

PROGRAM

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Dear Colleagues:

The International Sociological Association Research Committee on Futures Research (ISARC07) invites to a wide range of exciting sessions at the V ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, Morocco 6-11 July 2025 on the theme “Futures of the Anthropocene”.

The program brings into dialog scholars from dozens of countries of all continents and world regions. It tackles pertinent challenges of our time from climate change and environmental destruction to artificial intelligence and robotics, geopolitical conflict and war, aging and health, among others, by drawing from diverse theoretical, empirical, and practical approaches, including interdisciplinary collaboration. The joint efforts of forward-oriented sociology do not stop at describing past and current trends, but go further to explore the underlying patterns, preconditions, and possibilities for transformation.

As discussed in the Call for Papers, the concept of the Anthropocene highlights human impact on planet Earth, such as global climate change and the world-wide diffusion of micro-plastics or radio-active isotopes. Yet, on the other hand, the concept’s implied reference to humanity as collective subject obscures that only certain modes of production cause the bulk of this impact, and that social segments vary hugely in their contribution to this impact and in how they suffer its consequences. Concepts such as Capitalocene have been suggested as alternatives, which inspired further comparisons across varieties of market- and state-capitalism and across civilizational ways of relating to the world. The focus theme interrogates how such futures are being anticipated, imagined, rejected, revised, validated, propagated, implemented, or avoided. By whom? For whom? Under what assumptions? Within what paradigms? With what implications? What are the roadmaps for social transformation? How can future-oriented social research relate to broader public debates?

Preparations for the Forum have been going well thanks to the extraordinary work of Allison Loconto, Geoffrey Pleyers, and the Program Committee, Abdelfattah Ezzin and the Local Organizing Committee in Morocco and Cecilia Delgado-Molina and her team at the Executive Secretariat, including Nataly Moreno, Lola Busuttil, Anna-Maria Kutateladze, and Zouhair El Harain, and Jennifer Stirling at Confex. Special thanks go to the several dozen session organizers who contributed tremendous inspiration and were never shy of crossing the boundaries of different fields. Last but not least, many thanks to the over two hundred authors from 45 countries who proposed an extraordinary rich range of papers on some of the most pertinent topics of our time. Only collectively can we hope to tackle the challenges of the future.

Looking forward to an exciting Forum in Rabat,
with best regards,

Markus S. Schulz, PhD
President, ISA-RC07

Sessions Program

Sessions are listed in chronological order. Please note that the numbering therefore differs from the listing in the initial Call for Papers. Please refer to the section on Practical Information at the end for details such as presentation formats, travel logistics, and visa. For questions related to this program, contact: isarc07@gmail.com. For questions related to a particular session, contact the Session Organizer(s) and/or Session Chair(s).

Program Coordinators: Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE and Markus S. SCHULZ

Program Committee: ISARC07 Executive Board

Monday, 7 July 2025: 09:00 - 10:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

1. Polycrisis: The New Geopolitical Dynamics

Session Organizer

Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE, University of California Santa Barbara

Papers

The Capitalist Rise of China Has Strengthened US Hegemony: Understanding Dependent Integration in Contemporary Geopolitical Dynamics.

Sean Kenji STARRS, King's College London, UK

Access/Access Denial: Critical Mineral Strategies amid Polycrisis.

Nicholas JEPSON, University of Manchester, UK

Recasting Inter-Korean Relations Under 'the Nuclear Crisis': Two Koreas in between the Geopolitical Rivalry of USA & China.

Il Joon CHUNG, Korea University, South Korea

Strife-Torn World: Towards a Sociological Explanation.

Rajesh MISRA, University of Lucknow, India

Globalization: Everything, Everywhere, All the Time

Jan NEDEERVEEN PIETERSE, University of California Santa Barbara

Monday, 7 July 2025: 11:00 - 12:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

2. Futures Research Special Session

Details to be announced in subsequent newsletter or members communication.

Monday, 7 July 2025: 13:00 - 14:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

3. The Future of Work: Challenges and Inclusive Solutions

Session Organizers:

Isabel da COSTA, IDHES, ENS Paris-Saclay, CNRS, France

Hana FOUGHALI, Université Paris Cité, France

Chairs:

Isabel da COSTA, IDHES, ENS Paris-Saclay, CNRS, France

Hana FOUGHALI, Université Paris Cité, France

Papers

An Exploration of What Paid Work Means to Women over the Life Course from the Perspective of Older Women Who Work in Low-Paid Customer Service Jobs.

Eibhlís MOORE, University of Melbourne, Australia

De l'Excès Émotionnel Au Contrôle De Soi. Quelle Mise En Scène De La Masculinité Dans La Formation Des Traders Professionnels ?

Steven THERRIEN, Université de Montréal, Canada

Maternité Et Travail : L'Égalité Entre Les Sexes Au Travail Suffit-Elle Pour La Subjectivation Des Mères Par Le Travail ?

Yilmaz AYÇA, Turkish-German University

Beyond the Glass Ceiling: Exploring Persistent Gender Inequalities in Leadership across Cultural and National Contexts, with a Focus on the French Example

Hana FOUGHALI, Université Paris Cité, France

Balancing Individuality and Global Citizenship in Philippine Tourism Centers

Allerine ISLES, Asian Social Institute, Philippines

Monday, 7 July 2025: 13:00 - 14:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

4. Dignified Aging in the Digital Age? (Part I)

Joint Session WG10 RC03 RC06 RC07 RC11 TG03

WG10 Digital Sociology (host committee)

RC03 Community Research

RC06 Family Research

RC07 Futures Research

RC11 Sociology of Aging

TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice

Session Organizer

Ana VUKOVIC, Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

Jelica STEFANOVIC STAMBUK, University of Belgrade Faculty of Political Sciences, Serbia

Chair

Ana VUKOVIC, Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

Papers

Interplay between Law and Virtualization of Modern Society in Relation to Population Ageing

Maja LUKIC RADOVIC, University of Belgrade, Serbia

The Digital Revolution: A Threat or a Blessing for Older Peoples' Access to the Law (from Inclusion to Exclusion)

Barbé VANESSA, UPHF, France

Stephanie MAUCLAIR, Faculté de Droit Economie Gestion Orleans, France

Home As Assemblage: A More Just Approach to Technology-Enabled Ageing in Place?

Ruhamah THEJUS, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom

Technostress As an Obstacle to Dignified Aging in the Digital Age

Galit NIMROD, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Technostress and Coping Strategies of Older Academics: Findings of Scoping Review

Jolanta PIVORIENE, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

Sylwia PRZYTUŁA, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Poland

Funda ERGÜLEÇ, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey

Silvana CRIVOI, University of Bucharest, Romania

Cristina Maria TOFAN, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania

Older People's Perception of the Use of Personal Data by Private Health Services.

Ana RIVOIR, Universidad de la República de Uruguay, Uruguay

Maria Julia MORALES, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Monday, 7 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES003

5. Disaster Socialism?

Joint Session RC02 RC07

RC02 Economy and Society

RC07 Futures Research

Session Organizer/Chair

William K. CARROLL

Papers

Ecosocialist Transformation: Between Socialist Ecomodernism and Degrowth

Nicolas GRAHAM, University of British Columbia, Canada

An Ecosocialist Labour Form

Ariel SALLEH, University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

The Halting Movements for Disaster Socialism from Above and below: US Disaster Politics in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries.

Tyler SCHUENEMANN, Keene State College, USA

Futures Found and Lost? Revisiting Post-Work Imaginaries in an Era of 'polycrisis'

Kevin GILLAN, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Monday, 7 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

6. Dignified Aging in the Digital Age? (Part II)

Joint Session WG10 RC06 RC11 RC07 RC03 TG03

WG10 Digital Sociology (host committee)

RC06 Family Research

RC11 Sociology of Aging
RC07 Futures Research
RC03 Community Research
TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice

Session Organizer

Jelica STEFANOVIC STAMBUK, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Ana VUKOVIC, Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

Chair

Jelica STEFANOVIC STAMBUK, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Papers

Digital (Il)Literacy and (Un)Dignified Ageing in Contemporary Europe: Comparing Statistical Data for Serbia, BiH, and Montenegro

Ana VUKOVIC, Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

The “Grey Digital Divide”: A Longitudinal Analysis of ICT Attitudes Among Italian Older Adults

Claudio MELCHIOR, University of Udine, Italy

Challenges of Implementing Digital Technologies in Long-Term Elderly Care: The Case of Russia

Olga BORODKINA, St Petersburg University, Russian Federation

Konstantin MISHENICHEV, InDrive, Kazakhstan

A Systematic Review on the Role of Digital Technology in Accessing Healthcare Services and Its Association with the Well-Being of Older Adults

Sarika RAI, International Institute for Population Sciences, India

Transnational Care, Digital Literacy and Ageing in Emigration Areas: Eastern Serbia Case Study

Jelena DESPIC, Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

Sanja CUKUT KRILIĆ, ZRC SAZU, Slovenia

‘Someone Makes Videos and Gets the Money for It’ - Agency of Older Tiktokers in Digital Capitalism

Edit PAULÓ, ELTE Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary

Regina GRADWOHL, ELTE Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary

Monday, 7 July 2025: 19:00 - 20:30

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

Author Meets Critics Special Session on New Publications:

7. Communicating Change, Digital Futures, Decolonize, Ecocide—New Books on Futures Research

Book Presentations

Digital Futures between Domination and Participation (2025): **Isabel da COSTA, Stefan LÜCKING, Attila MÁRTON, Cong PENG, Markus S. SCHULZ, Tin-Yuet TING, and Rima ŽILINSKAITĖ.**

Communicating Change: Civic Innovation and Social Movements (2025): **Marine GAUSS, Magdalena KAROLAK, Doo Hyeong LEE, Amy MOWLE, Paola REBUGHINI, Lidia LO SCHIAVO, Markus S. SCHULZ, and Ligia TAVERA FENOLLOSA.**

Comunicar el cambio: Innovación cívica y movimientos sociales (2025): Spanish Edition.

DeColonize EcoModernism (2025): **Ariel SALLEH.**

Refusing Ecocide: From Fossil Capitalism to a Liveable World (2024): **William K. CARROLL.**

Academic Non-Fiction: Crafting to Publishing (2025): **Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY.**

Tuesday, 8 July 2025: 09:00 - 10:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES003

8. Futures of the Anthropocene: Interrogating Anticipation

Joint Session RC07 RC16

RC07 Futures Research

RC16 Social Theory

Session Organizer/Chair

Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE, University of California Santa Barbara, USA

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Papers

Nature's Revenge? a Third Nature in the Anthropocene.

Jörn AHRENS, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Anticipating Late Petro-State Politics amidst Climate Catastrophe.

Anna PALMER, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Towards Future Livespaces: Visions on the Power of AI to Anticipate. **E. ARAUJO and C. URZE**

Artifacts of the Future: Exploring Imagined Futures with Speculative Design Objects

Anne SONNENMOSER, Technische Universität Chemnitz, Germany

Juliane WELZ, Fraunhofer IMW, Germany

Ina BAIER, Fraunhofer IMW, Germany

Crisis and Future in Contemporary Sociological Discourse: Theoretical Approaches, Limitations and Potentialities

Mariana MOTTA VIVIAN, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

An Exploration of the Elementary Forms of Religious Integration and the Futures of the Gynocene

Martha VAN DER BLY, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Navigating Urban Turbulence: Participatory Approaches to Security Futures

Nina PERKOWSKI, University of Hamburg, Germany

Tuesday, 8 July 2025: 11:00 - 12:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES023

9. Prefigurations of the Future and Community-Formation

Joint Session RC07 RC09

Session Organizer/Chair

Eva GERHARZ, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Sebastian GARBE, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Papers

Ubu-Ntu's Power to Shape Futures: A Journey of Praxis and Connection.

Melanie E. BUSH, Adelphi University, USA

N. L. HLABANGANE, University of South Africa

Community Response to State-Created Environmental Crisis: A Transdisciplinary Participatory Action Research on Alternative Development in Rural China.

Hok Bun KU, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

Xi Lan, Guanxi Normal University, China

Co-Designing Futures - Processes and Practices of Thinking-with and Making-with a Multiplicity of Agents

Kai HANNES, KU Leuven, Belgium

Interpreting Community Solidarity in Response to Social Crises: A Case Study of T Community in T City of China

Wenyu LI, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Xiaojian ZHENG, University of Galway, Ireland)

Tuesday, 8 July 2025: 13:00 - 14:45

Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), FSE001

10. Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen-AI) in Social Research and Teaching (Ad-hoc Workshop)

Session Organizer:

Research Committee on Futures Research (ISARC07)

Session Chair:

Jian-Bang DENG

This open ad-hoc workshop is meant to provide an informal space to discuss the rapidly emerging use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen-AI) in social research and teaching. Following brief opening statements on “The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Research and Teaching” and a “Research Report from Latin America,” the workshop’s open discussion will address questions such as: What are the risks and opportunities of these new tools, now and in the next two or three years? Who uses it already, and how? How shall we prepare for potentially disruptive change? By what norms or principles should their use be guided? How can we compare experiences from different institutions and countries? How can we form a transnational network for exchange and systematic study? – Colleagues from across different research committees are planning to participate, including Inga Gaizauskaite (RC33), Michael Grothe-Hammer (RC17), Dirk Michel-Schertges (RC36), Lutfun Nahar Lata (RC21), Markus S. Schulz (RC07), Radhamany Sooryamoorthy (RC23), Ligia Tavera-Fenollosa (RC48), and others.

Tuesday, 8 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

11. Futures of the Anthropocene: Social Movements and Political Imagination (Part II)

Session Organizer/Chair:

Ligia TAVERA FENOLLOSA, FLACSO, Mexico

Chair:

Tania GARCIA RAMOS, University of Puerto Rico

Papers

Addressing the Hyper(In)Visibility of Liberation Sociology

Shaonta' ALLEN, Dartmouth College, USA

Crafting Collective Futures: Exploring the Process of Vision Creation.

Rina UDAGAWA, Chuao University, Japan

Agileocracy: Agile Government for the Future of the Anthropocene.

