe by the Identitarians.

10:55 [708.3 Religion and Support for Far-Right Platforms: Comparing Italy, Hungary, and the Netherlands](#)

Kenneth VAUGHAN, *University of Central Oklahoma, United States*

Abstract

Much research takes a one-size-fits-all approach to understanding how religion contributes to support for the new far right, certain populists, and/or authoritarians. Theories of Christian nationalism and assertive secularization are frequently cited to frame and interpret elections and changing policies in these contexts. Utilizing the most recent representative data from the World Values Study-European Values Study, I find evidence complicating these narratives. I find evidence associating religiosity with support for far-right political outcomes in Hungary, breaking with some recently published research. However, in the Netherlands and Italy, the opposite is true. In both countries, irreligiosity is associated with far-right outcomes, but in different ways. In this study, I discuss the implications of these results and argue that only a comparativist approach can properly interpret how religion, secularism, and new far right political changes are associated.

11:20 [708.4 Global Crises in the 2020s – a Luhmannian Observation](#)

Andrew MITCHELL, *Kumamoto University, Japan*

Abstract

The world is currently experiencing multiple, simultaneously occurring, crises which are leading to catastrophic outcomes for large numbers of people globally. COVID-19 has been exerting its influence upon the world since March 2020, with civil unrest seen in many Western nations with a rise in political distrust. Breakdowns in international relations have led to war breaking out between Russia and Ukraine and a growing animosity between the US and China. This, in combination with two years of sporadic pandemic lockdowns, has had a massive impact on global trade, with war preventing grain from getting to developing countries and stoking fears of famine. The world economy is also in turmoil, with measures taken during the pandemic leading to rampant inflation across the globe and collapsing global markets, leaving many poor struggling to cope and the middle classes watching their financial futures collapse before their eyes.

This presentation will consider these crises through the lens of Niklas Luhmann's Social Systems Theory and discuss how we are living in a time where multiple social subsystems (namely the economic, health, and political subsystems) are dealing with perturbations created on a global scale, where the actions taken by organisations operating in specific subsystems are causing further perturbations in the environment and therefore for the other communication systems of society. It shall then consider whether it is a confluence of unfortunately timed random events which have led us here, whether the issue was a lack of environmental sensitivity across multiple social systems and whether there can be any hope of a return to some sort of equilibrium, or whether these crises are a natural consequence of a functionally differentiated global society still segmented into nation states and what that means for the world social system going forward.

15:30 - 17:20 JS-130 [Complexity in the Rise of the Far Right and Populist Movements in Europe \(II\)](#) 105 (Level 1, MCEC) **Join Virtual Event on 30 June, 15:30 - 17:20**

Session Organizers: [Murat Aktas](#), Mus Alparslan University and [Patricia Eugenia Almaguer-Kalixto](#) Universidad de Zaragoza

Chair: [Juan Carlos Barron-Pastor](#), CISAN UNAM and [Fabio Giglietto](#) Università di Urbino Carlo Bo

The far right and populist movements and political parties in Europe has been steadily rising in the twenty-first century. Especially in the last decade, we have witnessed election victories or significant increases in the share of votes by far right and populist parties in several European countries. In the French presidential elections of April 2022, the far-right and populist National Rally President Marine Le Pen got 41.5% of votes. In April 2022 Hungarian right wing populist Fidesz Party leader and Prime Minister Viktor Mihály Orbán, has won a fourth successive term with 53.7% votes. In March 2018, the Italian Five Star Movement formed a coalition government with the far-right League party. In Austria the far right Freedom Party (FPÖ) won 26% and the right wing populist ÖVP got 31% of the vote in the 2017 parliamentary elections and they formed a coalition government. In Germany the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) won 12.6% of the vote and entered the Bundestag for the first time in 2017. Also in 2017, the far-right Volya Movement entered the Bulgarian parliament for the first time. In Poland, the right-wing populist party Law and Justice (PiS) came to power in 2015. So why are far-right parties on the rise? Have far-right parties become normal for European countries? Are far-right parties threat to democracy? The purpose of this session is to discuss the answers to these and similar questions by examining the situation of the rising far-right and populist political parties in Europe.

