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An approach to the political thought of Michel Foucault

Hernán Fair

Michel Foucault's thought has exerted a noticeable influence on various social and humanistic sciences disciplines. This essay does an insight of the main theoretical guidelines that define Foucault's political approach. Particularly, it analyzes his main theoretical and practical contributions to present philosophical and sociopolitical thought. To this end, it places the axis, in a first stage, on its epistemological differences with the more orthodox Marxist approach. Secondly, it reviews his main theoretical and methodological contributions to the analysis of the sociopolitical reality, incorporating, in its final part, some of his main theoretical guidelines to account its application in contemporary social praxis.

Key words: Foucault, policy, critical analysis, genealogical analysis, theory, praxis.

Social psychology's wonderings in Mexico: history, origins, memories

Jahir Navalles Gómez

The best way to know a discipline is through its history, surely immersed of intentions and disagreements, institutional references and select forgetfulness, interrupted stories and rumors about a concept's academic life. Social psychology is not an exception. Specifically in Mexico, the history, development, origin, consequences, precursors and founding fathers of this discipline, as the knowledgeable references about its classroom presence, state- above doubt- the fact that what we know about it *is what it is*, since it exists by means of positive records, be they documental, bibliographic, news archives or photo-

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graphic. However, this can always be doubted, and such is this essays intention.

Key words: social psychology, history, forgetfulness, memories.

Mass media and the social memory reproduction

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Through the greater technological capabilities and social positioning which collective mass media have historically conquered they have become the main daily institutions of social memory formation. Through its intense sense and subjectivity creation labor they have substituted the long and deep historical memory with the quick media memory, particularly in the urban setting. Thus, they transform the collective social memory and produce a day by day communitarian oblivion that contributes to the pre-existing power structures reproduction.

Key words: collective memory, mediation, social oblivion, mass media, public space.

Internal cohesion with the absence of a unifying leader in the PRI

Luis Antonio González Tule

PRI legislators in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies have distinguished themselves by maintaining high levels of party discipline. With the 2000 presidential loss, which meant loss of their appointed leader, the rupture among factions has been evidenced. However, up to what point has the lack of a unifying leader affected the internal cohesion of the legislative group? Through roll-call data analysis this article measures cohesion amongst the PRI's deputies during three legislative periods (1997-2000, 2000-2003 and 2003-2006), in order to determine legislative voting behavior. This paper's main argument suggests that albeit the presence of internal conflicts and lack of a common leadership, the PRI maintains relatively high levels of cohesion due to the conservation of a large portion of the internal organization that maintained them in power for seven decades.

Key words: legislative behavior, party cohesion, Mexican Chamber of Deputies, Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).