Jasmina P. NIKOLIC, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Biljana MARKOVIC, Agile Humans LTD, Serbia

Tuesday, 8 July 2025: 17:00 - 18:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005 [venue to be confirmed]

12. Solidarity and Justice in the Anthropocene: Global and Local Perspectives

INTEGRATIVE SESSION RC09 RC02 RC07 RC24

RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

RC02 Economy and Society

RC07 Futures Research

RC24 Environment and Society

Session Organizer/Chair

Ulrike SCHUERKENS, Université Rennes, France

Habibul KHONDKER, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Papers

Climate Justice in the Anthropocene: An African Perspective on Equity and Transition

Hamdy HASSAN ATTALLA, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Bridging the Divide: Tackling Barriers in the Anthropocene for a Healthier, United Future

Kerry ARD, The Ohio State University, USA

Unruliness in the Anthropocene: Subjectivities and Political Possibilities for Change

Andrea NIGHTINGALE, University of Oslo, Norway

Between Extractivism and Green Transformation: Scenarios of Mexico's New Sexennium

Markus S. SCHULZ, FLACSO, Sede Académica de México

Tuesday, 8 July 2025: 19:00 - 20:30

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

13. Recherche Sur Les Futurs: Thèmes Ouverts (Session in French: Futures Research Open Themes)

Chair:

Hana FOUGHALI, Université Paris Cité, France

Papers

Vers Une Transvaluation De La Féminité

Marine GAUSS, PhiléPol, Université Paris Cité, France

Mobilités et Interactions Réelles et Virtuelles : Jeunes du Maghreb et d'Europe

Albino PEREIRA DA CUNHA, ISCSP, Portugal

Le Repas en Pays Nordique de Côte d'Ivoire : Quel Apport de Socialisation et de Moralisation des Sociétés Traditionnelles et des Systèmes d'éducation Moderne

Siata KONE, Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly de Korhogo, Côte D'Ivoire

Adoh BISSE BLANCHE N'GUESSAN, Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly, Côte D'Ivoire

Appauvrissement et Inversion des Rapports de Pouvoir : Une Analyse du Rapport au « Travail de La Terre » et de la « Location du Travail » entre Autochtones et non Autochtones dans le Département de Grand-Lahou

Adoh BISSE BLANCHE N'GUESSAN, Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly, Côte d'Ivoire

Siata KONE, Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly de Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire

Bakrim SANAA, Université Mohammed V de Rabat, Morocco

Futurs Numériques : Transformer la Gestion Migratoire à Travers l'innovation Digitale

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 09:00 - 10:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

14. Discussing Futures of Globalization

Joint Session RC09 RC02 RC07 RC24

RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development (host committee)

Joint Session with RC02 Economy and Society

Joint Session with RC07 Futures Research

Joint Session with RC24 Environment and Society

Session Organizer:

Ulrike SCHUERKENS, Université Rennes, France

Discussant:

Moustapha SEYE, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar-UCAD, Senegal

Papers

Capitalist Models of Development and Social Movements in Latin America

Federico M. ROSSI, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Spain

Investor-State Dispute Settlement: Arbitration Threat as the Backdoor for Neo-Colonial Exploitation of Natural Resources

Adriana M. SZABO, Arizona State University (HAIC), China

Humane Security: Towards Transformative Solidarities in Policy and Practice

Su-ming KHOO, University of Galway, Ireland

Positioning China in a Rapidly Changing World: A Generational Lens

Rachel ZHOU, McMaster University, Canada

Capitalism and COVID-19: Time to Make a Democratic New World Order

Noel CHELLAN, Howard College Campus, South Africa

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 09:00 - 10:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

15. Aspirational Justice: Framing Desirable Futures in Vulnerable Contexts

Session Organizers

Evelyne BAILLERGEAU, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Vieujean OLIVIA, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France

Benedicte ZIMMERMANN, EHESS, Centre Georg Simmel, France

Session Chair

Christian BRÖER, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Papers

Aspirational Justice and the Capability to Aspire for a Better Future Among Migrant Women in France

Evelyne BAILLERGEAU, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Vieujean OLIVIA, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France

Benedicte ZIMMERMANN, EHESS, Centre Georg Simmel, France

Imagined Futures in Rural Contexts: The Role of Space in Shaping Students' Aspirations and Educational Inequalities

Mariona FARRÉ, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Framing Social Policies for Aspirational Justice: A Perspective Oriented Towards the Enhancement of Capability to Aspire and Capability for Voice

Jean-Michel BONVIN, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Max LOVEY, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Crisis Bequests Conflict: A Sociological Analysis of Their Relationship

Anthony WATERS, Institute for Sociology and Cultural Organization, Germany

Volker KIRCHBERG, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 11:00 - 12:45

Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), FSE035

16. Futures of the Anthropocene: Social Movements and Political Imagination (Part I)

Joint Session RC07 RC47 RC48

Session Organizers/Chairs

Camila PONCE LARA, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Papers

Stewardship and the Future in the Anthropocene/Capitalocene

Diana PAPADEMAS, State University of New York/ Old Westbury, USA

Futuring Climate: Imaginations, Emotions and Aspirations

Antje DANIEL, University of Vienna, Austria

Another World Is Possible? Exploring the Use of Alternative Social Imaginaries Amongst Youth-Led Climate Organisations and Young Climate Activists' Discourses in Italy.

Camille ALLARD, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Enzo COLOMBO, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Mirco COSTACURTA, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Strengthening the Transdisciplinary Network of the Amazon (RETA) for Advancing Climate Justice and Democratic Participation.

RETA - Rede TRANSDISCIPLINAR DA AMAZÔNIA, Escola da Cidade, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dionéia FERREIRA, Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

Eduardo STASZOWSKI, The New School/Parsons School of Design, USA

Claudio BUENO, University of California Santa Cruz, USA

Renata ZAMPRONIO, New School for Social Research, Brazil

Generational Change Meets Climate Change

Lauren LANGMAN, Loyola University, USA

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 13:00 – 14:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES024

17. Disinformation and Framing Battles in the New Technomediatic Public Sphere

Joint Session RC07 WG10

Session Organizer

Richard MISKOLCI, Federal University of São Paulo, UNIFESP, Brazil

Papers

Generating Disinformation for Which Reasons? Political, Economic, and Social Consequences in the New Public Sphere

Livia GARCIA-FAROLDI and **Laura TERUEL RODRÍGUEZ**, University of Málaga, Spain

Framing Disputes over Gender in Brazil: Images and Disinformation in the Digital Age

Fernando DE FIGUEIREDO BALIEIRO, Universidade Federal de Catalão, Brazil

Prof. Tulio ROSSI, Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, Brazil

Iara BELELI, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil

Disinformation and Framing Battles in French Immigration Debates on X

Katharina TITTEL, Sciences Po, Paris, France

Knowledge Production and Boundary Setting in Polarised Social Media: Competing

Aleksei TITKOV, University of Manchester, UK

Algorithmic Clientelism: How News Aggregators Favor Corporate Media Outlets While Acting as Agenda Setters—A Case Study on Google News

Katarzyna KOZŁOWSKA, University of Warsaw, Poland

Tomasz DETLAF, University of Warsaw, Poland

Stealth Supremacy: The Reproduction of Structural Inequality through Everyday Digital Practice

Isabelle HIGGINS, University of Cambridge, UK

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 15:00 – 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES003

18. Social Movements and the Future of Democracy in Latin America

Joint Session RC07 RC48

Session Organizer

Ligia TAVERA FENOLLOSA, FLACSO, Mexico

Papers

Mexico: Democracy and Social Mobilization: Movimiento De Regeneración Nacional and the “Marea Rosa”

Rene VALDIVIEZO-SANDOVAL, Ibero-Puebla, Mexico

La construcción de una subjetividad política a la luz de los movimientos sociales: El caso del estallido social chileno

Anne NGUYEN, Universidad Complutense, Spain

Far from Politics: Space and Political Strategies in Popular Neighborhoods in Chile

Nicolás ANGELCOS GUTIÉRREZ, Universidad de Chile/COES, Chile

Valentina Paz ABUFHELE MILAD, Universidad de Chile, Chile

Socio-Centered Democratic Experimentations in the Ontoepistemic Expansion of Politics Experienced in Everyday Life

Adriane FERRARINI VIEIRA, Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil

Challenging Dictatorship Political Socialization: The Transformative Power of Social Movements

Karla HENRIQUEZ OJEDA, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

The Solidarity Economy as a Reconfiguration of Social Movements in a Context of Dismantling

Fabio SANCHEZ, Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Brazil

Sociología y sistemas complejos: El estudio de la agricultura campesina en el emergente contexto de un estado de intervención económica en México

Luis LLANOS HERNÁNDEZ, Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Mexico

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

19. Futures Research: Open Themes / Investigación Sobre Los Futuros: Temas Abiertas / Recherche Sur Les Futurs: Thèmes Ouverts

Session Organizer / Chair

Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY

Papers

Theorizing Economic Imagined Futures from the South: Coloniality, Dependency and Radical Alternatives

Elizabeth Freda SOER, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Germany

Stefan GRUBER, Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy, Germany

A Bright Future, but for Whom? Infrastructural Promises and the Reproduction of Inequality

Birgan GOKMENOGLU, Birmingham City University, United Kingdom

Beyond Visibility: Navigating the Educational Journeys for Students with Albinism in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Rovashni CHETTY, University, South Africa; University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Social Theory on Future: A Case for Hope in Navigating Futurelessness

Piotr STATUCKI, University of Lodz, Poland

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 17:00 - 18:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

20. Futures of the Anthropocene: How Social Movements Fight for Social Justice

INTEGRATIVE SESSION RC07 RC47 RC48

Session Organizers:

Simin FADAE, Research Committee on Social Classes and Social Movements (**RC47**)

Markus S. SCHULZ, Research Committee on Futures Research (**RC07**)

Camilo TAMAYO GOMEZ, Research Committee on Social Movements, Collective Actions and Social Change (**RC48**)

Chair

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Discussant

Benjamin TEJERINA, University of the Basque Country, Spain

Papers

Beyond Fossil Capitalism and Ecological Imperialism.

William K. CARROLL, University of Victoria, Canada

Resistance to Extractivism: Mobilizing for sustainability and social justice.

Ligia TAVERA FENOLLOSA, FLACSO, Mexico

Green Startups as Drivers of Sustainable Change: Entrepreneurial Responses to Environmental and Economic Crises in Chile and Tunisia.

Camila PONCE LARA, Philipps University, Chile

Time to Call the Androcene.

Ariel SALLEH, University of Sydney, Australia

Wednesday, 9 July 2025: 19:00 - 20:30

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

21. Exploring Systematically the Future: How to Capture the Unknown and Uncertain?

Session Organizer

Stefan VÖGELE (Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany)

Simon BRAUNER (Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany)

Hawal SHAMON (Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany)

Papers

How to Capture the Unknown? Lessons from Systematic Forecasting of Future Labour Market Dynamics

Tobias MAIER, Federal Institute for Vocational Education

AI-Assisted Trend Radar and/or Reading between the Lines? Conflicting Methods to Capture the Future.

Norbert HUCHLER, Institute of Social Science Research, ISF Munich, Germany

Judith NEUMER, ISF Munich, Germany

Tobias RITTER, ISF Munich, Germany

Giving Voice to the Future Generations - Bringing Future Generations to the Debate on Green Transformation in Poland through Deliberation Using the Imaginary Future Generations Method.

Marcin MIELEWCZYK, Doctoral School in the Social Sciences at the Jagiellonian University

Is an Individual's Life Pace Adapted to Their Perceptions of the Future?

Alba BOSCH, European University Institute

Thursday, 10 July 2025: 09:00 - 10:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

22. Health Futures in Turbulence

Session Organizer/Chair

Julia ROZANOVA, Yale University, USA

Papers

What Is the Flip Side of This Coin? Investigating the Impact of Automation Risk at Work on Health Outcomes in Germany

Mariia VASIAKINA, Max-Planck-Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

Christian DUDEL, Max Plack Institute for Demographic Research, Germany

Health Disinformation: A Comparative Study during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Brazil and Spain

Richard MISKOLCI, Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Antón CASTROMIL, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

The Future of Pharmaceutical Prices: Successes and Failures of Drug Pricing Reforms

Catherine MOURY, Portugal

Gendered Forms of Intergenerational Solidarity in the COVID-19-Pandemic: A Critical Perspective on a Moral Resource in Future Health Crises

Eva Katharina BOSER, University of Oldenburg, Germany

Niklas ELLERICH-GROPPE, University of Oldenburg, Germany

Pandemic Neoliberalism and Struggles for Vaccine Equity

Sara SCHOONMAKER, University of Redlands, USA

Thursday, 10 July 2025: 11:00 - 12:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

23. Social Futures Research: New Perspectives

Session Organizer / Chair

Julia ROZANOVA, Yale University, USA

Papers

Mathematizing Mechanisms: The Key to a Future of Linking Theory and Empirics, Linking Individual and Society

Guillermina JASSO, Sociology, New York University, New York, USA

Zeitgeist As a Heuristic Device for the Critical Analysis of Futures in the Anthropocene

Edmondo GRASSI, San Raffaele University of Rome, Italy

In Anticipation of (In)Stability? On Potential Stabilizing Factors of Societies in the Future

Georg DIEZI, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

Theorizing on Futures within the War: Expertise from and on Ukraine in Global Dialogue

Natalia OTRISHCHENKO, Center for Urban History of East Central Europe, Ukraine

Cultural Diversity and Artificial Intelligence

Felipe AROCENA, Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay

Chapbooks Against the Machine: (re)Developing Local Community-Based Publishing in the Age of Generative AI

Enric SENABRE HIDALGO, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

Thursday, 10 July 2025: 13:00 - 14:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

24. Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions (Part I)

Joint Session RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10 (Part I)

RC07 Futures Research (host committee)

RC10 Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management

RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

WG10 Digital Sociology

Session Organizer/Chair

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Papers

Combatting Digital Capitalism: The Criminal Strategy behind Big Tech's Social Harm and the Need for Transformative Justice

Aitor JIMENEZ, Basque Country University, VIC, Spain

Platform Politics: Corporate Power, Grassroots Movements and the Sharing Economy

Luke YATES, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Towards Future Livespaces: Visions on the Power of AI to Anticipate

Emilia ARAUJO, University of Minho, Portugal

Cristina URZE, Universidade Nova Lisboa, Portugal

Israel's AI Powered Weaponry: A Joint Production of Empire

Andy CLARNO, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Asserting "Digital Sovereignty" to Rein in Platform Power? European Regulatory Instruments and Their Limitations

Benjamin LOVELUCK, Université Paris Panthéon, France

Clément LE LUDEC, Université Paris Panthéon, France

Imagining Beyond the Artificial Intelligentsia

Ruha BENJAMIN, Princeton University, USA

Thursday, 10 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

25. Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions (Part II)

Joint Session RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10 (Part II)

RC07 Futures Research (host committee)

RC10 Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management

RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

WG10 Digital Sociology

Session Organizer

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Chair

Tin-Yuet TING, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

Papers

Ecologies of Friction in Digital Platform Investment

Mikko LAAMANEN, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Karolina MIKOLAJEWSKA-ZAJAC, University of Queensland, QLD, Australia

Mapping Platform Cooperatives: Identities, Dimensions and Challenges

Stefano TORTORICI, Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy

Edtech Companies and the Digitalization of Education in Chile: The Growth and

Consolidation of Technosolutionism in the Global South

Cristóbal VILLALOBOS, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Is Users Rating Becoming Overpowering? The Risks of Inappropriate use of Digital Feedback

Daniele ARCHIBUGI, Italian National Research Council, Irpps, Italy

Natalia TOSONI, University of Bologna, Italy

‘Digital Good’ and Vulnerable People’s Digital Inclusion: Key Findings from Testing a Social Lab Framework.