This sessions connects with the following one

15:30 [JS-130.1 Populism: Political Concept and Phenomenon](#)

Rafael BOCKER ZAVARO, *Rovira i Virgili University, Spain*

Abstract

Populism generates a greatdeal of controversy around the world. Its conceptualization has provoked many discussions in the Social Sciences, because it is a vague and imprecise term encompassing a heterogeneous multitude of political phenomena. This paper aims to present the debate around the various populisms, as different political concepts and phenomena. This article focuses on three of the main aspects that served this debate: the Latin American context, the concept of populism, and a critique of contemporary populism. From a comparative point of view, the changes in the concept and the political phenomenon of populism be analyzed using different bibliographical sources. It is a methodological strategy that allows us to compare the main concepts of populism in order to interpret and explain them. This will also allow us to draw general links between them, making it possible to build more solid and coherent theoretical arguments about the political phenomenon of populism.

15:55 [JS-130.2 The Clash within Civilizations? a Cultural Sociology of Populism](#). **Andrea MACCARINI**, *University of Padova, Italy*

Abstract

“Populism” plays a significant role in contemporary conflicts, which resemble Huntington’s famous scenario of a clash of civilizations. This paper argues that its sociological understanding is fundamentally flawed, proposes a conceptual alternative and introduces a related research agenda. Mainstream views of populism are criticized for being *one-sided* – e.g. reducing it to economic discontents –, or developing a *subtraction story* – i.e. the idea that non-populist attitudes would spontaneously triumph, once constraints had been removed –, and often dismissing their *explanandum* as sheer pathological irrationalism.

Then a fresh conceptual framework is articulated. First, in line with Jeffrey Alexander’s basic assumptions, it is claimed that (i) populism is not a deviation from democracy, but a naturally occurring dimension of contemporary democracies, and (ii) is a *continuum* stretching from the political left to the right, fatal to democracy only on the extremes. In addition, Shmuel Eisenstadt’s seminal reflections on barbarism and

modernity are deployed to gain a richer understanding of the phenomenon in terms of cultural sociology. His analysis revolved around the social construction of symbolic boundaries, based on three major codes identified as *primordality*, *civility*, and *sacredness*. The crucial distinction runs between the absolutization of one code vs. a pluralistic interweaving of the three. Such an absolutization results in violence, social and political exclusion.

This perspective allows a deeper understanding of the cultural programs of populist leaders and parties, and their possible effects on the social order. One corollary is that the boundary between civil and barbarous is conceived as running not *between* civilizations, but between factions, elites and counter-elites *within* them. Such a clash *within* civilizations will play a decisive role about the hopes of a peaceful arrangement of newly emergent inter-civilizational conflicts, and the possible emergence of post-colonial forms of universalism and human rights, drawing on indigenous cultural traditions.

16:20 [**JS-130.3** *Going Local, Going Mainstream? an Ethnography of Two Cities Governed By the French Rassemblement National*](#) **Felicien FAURY**, Paris Dauphine University, France and **Elisa BELLE**, Sciences Po CEE, France

Abstract

Populists Radical Right (PRR) parties' growth in contemporary democracies has met with increasing interest among political science scholars in recent years, also due to the process of partial access to mainstream and institutional power they are experiencing in several countries. However, this process has been studied mainly at the national level, approaching PRR parties almost exclusively as (supra) national, aggregated and homogeneous actors. For this reason, we know little about PRR experience of government at the local level: a major gap in the academic debate, also considering the relevant role played by territorial anchorage and local attachments for these formations. Focusing on the French Rassemblement National (RN) of Marine Le Pen, our paper contributes to the recent and emerging "localist turn" in the study of PPR (Chou, Moffitt, Busbridge, 2021) by analyzing RN governance at the municipal level. Our presentation is based on an innovative ethnographic and comparative study of two middle-sized towns ruled since 2014 by the RN, both located in the South-East of France, a region characterized by an historical cultural rootedness for the party. More specifically, our paper draws on a) ethnographic observations of the local political and party life; b) 72 in-depth interviews with members of the RN municipal team, grassroots party militants and their main opponents. Summing the advantages of the ethnographic single case-study with the strength offered by a comparative gaze, our paper explores the intertwining of populism and localism and the ambivalent process of mainstreaming of the radical right at the local level. While subnational arenas are often assumed to play a role in the mainstreaming process of radical parties, we argue that "going local" does not necessarily imply, for PRR formations such as the RN, a de-ideologization of local governance.

