

Abstracts

The Narrative Form of Collective Memory

Jorge Mendoza García

The memory has a narrative structure. Their contents and manners show it. By recapturing the positions of founders' of the perspective of the collective memory (Halbwachs, Blondel, Bartlett and Vygotsky), and by meditating from the postulates of Bruner, the present work argues that the memory, even the one denominated singular, is built for example on the base of narrations you/they do constitute the forms of speeches and ways of organizing experiences, the passings which are culturally endowed with meaning, and what to be intelligible to the person, group, society or collective to the one who you/they are presented to express it in logical stories that show the verisimilitude of what is remembering or relating. Certainly, in the daily life we find a quantity of narrations about the collective experiences, we find "narrators of histories", and like it happens in the literature it only is not worthy what is counted but how it is counted. As well as there are conventions of ideas about the reality, for the narratives: there are also narrative models that make more realistic a narration to exist than another. Such narrations endow from sense to the world.

Keywords: Collective memory, narrative, story, meaning, sense, social frames, outlines.

Hannah Arendt: A Political Reading

Claudia Galindo

Hannah Arendt was one of the foremost political thinkers of the late twentieth century. This article examines her principal studies on political action and judgment, in order to find elements that allow to reshape a new idea of citizenship. One must consider Arendt's thought is one of the most effective nowadays, and it should be recovered by specialists towards developing new concepts to explain the political life from the Western thought.

Key words: Hannah Arendt, politics, public space, action, republicanism, judgement.

Dialogue in the Republic

Javier Gallardo

This paper addresses the issue of deliberative democracy under the perspective of the republican political tradition. After doing a brief presentation of the adversarial / competitive model of democracy and by pointing out some of their most critical aspects, the text discusses the propositions which defend a deliberative politics, by asking in particular, those postures prone to associate public deliberation with consent or with rational agreement. As being an option to both competitive democracy and the consenting versions of deliberative politics. We present a variant of republican argumentation that intends to honour to the conflict and political cooperation, to the peculiarities of political life and to the values of democratic dissent. It implies a position —more political than a philosophical one— in favour of a republican debate strengthening the powers of politics, founded upon rules of public justification and of dialogue reciprocity, open up to any theme and to the most diverse democratic voices.

Keywords: Republican thought, political dialogue, deliberative democracy.

Much Ado about Nothing. Partisan Organizations and Internal Democracy in Latin America

Flavia Freidenberg

Political parties in Latin America are oligarchic organisms, with low levels of internal democracy, which have harmed their public image. With a view to improving the links between citizens and parties throughout the 1990s, several reforms were passed aiming at increasing levels of inclusion and transparency in intra-party procedures. This paper develops a definition of *internal democracy* and explores in normative and empirical terms the behaviour of political parties in Latin America with regard to several dimensions that are key to this concept, namely, the selection of candidates and the definition of positions of authority. The study offers an analytical framework for a comparative analysis of 16 national cases and over 50 parties in the region. It also draws attention to the advantages and disadvantages and general impact of holding open internal elections, one of the mechanisms most used, on the workings of political parties.

Key words: candidate selection, political parties, internal democracy, Latin America.

Politics in Canada during the Chrétien Administration and its Aftermath (1993-2004)

Gustavo Ernesto Emmerich

This article provides an overview of Jean Chrétien's ten years as Canada's premier minister (1993-2003), outlines the circumstances conducing to its departure, and evaluates the perspectives under Paul Martin's new government. It describes the Canadian political system, including its main political institutions and parties; analyzes the 1993, 1997, and 2000 electoral processes, and their impacts on the party system; examines the main policies implemented by Chrétien and the terms of the political debate at the end of its tenure; gives a background on Martin's arriving to power; and weighs the political and electoral perspectives at the beginning of 2004.

Key words: Canada, politics, Jean Chrétien, political parties, elections.

Unconventional Political Participation Protesting Cultures vs. Institutional Cultures

Carlos César Contreras-Ibáñez, Fredi Everardo Correa
Romero y Luis Felipe García y Barragán

The present study concentrates its attention in the interpretative effort of the different logics for participation, both conventionally and non-conventionally, in the frame of one specific political event (the plebiscite occurred in September of 2002 in Mexico City), which allows contrasting some analytical lines about those identities implied. Our results, grounded on survey research, point to the existence of two symbolic spaces separate for its position regarding the law: In one hand, the logic of lawful protest, but at the same time superposing it, the extra-legal action, without overriding the first. The "dual" actor here implied seems to be not incorporated to theoretical accounts for political participation, which usually conceptualizes both types of participation as extremes in only one continuum. With this identity analysis we try to describe those elements behind the new citizen, who seem able to jump from one conventional expression to another that confront authority, and back, with which we ask for new questions about the future of our political processes.

Keywords: Political participation, political culture, social identity, protests and demonstrations, political actors.

The Neoliberal Model and Grain Producers in Mexico

Cristina Steffen Riedemann y Flavia Echánove Huacuja

This article seeks to analyze that the small agricultural producers need to organize in order to face the challenge of producing and marketing of their grains. The Mexican *ejidatarios* promoted organization since long time ago. This work describes the experience of some *ejidatarios* who produce for the market of grains, in order to know the evolution of organizations and the future of this particular type of organization which has been damaged due to the open market and the reduction of subsidies.

Keywords: peasants, *ejidatarios*, production organization, grains, comparative advantages, free market, public policies.

Agents and Structures: Two Views of Preferences, Two Views of Institutions

William Roberts Clark

Two analytically distinct approaches to the study of domestic politics have been referred to as the *new institutionalism*. The fundamental difference between the two brands of institutionalism can be seen in the way they handle the relationship between *agents* and *structures*. *Structure-based* approaches to institutions give ontological primacy to structures and view agents as being constituted by them. *Agency-centered* approaches view human agents as ontologically primitive and view institution as structures that are create by goal-maximizing individuals. The two approaches are compared, with special attention given to the way they treat the preferences that actors hold. I argue that contrary to arguments made by many structure-based theorists, the agency-centered approach is capable of contributing to discussions regarding the sources of actor preferences. A limited-information model of the strategic interaction between workers and capitalists is used to demonstrate ways in which the agency-centered approach can begin to make preferences endogenous.

Keywords: new institutionalism, rational choice theory, structuralism, social agencies, public policies.