Panayiota TSATSOU, Birmingham City University, UK

Gianfranco POLIZZI, University of Liverpool, UK

Magdalena BRZESKA, DeMontfort University, UK

Thursday, 10 July 2025: 19:00 - 20:30

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES013

26. RC07 Business Meeting

Convened by the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Futures Research (ISARC07)

Friday, 11 July 2025: 09:00 - 10:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

27. Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions (Part III)

Joint Session RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10 (Part III)

RC07 Futures Research (host committee)

RC10 Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management

RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

WG10 Digital Sociology

Session Organizer

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Chair

Ruha BENJAMIN, Princeton University, USA

Papers

Prognostic Cultures in the Digital Age: Epistemic and Authoritarian Forms of Governing the Future

Uwe VORMBUSCH, FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany

Remaking European Futures through Digital Innovation Politics

Ine VAN HOYWEGHEN, KU Leuven, Belgium

Gert VERSCHRAEGEN, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Artificial Intelligence, an Intricate Part of the 4th Industrial Revolution: Motifs and Implications for Human Development?

Mokong Simon MAPADIMENG, University of South Africa, South Africa

Imagining Regulation of AI: Comparing Czech and Portuguese Media Representations with Cads

Tibor VOCÁSEK, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal; Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

Raquel AMARO, FCSH NOVA, Portugal; CLUNL NOVA Lisbon, Portugal

Disconnection: A New Trend in Sociology of Resistance

Olivier SERVAIS, University of Louvain, Belgium

Digital Public Sphere and Women's Rights in Turkey: The Dynamics of Feminist Activism and Opposition

Glenn MUSCHERT, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Duygu ÖZSOY, Mersin University, Turkey

Ahmet TAYLAN, Mersin University, Turkey

Friday, 11 July 2025: 11:00 - 12:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

28. Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions (Part IV)

Joint Session RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10 (Part IV)

RC07 Futures Research (host committee)

RC10 Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management

RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

WG10 Digital Sociology

Session Organizer

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Chair

Jianbang DENG, Tamkang University, Taiwan

Papers

The Dialectical Taming of AI Futures from below Keywords: AI Futures, Advanced Algorithms, Anticipation and Artificial Intelligence

Thomas ZENKL, University of Graz, Austria

Altering Power Relations in Defining AI Fairness: A Process of Negotiation from the Mammoth Project

Marta GIBIN, University of Bologna, Italy

Meta-Identity and Digital Platforms: The Influence of Algorithmic Decision-Making on Social and Personal Identities

Allan HERISON FERREIRA, Universidade Nova de Lisboa NOVA/FCSH, Portugal

Friday, 11 July 2025: 13:00 - 14:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES005

29. Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions (Part V)

Joint Session RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10 (Part V)

RC07 Futures Research (host committee)

RC10 Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management

RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

WG10 Digital Sociology

Session Organizer

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

Chair

Aitor JIMENEZ, University of the Basque Country

Papers

Playing Catch-up: How Australian Indigenous Broadcasting Services and Their Audiences Are Navigating the Digital Transformation

Susan FORDE, Debbie BARGALLIE, Griffith University, Australia

Heather ANDERSON, Griffith University, Australia

Harry VAN ISSUM, Griffith University, Australia

Troy MESTON, Griffith University, Australia

Foresight Study on Digital Trust in Taiwan for 2040

Po-Jung SHIH, MIC Institute for Information Industry, Taiwan

Jian-Bang DENG, Tamkang University, Taiwan

Digital Odyssey: Navigating Cosmopolitanism amid State Intervention in the Consumption of Chinese Console Players

George Ran ZHAO, Renmin University of China, China

Friday, 11 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES), SJES018

30. Alienation and Futures Research

Joint Session RC36/RC07

RC07 Futures Research

RC36 Alienation Theory and Research (host committee)

Session Organizer

Dirk MICHEL-SCHERTGES, Aarhus University, Denmark

Chair

Andrew BLASKO, IPHS-BAS, Bulgaria

Papers

Alienation and the Sense of Possibility

Dirk MICHEL-SCHERTGES, Aarhus University, Denmark

The War on the Young: Perceptions of Economic Fragility, Alienation, and Wellbeing Among Youth Living in Urban Japan.

Allen KIM, International Christian University, Japan

ABSTRACTS

(in alphabetic order by last name of first author)

Another World Is Possible? Exploring the Use of Alternative Social Imaginaries Amongst Youth-Led Climate Organisations and Young Climate Activists' Discourses in Italy

Camille ALLARD (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy)

Enzo COLOMBO (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy)

Mirco COSTACURTA (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy)

This paper presents the findings from the YECEI research project (Young Entrepreneurs of Creative Environmental Imagery) led jointly by the Universities of Pavia, Milano-Bicocca and Milano Statale. This project explores the youth-led organizational and individual production of fictional and political writings about climate and social imaginaries. Using Castoriadis and Taylor's concepts of social imaginaries (Castoriadis, 1987, 1997; Taylor, 2005), this presentation explores how young climate activists and their organisations formulate different social imaginaries through their discourses on climate change. As noticed by Marlon et al (2019), regarding climate breakdowns and public beliefs, there is a lack of discourses on what may promote hope and fuel activism. Imagination remains crucial to allow activists to envision a model of society beyond the current one (De Maggio, 2023; Herfort et al., 2023). Imaginaries, however, remain tied to specific interests, meaning that they can also enter in conflict with other imaginaries arising from different values (Colombo and Rebughini, forthcoming). This research particularly focuses on eliciting the tensions and conflicts between different types of imaginaries formulated by young people, such as young climate activists and their organisations. - Drawing on a mixed methods approach, combining critical document analysis and interviews, we mobilise Castoriadis and Taylor's concepts of social imaginaries to examine how young climate activists formulate different social imaginaries through their public discourses, how alternative imaginaries are represented in these discourses, what type of values they enact (e.g., justice, care for the world, etc), and whether these discourses can fuel motivation for undertaking political action. Findings rely on the combined analysis of 60-80 public discourses interviews, articles, social media posts, and other types of divulgatory documents produced by 14 Italian-based youth activist movements (such as Friday for Future, Extinction Rebellion, Ultima Generazione, etc), as well as interviews with individual activists and young people (x40-50).

Keywords: Activism, Imaginaries, Voice and Youth

Addressing the Hyper(In)Visibility of Liberation Sociology

Shaonta ALLEN (Dartmouth College, USA)

While liberation, or the process of freeing marginalized individuals and groups from societal oppression and domination, is referenced across many sub-disciplines of sociology, it

surprisingly remains under-conceptualized in sociological literature. To address this hyper(in)visibility, the present study responds to the following query: how, if at all, do Black individuals conceive of a Black liberated future? I draw on data from 65 in-depth interviews with Black Millennials during Black Lives Matter to capture their imaginings of a Black liberated future. Findings reveal that participants construct four types of liberation narratives when detailing their perceptions of a Black free future: 1) Liberation via Reformation, 2) Liberation via Reconstruction, 3) Liberation via Afrocentrism, and 4) Liberation as Inconceivable. I ultimately argue that liberation narratives function as resistant knowledge projects and, as such, are significant socio-political artifacts and resources for future generations of change agents, community organizers, and social movements actors. Altogether, this study demonstrates how rectifying the omission of liberation narratives magnifies our sociological knowledge about marginalized groups and deepens our analytic capacity to make sense of their ontological approaches toward politics of liberation and imaginings of their collective future.

Keywords: Black Sociology, Futures, Liberation Sociology and Resistant Knowledge Projects

Far from Politics: Space and Political Strategies in Popular Neighborhoods in Chile

Nicolás ANGELCOS GUTIÉRREZ (Universidad de Chile)

Valentina Paz ABUFHELE MILAD (Universidad de Chile)

In recent years, Latin America has been the scene of significant urban revolts. In October 2019, Chile witnessed the most important mobilization since the restoration of democracy in 1990. Unlike other national-scale mobilizations, the “social uprising” was not exclusively led by young students. Although most of the protesters were young people with greater cultural capital (González and Le Foulon, 2020), there were significant demonstrations in the urban peripheries (Álvarez-López et al., 2024; Escoffier, 2023). This broad participation of residents from marginalized neighborhoods in the protests, while common in the region, challenged previous knowledge regarding the influence of the “space” in political participation. Previous research suggests that residential segregation and territorial stigma produce fatalistic attitudes that discourage political engagement, weakening democracy (Desmond and Travis, 2018; Rodgers, 2019). - Contrary to this approach, this study shows that the spatial marginalization of popular sectors, while creating obstacles to participation, does not lead to depoliticization. Based on qualitative research conducted in two popular neighborhoods in Santiago, this research examines three political strategies—institutional, collaborative, and oppositional—through which residents of marginalized neighborhoods seek to address their everyday material hardships, influence national politics, and contest the neighborhood’s reputation in the metropolitan imaginary. Using Bourdieu’s perspective, this study analyzes how these strategies are influenced by the interactions between the social, physical, and symbolic dimensions of space (Wacquant, 2023).

Keywords: Latin America, Political participation, Space and popular neighborhood

Towards Future Livespaces: Visions on the Power of AI to Anticipate

Emilia ARAUJO (University of Minho, Portugal)

Cristina URZE (Universidade Nova Lisboa, Portugal)

Deucalion debuts as a high-performance supercomputer engineered to tackle complex challenges such as numerical modeling, weather forecasting, and logistical optimization. Boasting a processing capacity of 10 million billion calculations per second, Deucalion is set to significantly enhance computational power across academia, industry, and public administration. The high-performance computing narrative is strongly endorsed by scientists and policymakers alike, who emphasize the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in advancing modeling, forecasting, and data-driven computation. - This presentation draws on insights from social studies of science and time studies to critically examine the evolving societal role of AI, particularly its applications in anticipation and prediction. It explores how AI technologies, by enabling new forms of forecasting and anticipation, are reshaping daily social processes and redefining how individuals engage with both human and natural systems. These shifts invite reflection on long-standing questions about how AI is shaping we envision and prepare for future life. - Using key concepts such as promise, future, anticipation, and sociotechnical imaginaries, the presentation explores how these visions are being shaped, how scientists interact with them, and the critical role that social engagement plays in guiding AI's development. It also underscores the importance of debating a "technically and scientifically" driven Anthropocene approach, with an emphasis on how AI is deeply reconfiguring structural models and taken-for-granted expectations about time and temporality across multiple dimensions of social life, from social. - The analysis draws on data from an ongoing research project. This includes netnographic analysis of media sources, semi-structured interviews with AI experts in decision-making roles, and focus groups with citizens discussing the future life landscapes envisioned by AI technologies, particularly in domains in relation to the way people relate to the future (ever more *known* and *anticipated*).

Keywords: AI, Anticipation, Experts and Prevision

Is Users Rating Becoming Overpowering? The Risks of Inappropriate Digital Feedback

Daniele ARCHIBUGI (Italian National Research Council, Irpps, Italy)

Natalia TOSONI (University of Bologna, Italy)

Digital technologies have made it easy to generate feedback on the performance of products and services. They have contributed significantly to reducing the information asymmetries between producers and consumers, between suppliers of public goods and users, and between politicians and citizens. It seems that Web 2.0 has enhanced the effectiveness of the "voice" evoked by Albert Hirschman in the 1970s. Is there a risk that the feedback provided and the connected rating may become too invasive, so much as to constitute a threat to the confidentiality of individual data? We distinguish between three types of feedback: 1) bottom-up feedback, occurring when many individuals evaluate and comment on the performance of organizations; 2) the transversal one, which happens when a series of individuals exchange comments, appreciations and reciprocal evaluations; 3) the

top-down one, when organizations assign a rating to individuals. We finally offer some suggestions to moderate the existing risks.

Keywords: Consumers, Digital education, Information asymmetries, Social media

Bridging the Divide: Tackling Barriers in the Anthropocene for a Healthier, United Future **Kerry ARD** (The Ohio State University, USA)

The Anthropocene era, marked by unprecedented environmental and social challenges, calls for a deeper examination of the spatial nature of our divisions. To cultivate collective action across race, religion, and class, we must understand how to dismantle local barriers that hinder unity. Climate change is testing national social safety nets by driving migration, straining community resources, and prompting xenophobia. However, these crises also present political opportunities for social movements to challenge the status quo and mobilize activists in the fight for justice. What types of institutional arrangements and policy regimes best support this unity? - The pandemic highlighted the significance of the social determinants of health (SDOH), as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), including access to quality healthcare, education, employment, and safe environments. Over the following decade, increasing data was collected and policies were legislated to address the SDOH. As a scholarly community, we are not lacking data; we now need to collaborate to determine which community services effectively protect health under institutional stress, which support trust in our institutions, and promote civic solidarity. - We provide an analysis of available global SDOH datasets that policymakers can access and introduce a new methodological technique that helps parse complex systems from the local to the national level. This approach aims to answer the critical question: what can be done to support an equitable and peaceful transition for receiving communities into healthier, more diverse forms of themselves, while avoiding the xenophobia and unrest associated with highly segregated societies?

Keywords: Anthropocene, Health, Justice and Solidarity

Cultural Diversity and Artificial Intelligence

Felipe AROCENA (Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay)

The speed of disruptive technological innovations, such as advanced robotics, genetic engineering, virtual reality or artificial intelligence, together with the accelerating territorial globalization of these technological changes, raise crucial questions about what will happen to cultural diversity. The technological imaginary seems, at first sight, to leave little space in the future for multiple cultures to reproduce and interact with each other. Is it feasible that the transformations of life in society that technological acceleration is generating, coexist with the diversity of cultures? What degrees of freedom are there for cultures that question this acceleration of artificial intelligence to be heard? From the other side, how are diversities made visible by those who develop artificial intelligence? Sheila Jasanoff speaks of three types of traps that we must think about when approaching this problem: the trap of inevitability, the trap of singularity and the trap of speed. The philosopher, a specialist in the history of science and technology, questions these three traps because, she argues: AI is

constructed, not determined and progress is not assured; there are multiple ways of understanding intelligence that AI does not contemplate; and speed is not a sign of the best, but slowness can be a good advisor when it comes to such profound disruptions. This paper will discuss whether or not the advance of AI tends to homogenize the diversity of cultures.