16:45 [**JS-130.4** *A Populist Constitutionalism As a Challenge for 21st Century Democracy'S: An Analysis of Hungary Under the Orbán Regime*](#) **Maria TORRES**, Universidade de Coimbra, Brazil

Abstract

Governed by a conservative nationalist party, in 2011 Hungary replaced the 1949 constitution with the Hungarian Basic Law. However, from a constitutional process of doubtful legitimacy, a document was produced that has been much criticized due to the insertion of political-ideological elements that reflect the populist ideology of the government in leadership. It was observed considerable democratic backsliding in the sense of moving away the liberal principles of the state, which currently no longer includes itself in the roll of full democracies, but in the sphere of hybrid regimes, by virtue of being an illiberal democracy. The work aims to approach the Hungarian populist constitutionalism and the illiberal reflexes on democracy. It is intended to strengthen the study by building a firm base for political science and sociology argumentation, delimiting basic concepts that circulate the theme. Subsequently, it is dedicated to the theoretical development of abusive constitutionalism and the influence on the populist phenomenon. At the end, it is proposed to reflect on Hungary's political situation. The investigation adopts a quantitative approach, and it is developed from the inductive method. The theme is approaching in an

argumentative-expositive speech, exalting the use of bibliographical referential, technical-scientific articles, recent law and jurisprudence. It is also emphasized the use of authors mostly in English and Hungarian, which stand out for their sophisticated knowledge and authority on the subject. The result is that Hungary has always been a country of nationalistic thinking. The avalanche of cosmopolitan ideas after the end of the Cold War, together with the implementation of liberal democracy, caused a cultural reaction that was broken in the last years by the leadership of the conservative populist government. Based on this opportunity, it employed abusive methods of constitutional changes to essentially turn the country into an illiberal democracy.

17:30 - 19:20 **JS-137** The Rise of the Far Right and Populist Movements in Europe

105 Level 1, MCEC) Join Virtual Event on 30 June, 17:30 - 19:20

Session Organizer: Murat Aktas Mus Alparslan University

Chair: [Jennifer Clark](#), South Texas College

The far right and populist movements and political parties in Europe has been steadily rising in the twenty-first century. Especially in the last decade, we have witnessed election victories or significant increases in the share of votes by far right and populist parties in several European countries. In the French presidential elections of April 2022, the far-right and populist National Rally President Marine Le Pen got 41.5% of votes. In April 2022 Hungarian right wing populist Fidesz Party leader and Prime Minister Viktor Mihály Orbán, has won a fourth successive term with 53.7% votes. In March 2018, the Italian Five Star Movement formed a coalition government with the far-right League party. In Austria the far right Freedom Party (FPÖ) won 26% and the right wing populist ÖVP got 31% of the vote in the 2017 parliamentary elections and they formed a coalition government. In Germany the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) won 12.6% of the vote and entered the Bundestag for the first time in 2017. Also in 2017, the far-right Volya Movement entered the Bulgarian parliament for the first time. In Poland, the right-wing populist party Law and Justice (PiS) came to power in 2015. So why are far-right parties on the rise? Have far-right parties become normal for European countries? Are far-right parties threat to democracy? The purpose of this session is to discuss the answers to these and similar questions by examining the situation of the rising far-right and populist political parties in Europe.

This sessions connects with the previous one (JS130)

17:30 **JS-137.1** What Drives Support for Authoritarian Populist Parties in Eastern and Central Europe?

