

Abstracts

Preconditions for explanation in social psychology

Serge Moscovici

This paper starts by defining a general overview of social psychology. It postulates that social constructivism, the perspective defined in the early 60's, is one of the major contributions made by European social psychology to social sciences in general. Whatever its destiny might be, some remarks can be pointed out in here: a) physics is not the unique model to be followed; b) the current manners of explanation could be –and must be– improved; c) more complex theories are needed; d) changes over methodological and statistical criteria are expected in order to explain new and complex phenomena. However, the main problem today is description, it is not explanation; it means, the discovery and the observation of a wider range of new social phenomena. The amount of success we can get in this enterprise may decide if social psychology turns into a major science or not.

Keywords: social psychology, social constructivism, explanation.

Processes of political socialization and social thinking construction in children and youth: the route of socio-cognition

J. Octavio Nateras Domínguez

This paper is associated to a research program which main purpose is to examine the ways and mechanisms of political socialization experienced by boys, girls and young teenagers. The scholar and theoretical concern around this field of work departs from social psychology, but mostly, from political psychology. The article also points out the importance of recognizing those aspects of sociocognitive order, and the obstacles to be overcome within the spheres of family, school and mass media. All of them related to the processes of political socialization from a psychosocial perspective.

Keywords: political socialization, sociocognition, moral development, social thinking, children, youth.

Socio-demographic, professional and attitudinal profiles among elementary school teachers

José Luis Torres Franco

This paper summarizes the results of a survey applied to female teachers working in public elementary schools located in the town of Iztapalapa in Mexico City. The main purpose of the survey was to define their socio-demographic, professional and attitudinal perspectives towards the teaching labor. The survey shows the predominance of school teachers older than 35 years, living with regular partners and children. Most of them do not participate in the programs of Civil Service. It means that they do not attend to the courses of specialization designed by the Department of Public Education to improve their professional skills. At the same time, the survey shows the evidence of a high polarization existing around stereotypes related to social images of school teachers.

Keywords: women and labor, professional identity, school teaching.

Theories of international cooperation in international relations

Claudia G. Jiménez González

Based on the idea that we live in a world that is more interdependent day by day, and consequently, more complex and asymmetrical, the main objective of this essay is to reveal the intricate yet fascinating setting of international cooperation and the way in which it has transformed the idea of cooperation according to the changing international scenario, until reaching the current theories which allow us to analyze the problem between cooperating and not cooperating and their respective consequences. Following a historical and conceptual sequence, this paper analyses the theme within the parameters of three important paradigms: realism, idealism and marxism to later offer an explanation of contemporary theories that have specialized in international cooperation. This essay attempts to emphasize the validity of these different trends of political thought nowadays.

Keywords: international relations, theories of cooperation.

The rise and fall of Quebec's movement for sovereignty

Gustavo Ernesto Emmerich

The Quebec movement for sovereignty has lost momentum. The aspiration of the predominantly Francophone Canadian province of

Quebec for sovereignty reached its zenith in the first half of the 90's and later on started to decline. In the 2003 elections, the sovereignist *Parti Québécois*, in hold of the provincial government since 1994, was defeated by the Liberal Party of Quebec. The latter sustains a federalist posture, which means to develop a better relationship with the Canadian federation. In the province of Quebec, demographic transformations, economic uncertainty caused by its possible separation of Canada, and citizens' fatigue generated by constant political turmoil around sovereignty, are the rationale for the (relative) loss of support for sovereignty. In addition, in the rest of Canada, the reception and understanding for the sovereignist cause –prevalent in previous years– has diminished to a great extent. Except from unpredictable events, it seems that Quebec will continue to be part and parcel of the Canadian federation, not by imposition of the latter, but because of insufficient popular support for sovereignty inside Quebec itself.

Keywords: Canada, Quebec, sovereignist movement, politics, *Parti Québécois*.

***Summa potestas.* Modern status and the crisis of political power**

Antonella Attili

This article analyses the concept of 'sovereignty', which expresses the historic and philosophical point of view of the juridical status as well as the political condition of the modern State, which is in crisis nowadays. The first part of the article examines how the concept of sovereignty makes political power supreme –*superiorem non recognoscens*– autonomous and independent. It also proposes an analysis of the diverse elements that contributed to the establishment of the sovereign juridical status of political power, understood as the process of affirmation of the State and of the secularization of the theological concept of the supreme power. The second part analyzes the factors surrounding the effective practice of sovereignty that have produced its state of crisis, such as the socialization of the State, liberal-democratic pluralism, the consolidation of the Rule of Law as well as democratic progress. These processes imply a transformation within the political life of the Twentieth century, the effective practice of popular sovereignty, as well as a modification of its ends, reach, exercise, foundation and structure.

Keywords: *Nation-State*, sovereignty, political theory, power, political philosophy, Modernity.

Rawls and the hardships of contemporary political philosophy

Luis Salazar Carrión

This paper examines some of the transformations of John Rawls' political philosophy. Taking as a starting point the book *La política del consenso: una lectura del "Liberalismo político" de John Rawls*, written by Jesús Rodríguez. This work proposes a critical consideration of Rawls' theoretical evolution, attempting to show the weaknesses of the so-called "second Rawls" as well as its politically regressive consequences concerning cosmopolitan and enlightened positions held in *A Theory of Justice*. In this sense, This paper criticizes the notion of "overlapping consensus" as the normative foundation of modern democracies as well as the notion of "political liberalism" which should be called "social or egalitarian liberalism". Finally, the ideas of Norberto Bobbio and Luigi Ferrajoli on human rights are presented as an alternative to the theoretical dead ends of a purely normative political philosophy such as the one defended by John Rawls.

Keywords: John Rawls, political liberalism, theories of justice.

Álvaro Obregón, the Last *Caudillo*

Pedro Castro

Álvaro Obregón was one of the main leaders in the Mexican Revolution, a position that was kept for more than a decade. He was a man of various facets and has been regarded as the last *Caudillo* of Mexico such as Antonio López de Santa Anna and Porfirio Díaz. This essay examines the activities of Obregón as a *Caudillo* during the precedent phase to his arrival at the Presidency of Mexico in 1920. For this purpose, concepts of political sociology and political science were utilized and historical elements were included, which turned out to be very beneficial in order to have the complete image of his life as a public man. Also, this article gives a glance of the ideology of the *Caudillo* through his most notable speeches at the time of his presidential campaign by rescuing some concepts that were part of his government plans. His arrival to the Presidency was preceded by his political strength in his role of *Caudillo* that he maintained in the subsequent years and made him the supreme arbiter above groups and leaders.

Keywords: Álvaro Obregón, *Caudillo*, presidential campaign, Venustiano Carranza, Mexico.