Keywords: AI, Culture and Diversity

Maternité Et Travail: L'Égalité Entre les Sexes au Travail Suffit-Elle Pour la Subjectivation des Mères par le Travail?

Yilmaz AYÇA (Turkish-German University)

Selon les dernières chiffres d'OECD Better Life Index, la Turquie se trouve dans le quatrième rang parmi les derniers concernant l'équilibre vie-travail. Le pourcentage des femmes ayant un emploi rémunéré entre 16-64 âges est de 30% alors que ce chiffre augmente à 65% pour les hommes dans le même échantillon. Ce taux d'activité féminine place une fois de plus la Turquie en quatrième rang parmi les dernières. En plus de cela, le surtravail est une pratique beaucoup plus rencontrée en Turquie par rapport au moyen des pays OECD. Près de 25% des salariés travaillent de très longues heures. - Même si les données sur la vie de travail s'améliorent depuis le début des années 2000, elles restent toujours alarmantes particulièrement quant à l'emploi des femmes et ses conditions de travail. Le changement de la loi de travail en 2003 qui légalisait le travail à temps partiel avait été propagandé par un discours de l'augmentation de taux d'activité féminine après la maternité. Néanmoins il s'est résulté par le surcharge et le déséquilibre entre vie-travail pour les femmes. D'autre part, la question de savoir dans quelle mesure il est émancipateur pour les femmes d'entrer sur le marché du travail rémunéré a toujours d'actualité. - Cette communication problématise particulièrement la subjectivation des mères dans leurs vies au travail. Autrement dit comment est-il possible pour les mères de s'exprimer leurs subjectivités au travail ? En se basant sur une recherche qualitative menée avec 40 femmes, la recherche se concentre sur les expériences vécues au travail des mères en Turquie et leurs imaginations d'avenirs possible pour leurs vies au travail.

Keywords: Maternité, Subjectivation and Travail

Aspirational Justice and the Capability to Aspire for a Better Future Among Migrant Women in France

Evelyne BAILLERGEAU (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Vieujean OLIVIA (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France)

Benedicte ZIMMERMANN (EHESS, Centre Georg Simmel, France)

This paper questions the conditions for aspirational justice – understood as the provision of fair opportunities for people to imagine desirable futures. Drawing on Sen's idea of justice, we make the capability to aspire key for aspirational justice, which requires taking account of the multi-layered environment people live in and the set of resources and constraints resulting from it. In the case of migrant women with precarious and uncertain administrative status, constraints include the need to cope with the accidents of the past and the trickiness of the present - i.e. working in very precarious conditions; dealing with

either limited language or professional skills or with lack of evidence thereof; and yet having to care for their family while navigating their own trajectory. While their daily lives are largely shaped by the constraints imposed by the French Immigration law, migrant women may find support in local initiatives, at the municipal or neighborhood level. We argue that the conditions for aspirational justice depend on the configurations in which public institutions and third sector organisations interact, leading local initiatives to function either as traps or as opportunities for aspirational justice. Our empirical focus is a training programme geared at acquisition of language and prevocational skills in the Paris region. Our research data consist of public policy documents; 25 life story interviews; and semi-structured fieldnotes at a participatory action research project. First, we present our analytical framework of aspirational justice based on Sen's Capability Approach and Appadurai's capacity to aspire. Second, we discuss how the different institutions involved in shaping migrant trajectories interact and the tensions that arise in the case of the training programme under study. Third, we present a selection of women's trajectories to explore the variety of configurations, either favourable or unfavourable to the flourishing of their capability to aspire.

Keywords: Capability to Aspire, Future, Justice and Migrants

Imagining Beyond the Artificial Intelligentsia

Ruha BENJAMIN (Princeton University, USA)

This paper argues that an artificial intelligentsia is dragging us into an archaic future where intelligence is quantified, fixed, and ranked, and smartness is fetishized and codified in digital systems. At every turn, we hear echoes, in the rhetoric of the artificial intelligentsia, of a eugenic calculus: the weak must be sacrificed for the strong to survive. They promise to guide us into the Future™, positioning themselves as Guardians of the Galaxy, even as they help engineer the crises against which we must guard. But it is not enough to refute the legacies of eugenics animating the faux futures of the artificial intelligentsia. Instead, drawing on the work of organizations and initiatives that are "taking back tech" -- from Chicago to Palestine, Mexico to the Congo -- we must inaugurate legacies of solidarity that reflect our intrinsic interdependence as a people and a planet.

Keywords: power, science and technology

Appauvrissement et Inversion des Rapports de Pouvoir: Une Analyse du Rapport au « Travail de la Terre » et de La « Location du Travail » entre Autochtones et non Autochtones dans le Département de Grand-Lahou

Adoh BISSE BLANCHE N'GUESSAN (Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly, Côte d'Ivoire)

Siata KONE (Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly de Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire)

Le secteur agricole en Côte d'Ivoire demeure un pilier majeur de son économie dont les non nationaux ont contribué au rayonnement régional et international. Source d'enrichissement national et individuel, l'on constate cependant, une certaine distance entre les autochtones et les « travail de la terre ». Partant d'études menées dans le département de Grand-Lahou, principalement sur les productrices d'attiéké, un mets très prisé en Côte d'Ivoire et hors du

pays, la communication a pour objectif de montrer comment les populations participent à construire leur propre dépossession et leur appauvrissement à travers la « location du travail » de production et leur rapport de plus en plus distant au « travail de la terre ». L'étude montre, en effet, que dans des rapports de travail où les autochtones cherchent à se positionner comme les « employeurs », les « supérieurs hiérarchiques » des allogènes et des allochtones, il s'opère au fil du temps, une inversion des rapports de pouvoir avec un déplacement des compétences dans le travail de production et dans le processus de commercialisation. Les analyses se basent à la fois sur des données secondaires et sur des données primaires. Ces dernières ont été collectées à partir d'un ensemble d'entretiens menés avec une trentaine de participants sélectionnés par effet boule de neige.

Keywords: Autochtones, Inversion des rapports de pouvoir, Location du travail and Non autochtones

Framing Social Policies for Aspirational Justice: A Perspective Oriented Towards the Enhancement of Capability to Aspire and Capability for Voice

Jean-Michel BONVIN (University of Geneva, Switzerland)

Max LOVEY (University of Geneva, Switzerland)

Social policies are meant to tackle vulnerability processes, but they do not always reach their target. This (partial) failure can be explained by a multiplicity of reasons, e.g. the inadequacy of available resources, inappropriate expectations placed on beneficiaries, etc. This contribution claims that an important reason for explaining the limitations of social policies lies in their inability to take beneficiaries' aspirations and voices seriously, often resulting for the most disadvantaged among them in exclusionary processes or non-take-up of benefits and services. The paper investigates this issue, mobilizing a perspective based on the notions of capability to aspire and capability for voice. - In a first step, the sense of these notions is theoretically explored, based on the receiver-doer-judge framework that proposes a multidimensional notion of vulnerability encompassing material well-being, capacity to act and political participation. In a second step, it identifies what such notions entail for the conception of public action and public services in the field of welfare. This is then confronted with the findings of empirical studies in the field of youth policies, with a view to assessing their impact on their beneficiaries' capability to aspire and capability for voice. A multilevel perspective is used to investigate to what extent there is a gap between vulnerability a) as it is experienced at micro level (a multidimensional and complex fact), b) as it is framed by social policies at macro level (vulnerability as a social problem to be solved, in a normative perspective detailing the expectations that beneficiaries ought to comply with) and c) as it is implemented by public agents (at the crossroad between fact and norm). The contribution offers some concrete suggestions how social policies might more efficiently reach their goals and promote aspirational justice.

Keywords: aspirational justice, capability for voice, capability to aspire and social policies

Challenges of Implementing Digital Technologies in Long-Term Elderly Care: The Case of Russia

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Konstantin MISHENICHEV (InDrive)

One of the key areas of social policy concerning the elderly is the development of a long-term care system. Currently, the elderly population in Russia constitutes 24%. A crucial component of this system is the digitalization of long-term care organizations and the implementation of digital technologies in the care process for elderly people and people with disabilities. A study was conducted using the methods of expert interviews with technological and social entrepreneurs, managers of social agencies as well as survey of social service employees. The research results demonstrate that the elderly care sector is transforming due to the development and implementation of digital technologies. This contributes to the formation of an ecosystem that includes social and technological entrepreneurs, social and medical institutions. The creation of such an ecosystem enables the attraction of investment, which in turn enhances the socio-technological impact of care and rehabilitation. Digital technologies, utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) tools – particularly computer vision and voice assistants – contribute to the processes of deinstitutionalization of medical and social care, rehabilitation, and the prevention of adverse conditions in the elderly. It is noted that the use of such digital technologies requires supervision by professionals in the fields of social work and medicine, as well as the enhancement of the digital capital of certain vulnerable groups and the overall elimination of digital inequality. In turn, the active dissemination of AI practices among employees in care institutions allows them to perform many tasks. However, additional training for social organization staff in the use of digital technologies is required.

Keywords: artificial intelligence (AI), digital technologies, elderly people and social services

Is an Individual's Life Pace Adapted to Their Perceptions of the Future?

Alba BOSCH (European University Institute, Italy)

The passage and pace of time shape human lives. Individuals' behavior is adapted to their temporal horizons and their temporal horizons are adjusted to their expectations about the time they have left to live. Extrinsic mortality rates are believed to influence whether individuals adopt a slower life pace by postponing maturity to acquire knowledge or a faster life pace, characterized by an early transition to parenthood. Exposure to deadly shocks leads to a perceived shortening of life expectancy and shifts in individuals' temporal preferences, resulting in a present-focused mindset, higher impatience and increasing sense of urgency. This paper explores how the 2004 Indonesian tsunami, a large-scale, random mortality shock, altered individuals' perceptions of their futures and accelerated the pace of their transition into adulthood. Specifically, it tests whether the tsunami had an impact in marriage timing, and reduced the age of initiation of parenthood as well as the intervals between births. - Although fertility rates have been observed to rise following natural disasters, the underlying mechanisms remain only partially understood. Using data from the Study of the Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR), a representative longitudinal survey of 28.372 Indonesian individuals living in areas vulnerable to the 2004 tsunami inundation, this study introduces and tests a new explanatory mechanism: the Acceleration Model. This model explores how a post-disaster shortened temporal outlook and heightened sense of urgency influence variation in life pace, reflected in both psychological outcomes -higher

impatience- and behavioral changes – earlier marriages, earlier onset of parenthood and reduced timing between births-. By examining the interplay between perceived life expectancy, temporal horizons and fertility timing, this paper contributes to the understanding of how perceptions of the future influence present behavior.

Keywords: Life expectancy, Mortality shock, Natural Disaster and Temporal Horizons

Gendered Forms of Intergenerational Solidarity in the COVID-19-Pandemic – a Critical Perspective on a Moral Resource in Future Health Crises

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Niklas ELLERICH-GROPPE (University of Oldenburg, Germany)

The COVID-19 pandemic can serve as a blueprint for the potentials and pitfalls of intergenerational solidarity as a moral and political resource in health crises. It provoked controversial debates about the solidaristic responsibilities between generations. However, while many of these appeals to intergenerational solidarity involved at least implicit references to other social categories, such as age and gender, the consequences of such an entanglement of social categories have been rather neglected so far in ethical and social research. -Against this backdrop, we provide an intersectional perspective on intergenerational solidarity in Germany during the COVID-19 pandemic to identify lessons learned for future health crises. After a short clarification of the concepts of generation and solidarity, we provide a critical analysis of the public media debate in Germany. Applying qualitative content analysis of two major German newspapers (DIE ZEIT and Welt am Sonntag) during February 2020 and June 2022, we explore how intergenerational solidarity was framed in the media, especially at the intersection with the social categories of gender and age. On this basis, we carve out a matrix of gendered and queer forms of intergenerational solidarity and respective underlying narratives. Our findings reveal a gendered and heteronormative generational divide that include pertinent gender and age stereotypes during the pandemic: while older women were largely depicted within traditional caregiving roles, queer forms of intergenerational care were marginalized or omitted in media narratives, neglecting their potential as resource in this acute health crisis. We discuss our findings within feminist theories on care, affection, and queer healthcare. Based on this, we draw conclusions how a more diversity-sensitive approach towards intergenerational solidarity can unfold its potential as a moral resource and for policy action in impending health crises, e.g. the post-antibiotic era and the nursing crisis, to develop sustainable healthcare in the future.

Keywords: Care, Covid-19, Future Health Crises and Intergenerational Solidarity

Ubu-Ntu's Power to Shape Futures: A Journey of Praxis and Connection

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Nokuthula Lucinda HLABANGANE (University of South Africa)

Colonialism, while ubiquitous in reach and impact, wasn't a totalising force. Decolonial futures have always been a fact of life for many. Posited as "alternatives", decolonial praxis is juxtaposed with colonial sensibilities that are individualising, fragmenting, rigid, materialist and linear in character; the latter offers a different proposition. - Rooted in

epistemologies of the land, decolonial futures are based on a regenerative ethos. This is evident in languages of indigenous people, and philosophies of *being-be-coming* and world-sense. This paper explores *ubu-ntu* (*the onto-philosophy of the bantu-speaking people of Africa*) as ontology, epistemology and axiology as a heralding and realisation of decolonial futures. - *Ubu-ntu* is the main reason why indigenous people survived the genocidal impulse of coloniality. While *ubu-ntu* is a southern African iteration of a humanising ethos, it shares foundational principles with other land-based philosophies. This paper explores possibilities offered by these epistemologies in relation to contemporary poly-crises. - The authors apply the ethos, philosophies and approaches of *ubu-ntu* epistemology in examination of contemporary social movements. We provide several case studies of formations grounded in what is often described as a “solidarity economy”. Some projects are rooted in decommodifying land and food sovereignty initiatives; others are organized as worker, owner and/or consumer cooperatives, timebanks, land trusts and other community-owned and run initiatives. This global movement is Described by different names this global movement seeks to reclaim ways of living, being and knowing that allowed peoples to survive and thrive historically. - *Ubu-ntu* is a living ethos deeply embedded in the commonsense of those who practice it. What vistas of theorization are possible when we tease out this deeply-embedded ethos of be-ing? How is *ubu-ntu* lived and purveyed in everyday life? To what extent does the solidarity economy movement exemplify *ubu-ntu* in practice and are they a “decolonizing” form of contemporary resistance?