Dr. Pamela Irving JACKSON, Ph.D., Rhode Island College, United States and **Peter DOERSCHLER**, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, USA

Abstract

Recent scholarship underscores that authoritarian populist parties stoke the majority's sense of personal grievance by denigrating minority protections as discriminatory to natives and portraying minority crime as imminent. We include measures of personal grievance in an expanded model of voter support for authoritarian parties that builds on the work of Norris and Inglehart (2019). We then test the expanded model in nine east-central European countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia) with data from nine waves of the European Social Survey (2002-2018). Results for this region differ from previous examination of right-wing voters in western Europe, supporting Schafer's (2021) argument that "populism differs across countries or regions". Unlike their counterparts in western Europe, for east-central European voters, sense of being in a group that is discriminated against does not predict an authoritarian populist vote in the multivariate findings. Eastern and central Europeans who hold anti-immigration attitudes and mistrust global governance are more likely to be supporters of authoritarian parties, as expected. But again in contrast to previously reported results for western Europe (cf. Doerschler and Jackson, 2019), right-wing voters in east-central Europe are more (not less) likely to trust national governance. National governments in eastern and central European states may have burnished their appeal to voters with significant income supports, like Family 500+ in Poland

(cf. Muis, Brils and Gaidyte, 2021). Holding right-wing values, greater religiosity and opposition to homosexuality predict the right-wing vote in this region, as does support for welfare chauvinism in the total sample. We examined predictors of the far-right vote in individual states and found both general support for the regional findings and some areas of unique difference.

17:45 **JS-137.2 Through Partisan Lenses. How Political Trust and Policy Assessment Changed Under the Law and Justice Rule in Poland** **Marta KOLCZYNSKA**, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland and **Ireneusz SADOWSKI**, Institute of Political Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Abstract

Political polarization is one of the important aspects of the populist wave that has swept through many democracies in Europe and beyond. We examine the consequences of increasing polarization for policy assessment and political trust during Poland's shift in power in 2015 when, in an atmosphere of heated political conflict, the hitherto right-wing populist opposition party Law and Justice came to power replacing the former two-term ruling parties, the Civic Platform and Polish People's Party. Our analysis relies on data on voters from two waves of the Polish Panel Survey POLPAN conducted in 2013 and 2018. Notably, first years of the Law and Justice rule, accompanied by favorable economic circumstances and widely popular social programs, brought an overall increase in political trust in Poland. However, what we observe underneath is a massive divergence between the so-called electoral winners and losers, which represents clear evidence of rising polarization and deepening political cleavage, but also of a 'party lens' effect. We find that electoral winner status both mediates and moderates the effect of evaluations of economic performance on political trust. Winners tend to have more favorable perceptions of the economy, which translates into higher political trust. Interestingly however, the effect of performance evaluations among winners is weaker than among electoral losers. This amounts to stronger sensitization of voters to party cues, and partial 'desensitization' to actual policy outcomes. We discuss these findings in the context of the current economic downturn.

18:00 **JS-137.3 How Do Competing Gender Ideologies Impact Voters in Germany?**

Mirko BRAACK¹, **Melanie DIETZ²** and **Sigrid ROSSTEUTSCHER²**, (1)Research Institute Social Cohesion (Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt), Germany, (2)Research Institute Social Cohesion, Section Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Abstract

While on the one hand the former traditional ideologies and the male-breadwinner arrangement erode, on the other hand right-wing and populist parties (re-)address traditional ideas of gender relations and family. Thereby, gender issues and the compatibility of work and family become central issues in political debates. Further, families and their gendered employment arrangements are affected by work-family policies and gender ideologies. The situation becomes even more complex by ambivalent gender ideologies, which mix traditional and egalitarian orientations regarding gender separated or joint spheres of paid work and family responsibilities. Gender ideologies and the work-family policies compete for the ideal family arrangement and gender relations.

We aim to address the consequences of the competition around family ideals and influences of work-family policies against the backdrop of the occurrence of a right-wing party in our paper. We ask how gender ideologies impact voting behavior. We use two waves of a quota-based online survey conducted as part of the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES) just before the 2021 federal election and in the beginning of 2022, as our data basis. Using latent class analysis, we identify different gender ideology classes among voters which can be understood as unidimensional as well as ambivalent: unidimensional traditional and egalitarian classes, as well as ambivalent traditional-pragmatic and child-centered secondary earner classes. We show in multinomial regression models whether and how the voting intention of the different parties depends on the gender ideology class. Regression analysis shows that egalitarian people are more likely than people with different gender ideologies to vote for the Greens and

vice versa people of all other classes than egalitarian are more likely to vote for the right-wing party. The results indicate an influence of competing gender ideologies on voting and can be placed within larger societal conflicts between Greens and right-wing voters.