Keywords: Decolonizing, Social Movement, Solidarity Economy and Ubuntu

Beyond Fossil Capitalism and Ecological Imperialism

William K. **CARROLL** (University of Victoria, Canada)

The contemporary poly-crisis has been shaped historically by fossil capitalism as it has globalized via ecological imperialism. In the global North, alternatives to the hegemonic regime have gravitated around Green New Deals and Degrowth. A third alternative, emanating from Indigenous lifeways in the global South, is Buen Vivir – ‘living well’ – which presents a deep critique of imperialism and extractivist capitalism. This paper contends that these movement-driven initiatives need to be braided into a wider transformative project that addresses the relations that reproduce capitalism as a way of life. Eco-socialism provides such a synthesis. It offers a just, viable economic alternative to capitalism, capable of addressing the climate emergency. It provides an alternative hegemonic project capable of unifying a post-capitalist historical bloc. It challenges the geopolitical economy of ecological imperialism and opens toward a world order organized for cooperation, solidarity and peace. These gains stem from three important analytical elements in eco-socialist thought. First, a comprehension of the dialectical relation between *forces and relations of production* as central to socio-ecological transformation. Second, an emphasis on the imperative to replace the anarchy of the market, capital’s governing mechanism, with *democratic planning*. Third, identification of the social forces that can be brought together in a movement of movements to form an *historical bloc* capable of leading the transformation. Our current trajectory is perilous, but there is still time to correct course.

Keywords: capitalism, carbon, extractivism, democratic planning, ecological imperialism

Capitalism and COVID-19: Time to Make a Democratic New World Order

Noel CHELLAN (Howard College Campus)

Using COVID-19 as the primary case study – this paper seeks to contribute to discussions and debates on why and how to transcend the current capitalist system – one that is responsible for so much that is wrong in the world today viz. the critical crises of the natural system and the disastrous environmental consequences such as climate change and deforestation, the widespread inequality – especially in countries like South Africa which is the world's most unequal country. Poverty, unemployment, violence, wars, etc. are also prominent features of the capitalist system. The paper puts forward arguments and suggestions for transforming the current socio-economic capitalist system towards a post-capitalist society – one that should be premised on living in harmony with nature, equality, the common good, happiness, etc. The paper argues for the imagination of the best of all possible worlds that humankind can and should create. Some of the suggestions that the paper considers for transforming towards a post-capitalist society are ensuring that the free market serve people and the planet rather than vice versa. The paper calls for a global environmental movement to reimagine and recreate 'the best of all possible worlds for current and future generations.' A post-capitalist society should ensure the well-being of the planet and people – and not only focus on economic 'well-being' as is currently the case – especially the obsession with GDP. This requires that 'economic science in its current ideological form should be revisited'. Co-operation amongst countries instead of ruthless competition which seems to be the case currently is what is required to solve global problems. The paper also puts forward the idea and motivation for celebrating 14th MARCH of every year as #END CAPITALISM DAY! In the final analysis – the paper argues and predicts that *capitalism too shall pass!*

Keywords: COVID-19, Capitalism, Democratic and Post-Capitalism

Beyond Visibility: Navigating the Educational Journeys for Students with Albinism in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Rovashni CHETTY (University and University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa)

Albinism is an inherited condition affecting individuals across all ethnicities globally, but it is especially prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. Those with oculocutaneous albinism have minimal or no pigment in their hair, skin, and eyes, which results in visual impairments and increased sensitivity to sunlight. Despite medical advancements in understanding albinism, individuals often face significant challenges, including discrimination and stigma in educational environments. This paper reports of the findings of my PhD study which explored the experiences of students with albinism in primary and secondary schools in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Utilising a qualitative, interpretive, phenomenological approach, the study employed semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions to capture the educational journeys of students and explore how they navigate their personal and social worlds within mainstream and special schools, as well as the broader societal implications of their condition. The findings reveal a paradoxical existence for these

students, characterised by being highly visible due to their physical appearance but often rendered socially invisible. Students reported varied educational experiences, with many encountering bullying, name-calling, and emotional abuse from both peers and educators. The existence of myths and stereotypes regarding albinism was also prevalent. In mainstream schools, students tended to exclude themselves from other students to avoid discrimination and stereotypes surrounding their condition. Moreover, teachers in mainstream schools often lack the training to support these students effectively. Most students felt safer in special schools, as these environments were perceived as more accommodating. Mainstream school environments were frequently ill-equipped to accommodate their visual impairments, exacerbating feelings of isolation and academic challenges. The study highlights the need for greater awareness and targeted interventions within educational systems to create inclusive environments for students with albinism. The findings were integrated to inform the development of a multi-sectoral framework to address the challenges that students with albinism face.

Keywords: disability, discrimination, education and students with albinism

Recasting Inter-Korean Relations Under ‘the Nuclear Crisis’: Two Koreas in between the Geopolitical Rivalry of USA & China

Il Joon CHUNG (Korea University, South Korea)

On August 15th of 1945, Korea got liberated from Japanese colonial rule just after the USA dropped two atomic bombs over Japanese islands. In the meantime, Americans drew 38th parallel that divided the Korean peninsula in two parts. After three years of military rule by Russians in northern part and Americans in south, separate regime did emerge in North and South. During the Korean war, American commander MacArthur toyed with the idea that UN forces would need A-bomb to win the battle against Chinese army. Additionally, American president Truman and Eisenhower publicly threatened North Korea and China by releasing the news, potential use of A-bomb. In secrecy, from 1958 till 1991, USA deployed nuclear warheads and delivery systems in South Korea. All through the years, it was North Korea which advocated ‘the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.’ ‘Nuclear Crises’ of Korea have very complex and twisted trajectories.

In this article, we are going to delve into ‘the nuclear issues’ over the Korean peninsula not only from geopolitical security angle but also from geoeconomic development project. To understand the developmental trajectories of the two Koreas, we should take into consideration global rivalry between America and China as well as inter-Korean competition. Unlike some scholars and policy makers in America and South Korea who argue that North Korea developed nukes *contrary to* promoting economic vitality, this article tries to show having nukes is a precondition for the Kim Jung Un regime not only to survive but also to thrive. Geopolitics get entangled with national developments of both Korea in the future as it did in the past.

Keywords: Geopolitics, Nuclear Crisis, SK-NK Relations and nukes and development

Israel’s AI Powered Weaponry: A Joint Production of Empire

Andy CLARNO (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA)

In April 2024, investigative reporter Yuval Abraham exposed the Israeli military's use of an A.I.-powered kill list to eliminate Palestinians suspected of association with the armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. The kill list is generated by an algorithm called "Lavender" which reviews vast amounts of surveillance data and assigns every person in Gaza an individualized risk score of 1 to 100, with higher numbers suggesting an increased probability of belonging to an armed faction. The result is a ranked list that the Israeli military uses to prioritize targets for assassination. In this paper, I argue that the Israeli military bears responsibility for deploying the kill list, but the technology itself is the product of an imperial network of military/carceral forces. - In 2012, the Chicago Police Department rolled out the latest innovation in predictive policing: the Strategic Subjects List (SSL). Designed as part of the CDP's War on Crime, the SSL algorithm analyzed CPD data and produced individualized risk scores on a 500-point scale, with higher scores meant to signal an increased likelihood that the person would become either a shooter or a victim. Police commanders used the SSL to identify people for targeted interventions. Unlike the SSL, Lavender incorporates A.I. technology and is being used for the targeted annihilation of Palestinians. But the SSL clearly helped pave the way for Lavender. So how should we understand the movement from the SSL to the Lavender list? Drawing on research in Palestine/Israel and the United States, this paper traces the flow of data and technology through webs of imperial policing. Advancements in one arena fuel developments in others, generating an expanding spiral of surveillance. In short, Lavender is best understood as a joint production of the Israeli settler colonial state and the U.S. empire state.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Palestine, Policing and War

Futuring Climate: Imaginations, Emotions and Aspirations

Antje DANIEL (University of Vienna, Austria)

Climate anxiety currently dominates the collective constructions and perceptions of the present among numerous youth activists. Greta Thunberg's statement 'I want you to panic' is symbolic of this. Climate anxiety fuels dystopian ideas of a future characterised by deprivation and inequality, creating a planetary imagination that is not worth living in. The question of how liveable the future is characterises the activists of the climate justice movement. Climate anxiety and dystopian ideas are accompanied by feelings such as anger, worry, indignation and hope. It seems as if fearful emotions and imaginaries of the future characterise the perception and actions of activists just as much as hopeful visions of the future. What is the connection between the varying emotions of activists in the climate justice movement and what ideas of a 'good life' or socially just future characterise their attitudes and actions? - Based on mixed-methods research, the presentation analyse the emotions, attitudes and imaginaries of the future of climate justice activism in Austria. While sociological research focuses predominantly on emotions as an affective dimension, this presentation will combine theories on emotions and future sociology to investigate how emotions shape future imaginaries and aspirations. In doing so, the nexus between emotions and imaginations of a climate-just future becomes clear, and how emotions are strategically used to create a specific perception of the present and an imagination of the future.

Keywords: climate justice, future and social movements

Framing Disputes over Gender in Brazil: Images and Disinformation in the Digital Age**Fernando DE FIGUEIREDO BALIEIRO** (Universidade Federal de Catalão, Brazil)**Prof. Tulio ROSSI** (Universidade Federal de Uberlandia, Brazil)**Iara BELELI** (Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil)

At the intersection of Image Sociology and Digital Sociology, this article offers a reflection on the role of audiovisual media in shaping perceptions of reality and its implications in the debate on disinformation. We revisit Goffman's concept of framing to analyze how, in a mediatized and hyper-connected society, images are produced, recovered, and re-signified in political disputes over gender issues, intertwined with other social differences, starting from the 2010s. Through an analysis of YouTube videos produced by political agents, we examine how opposition to gender perspectives is constructed through a media framing that reframes the struggle for sexual and reproductive rights as a threat to families and children. The analysis focuses on understanding the use of videos produced or reworked by these actors, emphasizing their constructive dimension through technical resources such as editing and montage, which create meaning by connecting narrative and visual elements. By studying a specific historical instance of political conflict in Brazil, this article aims to contribute to the understanding of the role of audiovisual media in the political dissemination of disinformation.

Keywords: digital media, disinformation, images and media framing

Transnational Care, Digital Literacy and Ageing in Emigration Areas: Eastern Serbia Case Study**Jelena DESPIC** (Institute of Social Sciences)**Sanja CUKUT KRILIĆ** (ZRC SAZU)

The population of Serbia has a six-decade-long emigration tradition, and eastern Serbia (including Petrovac municipality) belongs to the oldest emigration zone with intensive labor emigration. In the vast majority of municipalities in this area, more than a third of its total population resides abroad, and the majority is low educated. Also, in the last two decades, census data record return migration of the population aged 60+. In addition, available census data on the population of Serbia abroad show that of the total number of dependents aged 60+ in the country whose dependent is abroad, 40% live in Serbia's oldest emigration zone. On the other hand, census data from 2022 show that digital literacy in this part of Serbia is significantly below the average for the entire country. This particularly applies to the population 60+ in rural areas.

Emphasizing the agency of family members in the ways of maintaining close relations between origin and destination, and the social infrastructure of migration, the aim of the paper is to gain deeper insights into the practices of maintaining transnational family relations and care through digital technologies and social apps in the area of high emigration and with a high proportion of the aged population (Petrovac municipality). In addition to the data of official statistics, the paper presents the findings of qualitative research through semi-structured interviews with returnees aged 60+ and their family members, as well as officials in the social protection service in the municipality of Petrovac.

The paper discusses the main challenges and benefits that digital technologies provide to respondents in this regard, as well as the attitude of the municipal services towards the possibilities of providing assistance to elderly (returnee) fellow citizens in overcoming digital challenges in transnational communication.

Keywords: ageing, digital literacy, emigration and transnational families

In Anticipation of (In)Stability? On Potential Stabilising Factors of Societies in the Future

Georg DIEZI (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

In the face of a multitude of global turbulences as well as rapid social and technological change in the current phase of the Anthropocene, late modern societies are arguably entering an era of instability, while anticipations of the future are characterised by even more uncertainty. Three developments are substantially contributing to this situation: (1) a shift of communication into the digital sphere leads to an increase of knowledge conflicts and competing epistemes; (2) democracies are experiencing growing problems in governing the complex crises they are facing while public trust in their institutions and policy makers is declining; (3) anthropogenic climate change and the scarcity of natural resources are making the limits to economic growth and the resource-intensive lifestyle of societies of the global north ever more present. Even though late modern societies are facing a doubtful future, sociological theory has given little attention to the question of which factors could become pillars of societal stability in the future. Building on Berger/Luckmann as well as Hausknost's concept of passive legitimacy, this contribution suggests a social constructivist perspective to better understand current societal instability and to make sense of potential stabilising factors of future societies. By drawing on the history of modernity, it argues that the stability of society depends on: (1) the social construction of a shared 'objective' reality with certain guiding paradigms and narratives (social stability); (2) the capability of policy makers to generate passive legitimacy (political stability); and (3) the shared perception and/or prospect of material prosperity (material stability). Potential factors of future societal (in)stability, such as artificial intelligence, expertise and ideology, are then analysed through the lens of these three stability dimensions. Thereby, this contribution aims to shed light on the plausibility of different scenarios of future societal (re)stabilisation.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, future, social constructivism and stability

Imagined Futures in Rural Contexts: The Role of Space in Shaping Students' Aspirations and Educational Inequalities

Mariona FARRÉ (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

This paper explores the role of space in shaping young people's aspirations in rural Catalonia (Spain) and its consequences for their upper secondary VET choices. It contributes to understand how spatial inequalities intersect with social inequalities to influence the capacity of young people to frame desirable futures.- Transitions to upper secondary education occur within a political context that emphasizes the rising and management of students' aspirations to ensure realistic choices (Hart, 2012), obscuring the role of social background and educational context in shaping these processes (Ball et al., 2000). As

Appadurai (2004) points out, the capacity to aspire is unevenly distributed across different social groups. Scholars like Hart (2012) and Gale and Parker (2018) argue that aspirations are mediated by students' habitus—shaping perceived opportunities—and by conceptions of the most valued educational pathways, which require capacities—conditioned by forms of capital—for their imagination and realization. - Research has increasingly focused on the spatial embeddedness of social inequalities and the importance of place in shaping young people's biographies and identities (Farrugia, 2014). Thus, imagining the academic and professional future often involve thinking about (im)mobility. Mobility extends beyond physical movement (Urry, 2008) and relates to individuals' imagined spatial futures (Rönnlund, 2020), based on their sense of belonging and horizons of action (Hodkinson & Sparkes, 1997). This is especially relevant in Catalonia, where VET provision is unequally distributed and centralized, and vocational education is often devalued, considered a 'second-best' option suitable for disadvantaged students. How students envision their academic futures is strongly influenced by their capacity for spatial reflexivity (Cairns, 2014). Drawing on 40 in-depth interviews with students from a rural area in Catalonia, this paper shows that aspired VET choices, as well as broader academic and professional aspirations, are closely linked to their capacity to imagine their spatial futures, where mobility becomes crucial for transitions.

Keywords: Aspirations, Imagined spatial futures, Social inequalities and Vocational Education and Training choices

Socio-Centered Democratic Experimentations in the Ontoepistemic Expansion of Politics Experienced in Everyday Life

Adriane FERRARINI VIEIRA (Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil)

In Brazil as in other Latin American countries, national specificities aside, periods of so-called progressive governments encourage the use of institutionalized action tactics that incorporate social movements and their political agendas. Despite advances, such tactics have proven incapable of capturing the demands of vast segments of a traditionally excluded population and of empowering participatory institutions. -In this paper, we will reflect on the concept of socio-centered democratic experiments (SDE), which are constructed outside of institutionality, revealing the path of onto-epistemic expansion of the notion of politics that led us to identify them as experiences of radical and substantive democracy in the daily life of community. SDE's encompass a set of emerging and insurgent practices that are autonomously constructed and managed, based on counter-hegemonic epistemes and alternative deliberative formats (Giannella and Ferrarini, 2024). - In addition to a broad bibliographic review of authors from the epistemic South (some from the geographic North) in the political field and democratic experimentalism, the methodology consists of a multiple case study of SDE's in the context of the global South, notably in Latin America, involving nine ESDs in four countries: Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador and Cuba. The identification, categorization and preliminary analysis of the SDE's revealed the existence of three types, with their specificities: contemporary collectives; popular struggles and social movements; and traditional communities. -We conclude that SDE's, by not orbiting around the State, remain invisible or undervalued in their potential for democratic expansion. However, they simultaneously create, restore and reinvent practices and knowledge of a

lived substantive democracy, reveal ways of strengthening local democracy and indicate political powers and public innovations for new participatory cycles.

Keywords: Socio-centric democratic experimentations, global South, politics and substantive democracy

Playing Catch-up: How Australian Indigenous Broadcasting Services and Their Audiences Are Navigating the Digital Transformation

Susan FORDE (Griffith University, Australia)

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Heather ANDERSON (Griffith University, Australia)

Harry VAN ISSUM (Griffith University, Australia)

Troy MESTON (Griffith University, Australia)

The Australian Indigenous broadcasting sector is vast, delivering content to 214 communities in urban, regional and remote areas since 1982. The sector's radio and television services are well-established and highly valued by their communities, especially in remote areas – but the place of Indigenous broadcasting in the lives of communities is shifting as the media landscape transforms. This paper draws on a national study of the Australian Indigenous Broadcasting and Media Program, a major government-funded media initiative. For more than 30 years, this program has supported Indigenous community broadcasting to deliver unique content, providing cultural content, language maintenance, community connection and a forum for the broader political goals of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This national study conducted throughout 2023-2024 found a valued community media sector at a critical juncture – maintenance of radio services and technical support is uneven, leaving some communities without active radio service; communications infrastructure is poor in many remote areas, creating a significant digital divide; and funding and policy levers have not kept up with audience behaviour, meaning traditional radio and television services are not engaging with communities active on social and digital media platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.

These are important issues to highlight, as Indigenous broadcasting provides Indigenous communities with the opportunity to create a 'black public sphere' (Squires, 2002) – in our case, an Indigenous public sphere – to produce and consume unique, community-centred content. This is essential in the context of a colonised nation that boasts a media system that does not cater to (or consider) their Indigenous audience in any real way. Drawing on a survey of 762 Indigenous people and qualitative fieldwork at 18 community sites, this paper outlines the critical juncture of Australian Indigenous broadcasting and possible solutions to secure its 'digital future'.

Keywords: Indigenous, Indigenous broadcasting, community media and digital future
 Scheduled Time:

Beyond the Glass Ceiling: Exploring Persistent Gender Inequalities in Leadership across Cultural and National Contexts, with a Focus on the French Example

Hana FOUGHALI (Université Paris Cité, France)

Professional inequalities between men and women remain at the heart of current social debates. My doctoral research explored the persistence of these inequalities beyond the hierarchical 'glass ceiling', revealing the existence of a 'symbolic glass ceiling' faced by female senior managers and executives. This persistent malaise, despite progress towards parity, can be explained by three interconnected dimensions: the socio-cultural context, women's bodily experiences, self-limitation. Together, these factors maintain a system of inequality, even in positions of high responsibility. - From a comparative perspective, for this presentation I will draw on empirical findings from my doctoral research and include other preliminary results from a project inspired by the issues raised in my thesis. The aim of the project in question is to highlight the persistent gender inequalities in leadership positions, despite the progress made by women in the professional world. The aim is to analyze the sexist mechanisms in positions of power, based on the experiences of female managers. This work is based on a qualitative method, with the analysis of a sample of female senior managers from the public and private sectors, initially in the Île-de-France region, then extended to the national level. - Through this analytical framework, we hope to reveal the similarities and differences in women's career paths across different national and cultural contexts. Finally, this contribution will feed into a wider reflection on successful practices and policies that can be shared and adapted to build a truly inclusive work environment for tomorrow's world.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, Leadership, beyond the glass ceiling, symbolic Glass Ceiling

Generating Disinformation for Which Reasons? Political, Economic, and Social Consequences in the New Public Sphere

Livia GARCIA-FAROLDI (University of Málaga, Spain)

Laura TERUEL RODRÍGUEZ (University of Málaga, Spain)

Disinformation and polarization are interconnected phenomena that feed into each other. On one hand, one of the most serious social effects of disinformation is that it becomes a catalyst for political and affective polarization among citizens. On the other hand, public sphere actors positioned at more extreme viewpoints resort to polarizing content because it is divisive and helps them attract citizens. These trends are further amplified by social media, which create echo chambers that give visibility to the most polarizing discourses. While political actors and the academic sphere have been analyzing the causes and political consequences of disinformation for years, it remains to be seen whether ordinary citizens perceive this phenomenon in the same way. To address this question, a survey was conducted among a representative sample of the population aged 15 and over residing in Andalusia (the most populous region of Spain, with 8.6 million inhabitants). The sample size was 1,550 people, of which 1,200 responses were collected online and 300 via telephone from those aged 60 and over, to avoid selection bias due to the digital divide among older populations. The margin of error was 2.5% with a confidence level of 95.5%. The population was asked about the main reasons for spreading disinformation, with the option to select up to three from the five offered: political motives (chosen by 86.2%), economic benefit (57.7%), to create social tension (40.4%), to gain notoriety and fame on social networks (34%), and for fun (2.6%). While results show there is broad consensus in public opinion that political and economic motives are the main reasons, a contingency table analysis with

significance tests shows interesting differences based on age, educational level, interest in politics, voting behaviour, perceived social division, ideology, trust in the media, and trust in social networks.

Keywords: Disinformation, Polarization, Public opinion and Spain

Vers Une Transvaluation De La Féminité

Marine GAUSS (Université Paris Cité, France)

Cette communication propose d'interroger les frontières entre féminin et féminisme, féminité aliénante et féminité émancipatrice, afin de nourrir les utopies concrètes (Bloch 1991) d'une féminité positive. En quel sens la féminité pourrait-elle être transvaluée afin de devenir un outil d'empuancement ? Comment les représentations du corps féminin peuvent-elles en être le vecteur ? Au sein d'une culture française masculine et phallocentrée, au cœur même des souffrances, des ambivalences et des injonctions, les perspectives d'émancipation existent déjà; mais le manque d'imagination collective et le sentiment d'impuissance les refoulent parfois telles des utopies abstraites et idéalistes. Nous pourrions en effet envisager une transvaluation de la féminité en réinvestissant les structures mentales existantes. J'entends par transvaluation la notion nietzschéenne désignant l'utilisation des formes présentes mais en transmutant les valeurs qui y sont inscrites : « Ne pas laisser périr ce qui existe depuis longtemps, c'est une pratique prudente, car toute croissance est si lente et le sol est lui-même si rarement propice aux plantations nouvelles ! *Dévier* les forces vers des buts nouveaux ! » (Nietzsche 2022 Tome II [1901] aphorisme 499 p 188). Il s'agit donc d'un agir visant à se réapproprier le sens de la féminité, à resignifier ses valeurs afin d'en changer le principe hiérarchique. Il confère ainsi aux sujets la possibilité d'instituer d'autres futurs. Le large dispositif de dépossession sociale du corps des femmes, souvent décrit dans les médias engagés comme « un corset mental », doit perdre sa force coercitive. Pour « dévier » cette dernière, il faudrait dépatriarcaliser les valeurs du féminin, les défonctionnaliser et les requalifier afin que les femmes deviennent les sujets puissants d'une féminité choisie.

Keywords: empuancement, féminité, transvaluation and utopie concrète

Altering Power Relations in Defining AI Fairness: A Process of Negotiation from the Mammoth Project

Marta GIBIN (University of Bologna, Italy)

The fairness of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems is at the centre of many debates, but there are different perspectives on what it entails. At present, technical approaches dominate the scene. Discourses on AI fairness are frequently structured around the proposition of technical solutions designed to address algorithmic biases. This approach tends to privilege a computer science perspective on the problem and frequently fails to address the social context in which these systems are constructed and to organize the diversity of opinions regarding what constitutes fairness when different stakeholders are involved in the discussion. As part of the EU-funded MAMMOTH project, we investigated a) how the problem of fairness in AI is approached by different disciplines through 29 interviews with experts from both computer sciences and social sciences, and b) how fairness is perceived

by those groups who are often discriminated and 50organization by AI systems through 6 co-creation workshops and a survey which collected 171 responses. While the results show different approaches to fairness across the participants, they also help to identify a common ground on which to build a lay-socio-technical view on the issue. The presentation will demonstrate how these disparate approaches and opinions have been reconciled within the MAMMOth project, and how fairness has been negotiated both between disciplines and in order to translate the concerns of vulnerable groups into technical requirements. The transition towards a lay-socio-technical perspective on AI fairness necessitates the redefinition of current power relations. These include the rebalancing of power between disciplines, where computer science currently holds a more dominant position than social sciences in determining the direction of technological development, and between experts and lay people, as people from vulnerable groups are often left out of the conversation.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Fairness, Negotiation and Power relations

Futures Found and Lost? Revisiting Post-Work Imaginaries in an Era of ‘polycrisis’

Kevin GILLAN (University of Manchester, UK)

The 2010s saw increased enthusiasm for a particular vision of a post-work society, promulgated in response to the Global Financial Crisis. As a projective vision caught between utopia and manifesto it offered long-term hopes for abundance and leisure alongside short-term policy prescriptions of stronger welfare protections, state-led technological development and a cultural assault on the work ethic. Echoing figures such as Andre Gorz, Bertrand Russell and Paul Lafargue, ‘post-workism’ updated the notion of the leisure society for the information age but failed to grapple with limits on plausibility imposed by unfolding ecological crises. Demands for a post-work world have since ebbed to silence (again), even while the Covid-19 pandemic led to a dramatic hiatus in capitalist activity that reportedly sparked a ‘great resignation’ among those few who both glimpsed the possibilities of a life of meaningful activity outside the workplace and had the resources to pursue it. -This paper revisits the prognosis for the leisure society, exploring what remains of these visions if abundance were to be replaced with sufficiency. It identifies elements that might serve as both practical solutions and compensatory inducements to a socialism that forgoes the promise of material economic growth. Firstly, post-work ideas offer a re-evaluation of both work and leisure appropriate for futures in which much daily activity might be oriented toward local ecological restoration, mutual aid and community care in the context of multiple crises. Secondly, the emphasis on the near-zero marginal cost of digital products holds out hopes for continued gains in productivity in the information work required for building new forms of socio-economic organization as well as the promise of the free circulation of patents, designs, entertainment and digital cultural products of all kinds. Finally, the question of whether such visions can grow beyond their roots in the global north is addressed.

Keywords: autonomy, disaster socialism, leisure society and post-work

A Bright Future, but for Whom? Infrastructural Promises and the Reproduction of Inequality

Birgan GOKMENOGLU (Birmingham City University, UK)

This article focuses on the High-Speed Railway 2 (HS2) that is under construction between London and Birmingham, United Kingdom, to examine how its "promise" (Anand, Gupta, and Appel 2018) of a better, greener, faster, more equal, and more prosperous future has helped reproduce inter-regional inequalities between the South and North of England. While initial proposals of this infrastructure project, originally planned to be the largest in Europe, offered the closing of the gap between the prosperous South and the struggling North, the recent cancellation of the project's northern leg exposed the government's foregrounding of the South in decisions relating to financial and infrastructural investment. The discontinuation of the HS2 led to an outcry in the North, which expressed feelings of disappointment, abandonment, and their future being cancelled. Based on participant-observations at community events and interviews with local authorities, HS2 managers, and members of affected communities in London (in the south-east of England) and Crewe (in the north-west of England), this paper questions who the real beneficiaries of this mega infrastructure project are. It examines how promises of jobs, greater connectivity, and economic relief legitimized public spending on the HS2 only to reproduce inter-regional inequalities between the South and the North.