18:15

[JS-137.4 Exploring Populist Epistemologies: Knowledge Practices of Law and Justice's \(PiS\) Supporters](#)

Michał NAWROCKI, Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw, Poland

Abstract

Despite various crises including the rising cost of living and the ongoing conflict with European institutions, the right-wing populist Law and Justice (PiS) party still enjoys sizeable support of 25-30% of voters in Poland after seven years in government. Various explanations for this continuous electoral support have been proposed, focusing on the government's social policies, nationalist discourse, the takeover of public broadcasters, or the use of conspiracy theories. However, these partial explanations are insufficient to explain the party's popularity, unprecedented in Polish politics both in its size and stability over time. This paper proposes a more comprehensive approach by conceptualising PiS supporters as an epistemic community with its own assumptions regarding the world and appropriate modes of reasoning, along with a range of knowledge practices that construe and maintain a particular vision of the socio-political reality. Thus, this paper aims to analyse (1) how do PiS supporters organise and structure various social categories and identities to make sense of the world; (2) how, as an epistemic community, do they create and legitimise knowledge; and (3) how do they process and interpret politicians' speeches and media articles. To answer those questions, 24 individual interviews and four focus groups have been carried out with long-time PiS supporters, mainly from central and eastern Poland. Preliminary conclusions from the interviews, which extensively employed projective techniques and verbal protocol to explore voters' epistemological and cognitive processes, suggest that it is the construction of an epistemic community with a consistent vision of the world and clear interpretation procedures that stabilises political support, rather than any specific benefit from the PiS government. Moreover, the interviews emphasise the role of negotiating social identities and categories and suggest that populists' supporters are much more active in this process than previously thought.

Saturday, 1 July 2023

08:30 - 10:20 SESSION 709 [Understanding Digital and Surveillance Capitalism from Sociocybernetic Perspectives.](#) M3 (Level 1, Crown) Join Virtual Event on 1 July, 08:30 - 10:20

Session Organizer: [Juan Carlos Barron-Pastor](#) Center for Research on North America, UNAM. **Chair:** [Chaime Marcuello Servos](#), Universidad de Zaragoza

This session aims to bring together papers using sociocybernetics theories, concepts, tools, and methods that seek to understand how does digital capitalism and surveillance capitalism work. Digital capitalism is understood for this session as “the collection of processes, sites, and moments in which digital technology mediates the structural tendencies of capitalism (Pace, 2018:262).” Surveillance capitalism will be understood as a management practice that unilaterally claims human experience as free raw material for translation into behavioural data for commercial practices of extraction, prediction, and sales (Zuboff, 2019: 13).” The session welcomes papers from a wide variety of topics, such as communication, international affairs, geopolitics, interference of political processes, cybersecurity, utilisation of apps and algorithms, etc. Also, receives papers seeking to explain the concentration of political powers favouring certain corporations and political groups to enhance instrumentarian powers that assert dominance over social systems; especially those using the media system, its programmatic fields, and developing strategies such as infodemic, fake news management, the use of social media for spreading disinformation, etc.

08:30 [709.1 Surveillance Capitalism As an Auto-Organization and Complex Process.](#)

Aaron CID RAMÍREZ, *División de Ciencias Naturales e Ingeniería, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico*

Abstract

Whenever we aim to understand surveillance, we often end up thinking about a greatest power behind that process: government, international companies, market's invisible hand, just to name a few; but we often obviate the very first node: ourselves. Our mere participation within a society represents a constant selection of thoughts, words, and actions; that very often are held back in the mind, deceiving ourselves and manipulating our emotions and objectives.

But also, when we participate as part of a bigger system: social group, association, or nation, we develop rules, restrictions, and laws that determinate the very individual participation and what could and couldn't be expressed.

The aim of this work is to cover the differences and similarities from our self-containment as an individual bio-system to the complex process of auto-organization as social beings that collaborate and oppose from other individuals to maintain or change the very reality itself, understanding the huge present and future participation of technology to achieve a perfect and immediate surveillance.