Keywords: Futures, Inequality and Infrastructure

Ecosocialist Transformation: Between Socialist Ecomodernism and Degrowth

Nicolas GRAHAM (University of British Columbia, Canada)

This paper articulates a vision of ecosocialism centering on transformations in the forces and relations of production. This outlook is advanced through a sympathetic critique of socialist ecomodernism on the one hand and degrowth on the other hand. I suggest that while socialist or left ecomodernism offers a vital critique of the way 'green productive forces' (e.g., renewable energies, ecological efficiency and even negative emissions technology) are fettered within fossil capitalism, advocacy of a socialist 'politics of more' within this literature (defined as growth in material output and individual consumption) risks fetishizing capitalist production relations as eternal. Degrowth proponents, by contrast, have argued that relying on technological change is not enough to solve the ecological crisis, and emphasize the need to reduce energy and matter use in the Global North, at a speed faster than what efficiency improvements can deliver. Yet, degrowth approaches (even post-capitalist variants) to transforming economies and productive forces tend to centre a politics of scale, rather than underlying social relations. In doing so, they can fail to distinguish between qualitative and quantitative aspects of growth and foreclose positive ecological and human potentials of developments in the productive forces. While socialist ecomodernism and degrowth offer seemingly contrasting approaches to addressing ecological and climate crises, I suggest that both have limitations, but also offer essential elements within a broader struggle for ecosocialist (and anti-imperialist) transformation.

Keywords: Degrowth, Ecomodernism, Ecosocialism and Forces of Production

Zeitgeist As a Heuristic Device for the Critical Analysis of Futures in the Anthropocene

Edmondo GRASSI (San Raffaele University of Rome, Italy)

This contribution explores the use of the concept of Zeitgeist as a heuristic device in futures research, with particular attention to its application in the analysis of sociocultural and technological dynamics in the Anthropocene. Starting from a critical reflection on contemporary epistemologies, the article investigates how the Zeitgeist, understood as an architecture of cultural and technoscientific codes, can provide an interpretative key to understanding ongoing transformations and collective expectations for the future. - The work questions how intelligent algorithms, as an expression of the contemporary Zeitgeist, not only reflect but also actively shape visions of the future, contributing to the definition of plausible, preferable, or preventable scenarios. This perspective intersects with the theoretical critique of technoscientific narratives, highlighting the ethical and political implications of how risks and opportunities are calculated, visualized, and often obscured. - Through a dialogue with the thoughts of authors such as de Certeau, Koselleck, and Toulmin, the intersection between critical epistemologies and practices of anticipation is explored, highlighting how dominant narratives influence the production and legitimization of futures. The contribution advocates for a democratization of futures research, arguing that the inclusion of marginalized perspectives and critical reflection on epistemic codes can lead to a more equitable and nuanced understanding of possible futures in the Anthropocene. - In conclusion, the Zeitgeist is presented not as a monolithic entity, but as a dynamic set of codes that, through the interaction between history, technology, and culture, provides a framework for the critical analysis of social transformations and future projections, offering new tools for sociological research in an era of global turbulence.

Keywords: algoagents, future studies, theoretical analysis and zeitgeist

Co-Designing Futures - Processes and Practices of Thinking-with and Making-with a Multiplicity of Agents

Karin HANNES (KU Leuven, Belgium)

What do short-term living lab experiences have to offer in stimulating relational creativity toward multispecies speculations? In this paper we present an innovative theoretical-methodological approach that merges living lab methodology with futures studies techniques to help us rethink our position as humans within the ecological system and develop a sense of understanding about how to best use the power of nature to respond to the challenges of our time. Our Living Lab approach consisted of four phases: (a) problematizing and exploring new approaches to relate to other-than humans; (b) co-researching and designing multispecies pathways; (c) evaluating the consequences of these new pathways; (d) sharing and discussing alternative possibilities through social fiction writing. We initially piloted the method between the safe walls of the university with a bunch of scholars of the Anthropocene. Three of us took the experiment beyond these walls by means of a voluntary lock down in a 24-hectare art park under severe pandemic conditions. The park was approximately 60 km from the university and presented itself as a protected paradise that offered us three large knowledge containers. Our involvement in this experiment of thinking outside the box from within a container box, while at the same

time residing in the fertile frontier between wilderness and civilisation, was at first an act of academic disobedience. It was based on our assumption that to be able to re-imagine a social reality differently (with inclusion of how to relate to something relatively small and invisible like a virus) one needs to be able to collectively experience some of the potential future scenario's first hand. It raised awareness about the sort of human we were capable of becoming in an ecosystem where different species compete for space.

Keywords: Co-design, Creative Ecology, Living Lab and Speculative Futuring

Climate Justice in the Anthropocene: An African Perspective on Equity and Transition

Hamdy HASSAN ATTALLA (Zayed University, UAE)

In the Anthropocene, a geological epoch defined by human-driven environmental changes, climate justice is increasingly critical, particularly from an African perspective. Africa contributes less than 4% to global emissions yet faces mounting pressure to abandon hydrocarbons. This raises fundamental questions about fairness: Why should African nations bear the burden of mitigating climate change caused by industrialized countries with historically high emissions? While global climate goals urge rapid decarbonization, African leaders, such as Ex Senegalese President Macky Sall, emphasize the importance of balancing environmental responsibility with developmental needs. Natural gas is often viewed as a "bridge fuel" that could enable industrialization while supporting renewable energy deployment. However, international financial conditions tied to climate action often restrict Africa's ability to pursue this path, forcing leaders to choose between growth and compliance with stringent environmental standards. - Furthermore, the actions of wealthier nations during the energy crisis—where Europe and the U.S. have increased their reliance on fossil fuels—expose a double standard. African nations, therefore, call for equitable climate policies that consider their developmental stage and potential. With immense untapped renewable resources, Africa has the potential to become a global leader in clean energy, but this requires significant investment, technology transfer, and fair partnerships. Moreover, reforms in global financial systems are essential to ensure that African countries can access the affordable financing needed for this transition. In the Anthropocene, achieving climate justice means addressing the uneven impacts of climate change and ensuring that the international community supports Africa's path to a sustainable future.

Keywords: Africa, Anthropocene, Climate Justice and Sustainable Development

Challenging Dictatorship Political Socialization: The Transformative Power of Social Movements

Karla HENRIQUEZ OJEDA (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)

This paper shows the results of a qualitative study, taking the proposal that social movements transform individuals and societies. It develops two arguments to demonstrate how social movements change Chilean society and its citizens. The first is that social movements break into young people's everyday lives by changing the course of institutional political socialization and the relationship activists have with politics. Second, social movements create the conditions for activists to live egosyntonic experiences in which, momentarily, the tension between how activists perceive themselves, their desires and

wishes, and the limitations that capitalist societies impose through different forms of domination disappear. Finally, the conclusion shows that studying egosyntonic experiences and accelerated socialization allows us to understand cultural changes in citizenship.

Keywords: accelerated socializations, activism, egosyntonic and subjectivity

Meta-Identity and Digital Platforms: The Influence of Algorithmic Decision-Making on Social and Personal Identities

Allan HERISON FERREIRA (Universidade Nova de Lisboa NOVA, Portugal)

The rise of digital platforms has reshaped how individuals construct and perceive social and personal identities. From a sociological perspective, meta-identity refers to the categorizable and indexable information that individuals provide to digital platforms. This data is processed on a large scale to set parameters that influence algorithms, often shaped by the unclear intentions of decision-makers. The impact of such algorithmic decision-making is profound, creating identity frameworks users might not fully control or understand. - This proposal presents findings from the analysis of over 400 content creators who produced approximately 100 amateur films in a laboratory environment for platforms. By comparing how authors, their peers, and the public label these works with the categorizations generated by platforms like YouTube, the study examines divergences that may occur between human and algorithmic understandings. It explores how these differences shape identity, influence public visibility, reinforce stereotypes, and limit the diversity of perspectives available to creators and audiences. - The study offers a critical perspective on the broader impact of algorithmic decision-making and highlights the need for greater transparency in how platforms manage data. It advocates for policies to ensure fairer, more inclusive digital environments where content creators and users can maintain control over their identities and the narratives shaped by platforms.

Keywords: Algorithmic Decision-Making, Meta-Identity, Social Identity and Social Media

Stealth Supremacy: The Reproduction of Structural Inequality through Everyday Digital Practice

Isabelle HIGGINS (University of Cambridge, UK)

In this paper, I argue that the concept of 'stealth supremacy' offers productive capacity as a 'racial grammar' (Bonilla-Silva, 1997), allowing connections to be drawn between everyday digital practices undertaken by Christian conservative women commentators in the USA and the reproduction of hetero-patriarchal-white supremacy. I demonstrate this by locating, interrogating and critically assessing the work of three online producers who create digital content for audiences in the hundreds of thousands. I pay attention first to YouTube content that encourages young women to become 'stay at home moms' through self-fashioning practices which promote 'finding a traditional husband', before turning to podcasts which encourage young mothers to 'oppose the killing of babies' by donating to and funding anti-abortion pregnancy centres across the USA and making specific voting decisions, and then finally analyzing Instagram content which encourages mothers to 'question everything' when seeking medical care, and vaccinations specifically, for their children - this content contains a range of medical mis and disinformation. By working through

these three empirical cases, data from which was gathered during two three-month periods of digital ethnography, and using critical technocultural discourse analysis (Brock, 2018) to analyse this content in the context of its production, reception and the underlying cultural practices and beliefs of technology designers and users, I show that these types of everyday digital practices require sustained sociological engagement. This engagement must centre questions of structural violence and social reproduction, whilst being mindful of risks of sensationalism and spectacle. It is important to consider this content as 'structural' because the content itself promotes the 'shoring up' of material advantages to white supremacist movements, through a range of both online and offline practices, which encourage actions from women at all life stages. Deep seated social inequalities are thus refracted and reproduced through everyday, online practices.

Keywords: Disinformation, Everyday Practice, Gender and White Supremacy

AI-Assisted Trend Radar and/or Reading between the Lines? Conflicting Methods to Capture the Future

Norbert HUCHLER (ISF Munich)

Judith NEUMER (ISF Munich)

Tobias RITTER (ISF Munich)

The article reflects results and the methodological approach of the strategic research project "Value Creation Trend Radar.AI-assisted Foresight Tool to identify Weak Signals of Value Creation", funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (01/2022-12/2026). The aim is to use an AI-supported technical "radar tool" and large amounts of data to draw conclusions about future trends in value creation. At the same time, the technical radar tool is integrated into a comprehensive methodological process with numerous references to various methods of qualitative empirical social research. It is exciting to observe how different ideas and practices of anticipating the future come together in this mixed methods approach. - On the one hand, there is the radar tool, which attempts to use statistics and AI in textual data (e.g. scientific publications) to identify conceptual connections or "weak signals" based on statistical characteristics that have the potential to point to future trends. On the other hand, there are various qualitative approaches (interviews, future workshops, data analysis, etc.) that seek insights into possible futures "between" the data or in the interplay of specific information and generated findings. This is where methods, knowledge and sensitivity for interpretation and anticipation come together. "Weak signals" are then not due to the statistical behavior of letters, but are rather to be understood as implicit contexts of meaning "behind" the data. Different forms and practices of scientific anticipation of futures collide: objectifying formal measurement and assessment on the one hand and knowledge- and experience-based interpretation and understanding on the other. The project is attempting to bring together and further develop both approaches. This is being done on the basis of six-monthly studies of various specific empirical subject areas. The article will draw on empirical findings from the third field examined: "The future of plant and mechanical engineering".

Keywords: foresight, mixed methods, value creation in mechanical engineering and weak signals

Balancing Individuality and Global Citizenship in Philippine Tourism Centers

Allerine ISLES (Asian Social Institute, Philippines)

This paper investigates the interplay between individuality and global citizenship within Philippine tourism centers, where diverse cultural identities converge. As globalization fosters a shared identity among cultures, tourism—while a significant driver of economic growth—often promotes homogenization, threatening the uniqueness of local cultures. This study highlights strategies that tourism enablers in the Philippines embrace in their distinct cultural heritage alongside global citizenship values. - The phenomenological approach of the study looks into various forms of tourism centers that integrates local traditions with sustainable practices, illustrating how communities can maintain their cultural identity while addressing global issues such as environmental conservation and social equity. Through participatory approaches, local stakeholders engage tourists in authentic cultural experiences that celebrate individuality, fostering mutual respect and understanding. - In this context, the study also examines the shifting role of AI – from artificial insemination to appreciative inquiry, active imagination to artificial intelligence, which can enhance tourism experiences by facilitating personalized interactions and promoting local ingenuity. By leveraging AI to curate unique experiences, tourism can transition from mere consumption to a celebration beyond cultural abundance. - Moreover, the study explores the role of responsible tourism in encouraging appreciation for local customs, suggesting that initiatives involving local communities in decision-making can help preserve cultural individuality while contributing to global citizenship. - Ultimately, this paper argues that a balanced approach to tourism enhances both the tourist experience and the well-being of local communities. By recognizing the value of individual cultural expressions within a global framework, Philippine tourism centers can foster a richer, more inclusive experience that respects local heritage and promotes global interconnectedness. In doing so, we highlight the importance of nurturing individuality within the broader context of global citizenship, paving the way for a more harmonious world.

Keywords: Abundance Ingenuity, Artificial Intelligence, Globalization and Individuality

Mathematizing Mechanisms: The Key to a Future of Linking Theory and Empirics, Linking Individual and Society

Guillermina JASSO (New York University)

When a theory's premises include an input-outcome relation, denoted $X \rightarrow Y$, where X is a personal characteristic and Y a personal outcome, its mathematization is immediate, and links theory and empirics as well as individual and society. 1. From $X \rightarrow Y$ to general function to specific function. Example: "actual reward X and just reward X^* produce justice evaluation J " to "as X increases, J increases at a decreasing rate, and as X^* increases, J decreases at an increasing rate" to $J = \ln(X/X^*)$ Note: In general, the specific function may emerge in empirical work or be obtained by imposing additional conditions on the general function (or both). 2. If the probability distribution of X is known or can be ascribed, the probability distribution of Y is immediate. Example: If X is ordinal, lognormal, Pareto, or power-function, J is negatively-skewed exponential, normal, positively-skewed exponential, and negatively-skewed exponential, respectively. Graphs of the distributions provide pictures of society; e.g., the quantile function depicts both the location of every person and

major aspects of the society – minimum, maximum, inequality, proportion below the mean, etc. Further Y distributions emerge if there are multiple X s or, in the case of J , if X and X^* both vary. For example, status S can become Erlang or Mirror-Exponential, and J can become Equal, Erlang, Laplace, Logistic. 3. Two types of empirical work follow: 3.1. Testable propositions can be generated from both the specific function and the Y distribution. These include classical deductive implications (including novel predictions) and Toulmin-type propositions. 3.2. Terms from the specific functions can be approximated or estimated. The justice evaluation J , the actual reward X , and the just reward X^* are routinely estimated. Moreover, the determinants of the actual and just rewards can also be estimated and contrasted, as can their distributions.