08:50 [709.2 Virtual Communities at Transnational Cyberlocalities from Mexico and US](#)

Juan Carlos BARRON-PASTOR, CISAN UNAM, Mexico; Center for Research on North America, UNAM, Mexico

Abstract

This presentation aims to explore how a digital transnational community interact within a platform to understand how does digital capitalism and surveillance capitalism work. Digital capitalism is understood for this session as "the collection of processes, sites, and moments in which digital technology mediates the structural tendencies of capitalism (Pace, 2018:262)." Surveillance capitalism will be understood as a management practice that unilaterally claims human experience as free raw material for translation into behavioural data for commercial practices of extraction, prediction, and sales (Zuboff, 2019: 13)."

It explores how interactions within the programmatic field of entertainment creates information that is useful for marketing and commercial purposes and adds cultural value to brands and companies.

Also, it explores cooperation and cosmopolitanism to see how these communities strengthen regional dynamics and facilitate to enhance experiences in cyberspace and also promoting activities in its physical environments, enriching production, services and profits far from the original app.

09:10 [709.3 Investment Management Corporations and Global Financial Capitalism](#)

Jorge CARDIEL, *National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico*

Abstract

In this paper, I go into detail on the current intertwining of the processes of financialization and digitalization. I inquire into the role of multi-national investment management corporations in the global financial system from a sociocybernetic perspective. In chapter 17 of their book *The Systems View of Life*, Capra and Luisi point out that «all flows of money ultimately converge in the global financial networks in search of higher gains» (2014). Financial flows emerge as a meta-network of gamblers, who «are not obscure speculators, but major investment banks, pension funds, multinational corporations...» (Castells cited by Capra and Luisi, 2014).

Sassen examines financialization as a «very special, distinctive and often dangerous capability» that «needs to be distinguished from traditional banking» and consists of «inventing and developing complex

instruments» (Sassen, 2014). In the last decades, the number of instruments or apparatuses for multiplying wealth have proliferated. The use of artificial intelligence and big data has led to the formation of digital-financial machines (DFMs) owned by multi-national enterprises (MNEs) such as «the Big Three» (Finanzwende, April 2021).

Ashby conceived Cybernetics as «the science of all possible machines» that «treats, not things, but *ways of behaving*. It does not ask «what is this thing?» but «*what does it do?*»» (1956). The emphasis is made on the contingency of the systems we observe: «Cybernetics envisages a set of possibilities much wider than the actual, and then asks why the particular case should conform to its particular restriction» (Ashby, 1956). The constructivist conception of the machine as «an abstract entity with well-defined functional properties» is embraced by Von Foerster (1971). Therefore, to understand how the Casino Finance of today's world works, we ask from a sociocybernetic perspective: What do DFMs do? And *how* do they do it?

09:25

709.4 A Critique of the Idea of 'informational Overload' in the Digital Space.

Emerson PALMIERI, Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil

Abstract

There has been much speculating if society has evolved into a new stage referred to, sometimes, as “Hyperinformation society”, specially with the rising of the internet. In this stage, there would be a high degree of interconnection between informational contents, since restrictions of time and space are greatly diminished by digital technologies and because of that people would be overloaded with a big flow of information. Although the proposition of a high interconnectedness degree is correct, I argue, however, that it doesn't lead people to experience an overloading of information. Drawing from some of Niklas Luhmann's theoretical concepts I argue that, in digital environments, communications are put through a process of contingency reduction in order to be able to produce future communications. In other words, a content in the internet cannot be communicatively related with every other content available in it.

This process of contingency reduction can be observed in two different processes:

1. At some degree, online contents reflect the functional and expertise differentiation of society. They are organized by topics of interest (science, cooking, cars, etc), one does not simply talk about everything. So, a content of one kind (scientific articles, for example) doesn't relate to one of another kind (religious speeches, for example). They are part of different networks of communication that already existed before the internet.
2. The role of algorithms in directing contents to people. The more we see about a content, the more an algorithm will indicate to us future communications similar to that content. Moreover, algorithms often recommend us opinions about a topic that are alike, creating "ideological bubbles" which restricts the entrance of different perspectives and the possibility of dialogue.

Concluding, I argue that these processes restrict the scope of visibility of people regarding online contents, so they don't experience an overload of information.

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