Keywords: linking micro and macro, linking theory and empirics, mathematical functions and probability distributions and mechanisms

Access/Access Denial: Critical Mineral Strategies amid Polycrisis

Nicholas JEPSON (University of Manchester, UK)

Vectors of the polycrisis such as the pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and rising geopolitical tensions have all contributed to a major economic trend of the 2020s- the securitisation of key value chains. This has been nowhere more evident than in a range of minerals (rare earths, lithium, nickel, and cobalt, among others) deemed critical for the energy transition. In line with recent theorisations of an incipient Second Cold War, this paper frames contemporary US, EU, and Chinese critical minerals strategies as part of a struggle for centrality in key global political-economic networks. EU and US dependence on China (and Chinese-invested firms in third countries) has prompted a flurry of efforts to diversify and secure critical mineral supplies. With China currently holding a dominant position in extraction and processing, US and EU strategies concentrate on securing and expanding their own *access* to these production networks in third states, without necessarily seeking to exclude Chinese actors. This approach contrasts to other sectors where the US and/or EU is stronger (e.g. semiconductors) and where the goal tends towards *access denial*, for example via export controls. China, for its part, has leveraged its domestic critical mineral dominance towards access denial strategies, including export controls on various metals, introduced in response to US semiconductor restrictions. Concurrently, Chinese firms have pursued access strategies outside China, acquiring stakes in 23 critical mineral ventures worldwide since 2018. Several mineral-exporting states seek to leverage this geopolitical competition for developmental advantage, insisting, for example, that minerals extracted by EU, US, or Chinese firms be processed domestically. Such strategies may be feasible while access remains the predominant form of critical mineral competition. However, should global powers shift towards more aggressive access denial tactics in third countries in future, this would likely substantially weaken the bargaining position of southern mineral producers.

Keywords: Critical Minerals, Development , Geopolitics and Second Cold War

Combatting Digital Capitalism: The Criminal Strategy behind Big Tech's Social Harm and the Need for Transformative Justice

Aitor JIMENEZ (Basque Country University)

This paper proposes rethinking Big Tech's socially harmful behavior as the consequence of a deliberate strategy that is inextricably linked to its business model and thus cannot be corrected by conventional means. The crimes of digital capitalism relate to upstream and downstream operations. It ranges from modern slavery in the context of mineral extraction to Taylorist exploitation in Chinese hardware production industries. It shifts to machinic dispossession in automated warehouses, algorithmic discrimination in welfare systems, and the deployment of policing technologies by private and public actors. Although we all suffer the consequences of a digitized global structure of inequality, the resulting social damage is not equally distributed. The crimes of digital capitalism are, by nature, an inherent and organizational part of an imperialist phenomenon. Hegemonic digital corporations are often headquartered in countries in the Global North, while their victims are disproportionately located in the Global South. Moreover, this structure of inequality is intertwined with prior forms of racial, class, and gender oppression. We need new approaches, methods, and institutions of the commons capable of enforcing concepts of justice that lead to a real and profound transformation that shakes the causes of social harm. Thinking about the crimes of digital capitalism is an exercise aimed not at reaffirming mechanisms for punishment but at producing the necessary tools to abolish the conditions that make them possible. Drawing on the approaches of white-collar crime and crimes of the powerful, and complemented by recent contributions from critical legal studies, the paper lays the theoretical groundwork from which to analyze the crimes of digital capitalism. In doing so, this paper aims to explain why certain specific behaviors of the "digital powerful" are often not criminalized and, moreover, have become essential to the operation of the digital capitalist system of exploitation.

Keywords: Big Tech, Digital Capitalism and Social Harm

Nature's Revenge? a Third Nature in the Anthropocene

Ahrens JÖRN (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

This paper aims to discuss a new quality of nature in the Anthropocene. The consequences of which call for an understanding of the alteration, maybe even othering, of nature which is processed by that anthropogenic influence on the Earth's condition. Not only the relation between man and nature needs to be reflected, the question also is what kind of nature it is precisely with which the world is today confronted, and that now impacts on the human-nature interaction. The contemporary type of nature that emerges from processes of human-based interference, alteration, and transformation, forms a significant threat to the existing forms of life, their structures, shapings, ontologies, interactions, and interdependencies. Today a "Third Nature" is established that has, on the one hand, become radically anthropogenic when it, on the other hand, consequently, detaches from the influence of human agency. It is a nature that has been produced and formed by human procedure, most of all in the wake of modernity. Modern ways of a domination of nature have decisively changed its existing forms. These ways of a domination over nature have resulted in the shaping of a new state of nature that escapes such modes of control and leashes back on the agents of its domination. This Third Nature is a hybrid form of nature whose anthropogenic ratio is enormous, but at the same time detached from its originators—human society and its actors. Today, Third Nature unfolds as climate change,

flash floods, cyclones, El Nino phenomenon, poisoned soils, plastic enriched flora and fauna, shifts of seasons, etc. None of the existing concepts for a definition of and dealing with nature is capturing these new forms of nature that, after they had been colonized and domesticated for a long time by human agency, are now out of control.

Keywords: Anthropocene, Third Nature, alteration of nature and domination of nature

Humane Security: Towards Transformative Solidarities in Policy and Practice

Su-ming KHOO (University of Galway, Ireland)

The 2022 UNDP Special Report: *Human Insecurity in the Anthropocene* and the 2023-24 Human Development Report: *Breaking the Gridlock – Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World* point to a global moment of critical multi-crisis. While the ‘Anthropocene’ has been rejected as a geological concept (Witze 2024), it retains its major significance as a critical sociological concept pointing to urgent needs for global system change, integrating vital questions of ecological degradation, human insecurity, technological threats, socio-political polarization, and contested (“post-normal”) science (Funtowicz and Ravetz 1993). - This paper responds to these two reports: the UNDP 2022 Special Report concerning human security in the Anthropocene (hereafter ‘UNDP Special Report’, UNDP 2022), and the 2023-24 Human Development Report 2023-24’s (hereafter HDR 2023-24, UNDP 2024), which calls to urgently ‘break the gridlock’ of multi-crisis. It returns to the concept of human security first proposed in the 1990s, integrating recent conversations on the ‘soul’ of the concept and ‘humane security’ (Khoo 2023). - Following an earlier policy forum contribution (Khoo 2023), this paper considers six integrative suggestions for practical ways to operationalize human security ideas and principles: i) recalling the Stockholm Conference’s agenda for global solidarity; ii) drawing on emancipatory legacies of established social movements; iii) applying differentiated measures to address vulnerability; iv) learning from indigenous and local insights on ‘coordination’ that emphasize ethical relationality; v) decentralizing policy and practice; and, vi) adopting an integrative perspective deepening the vital and ‘humane’ interpretations of human security and global cooperation, taking on the Ogata-Sen recommendations for integrated policies that jointly emphasise survival, livelihood and dignity. - The paper argues that these integrative discussions on human and humane security offer a response to the combined Research Committees’ call to converge thinking about economic and environmental crises, inequalities, social transformations, and futures.

Keywords: Anthropocene, HDR 2023-24, UNDP Special Report 2022 and human security

The War on the Young: Perceptions of Economic Fragility, Alienation, and Wellbeing Among Youth Living in Urban Japan.

Allen KIM (International Christian University, Japan)

In the context of Japan's super-aging society, Gen Z face increasing uncertainty about their future prospects. Rising costs of living, stagnant wages, and a political structure that prioritizes the needs of older generations over those of younger people may foster a growing sense of alienation among the youth. This research project explores how university students situated in urban Japan perceive the so called “war on the young” where their financial futures and social prospects seem limited, and the existing social structures seem

skewed against them in favor of the old. Drawing on interviews with students, this study finds purchase in applying alienation theory, toward exploring gen Z disconnect in areas of economy, technology, social policy, and mental health. By investigating the problem and solutions as voiced by young adults this project contributes to a broader understanding of how alienation shapes the imagined futures of younger generations in a super aging society. The session offers critical insights into the intersection of alienation research and futures studies, shedding light on the sociopolitical and economic challenges faced by Japan's youth and their implications for the nation's future.

Keywords: Alienation, Social Stratification and Sociology of Youth

Le Repas en Pays Nordique de Côte d'Ivoire: Quel Apport de Socialisation et de Moralisation des Sociétés Traditionnelles et des Systèmes d'éducation Moderne

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L'Afrique est la seule région du monde où les modèles auxquels les enfants sont exposés lors de leurs années de formation appartiennent tous à une autre culture que la leur. Pourtant elle a des modèles, des méthodes, des outils d'éducation qui avec la colonisation ont été progressivement déconstruits, nous mettant face à de nombreux problèmes d'éducation. Cet article s'intéresse à l'un de ces outils qui donnait à l'éducation en Afrique un caractère global, profond et particulier : le repas et particulièrement le repas au nord de la Côte d'Ivoire. Qu'est-ce que le repas au nord de la Côte d'Ivoire ? Comment contribue-t-il à l'éducation des populations ? Comment peut-il contribuer à l'éducation des populations dans un contexte scolaire ? Il ressort de ce questionnement conduit à travers un guide d'entretien et l'observation participante, que le repas en Afrique est un outil d'éducation qui contribue fortement à la socialisation et à la moralisation de la société. Organisé de manière particulière avec des objectifs précis, il peut contribuer à l'éducation des populations dans le contexte scolaire à travers l'EDHC.

Keywords: culture, le repas, socialisation and éducation

Algorithmic Clientelism: How News Aggregators Favor Corporate Media Outlets While Acting as Agenda Setters - a Case Study on Google News

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The emergence of technologies enabling sophisticated feedback loops between users and media, combined with users' active participation within modern news infrastructures, has led to a proliferation of new concepts in classical gatekeeping and agenda-setting theories — such as network gatekeeping, decentralized gatekeeping, reverse agenda-setting, and agenda melding (Kim & Lee, 2006; Vargo et al., 2014; Guo, 2017). These emphasize the user's influence on news presentation, effectively shifting the responsibility for constructing social reality from the media to the consumers. - However, empirical studies and analyses of corporate materials reveal that, even in algorithmic media, user influence on news presentation remains limited. For example, Google News, both a popular news app and a

search engine, continues to present the same "Top Stories" to all users with the same language settings within a given country, highlighting the constraints of user impact on hierarchy of issue salience in news coverage. - In our study, we examined Google as an agenda-setter and a non-human actor in social communication. Specifically, we asked: How does Google News (Polish language version) frame the news on its Home Page? We operationalized framing as the preferential selection of specific news sources over others. To investigate this, we collected data by web scraping information from the Top Stories section over a 30-day period, capturing data sixteen times each day. - Our findings indicate that Google News favors content produced by large news corporations. This research contributes to modern agenda-setting literature, highlighting the interplay between the agendas of different types of media. We argue that Google's relationship with big media corporations resembles a form of clientelism, as the aggregator rewards partners who submit to its stringent visibility guidelines. In this sense, despite its mission to "make the world's information universally accessible and useful," Google operates like a Weberian bureaucracy, reinforcing hierarchies and concentrating power.

Keywords: access to information, agenda-setting, algorithmic media and power concentration

Community Response to State-Created Environmental Crisis: A Transdisciplinary Participatory Action Research on Alternative Development in Rural China

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Rural revitalisation is a key state development strategy that was announced by the Chinese central government in 2017 and further promoted in 2021. It recognises that rural sustainability is foundational to China's development and targets to ensure rural revitalisation by 2050. However, capital forces mediated by the state commodified rural lands and landscapes, demolished traditional buildings, repetitively produced symbols of post-modern nostalgia landscapes, and drew in businesses to serve the tourism market. Repercussions accompanied by this "spectacle of prosperity" destroyed local traditions and ecology, marginalised villagers, and reproduced unequal relations and the hegemony of development. We also discovered that the mainstream revitalisation project caused a cultural and environmental crisis. - In response to this trend, a transdisciplinary team comprised of sociologists, NGO practitioners, and architectural designers attempted to fight for villagers' right to rural space through culturally specific and locally based democratic participation from below. By adopting the design idea of co-creation and place-making, the research team endeavours to build up the subjectivity of local people in rural development, raise people's awareness of cultural and environmental protection, and transform the local participants from passive construction workers to community co-creators. - Since 2017, the authors and local partners have spearheaded the "House of Dream" project, successfully preserving the traditional cave dwelling houses in a village in the Henan province of China. In this research, we conclude that "alternative development" implies a radical departure from mainstream developmentalism through social empowerment, which values building the capacity of the local community and transforming local actors into the subject of development. We argued that local villagers are not passive service recipients of development interventions but active co-creators in rebuilding communities. This

transdisciplinary participatory action research project has developed common practice frameworks for tackling environmental and cultural crises, as well as facilitating long-term sustainable community development.

Keywords: alternative development, community participation, environmental crisis and transdisciplinary participatory action research

Ecologies of Friction in Digital Platform Investment

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Digital platforms are underpinned by the ideal of a frictionless market, obscuring the simultaneous practices of market monopolisation and the restriction of consumer choice and movement. This concurrent removal and erection of barriers to participation triggers ecosystemic responses such as individual adaptations and establishing alternative organisations to counter the progression of these ‘walled gardens’. In this article, we contribute to theorising *ecologies of friction* in the platform economy, drawing on Tsing’s friction in the creation of global connections, Orbach’s friction paradox, and Bateson’s ecological epistemology. Analysing a European short-term rental platform cooperative’s difficult launch, we ask: *How do frictions emerge on alternative platforms in the digital economy, and what effect do they have on prefiguring the platform business?* Frictions become apparent in *platform investment*, a complex resource-allocating relationship binding together multiple stakeholders, laden with expectations about the future. We highlight the interconnected frictions of individual investment into platform work, collective investment into platform participation, and resource investment into the business model. These are bound with platform organising, community development, and managing scale as the cooperative tries to prefigure a future platform economy in establishing its current practice. We contribute by extending the concept of ecologies of friction in connecting individual and collective investment with ideas around platform growth. We illustrate how all platform economy actors – participants and platforms alike – are entangled in frictions. We suggest that alternative platforms’ struggles are largely caused by the impossibility of escaping the broader ecosystemic dynamics established by dominant platform imaginaries.

Keywords: ecologies of friction, friction, platform cooperative and platform economy

Generational Change Meets Climate Change

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The logic of capitalist modernity privileged “efficient” capitalist production regardless of the human consequences. Marx, influenced by Humbolt’s travels- devastated the soil, the factories of Manchester polluted the water and the air-this was the “metabolic rift”, or, the dialectic of Enlightenment. This had two major consequences the rationale of abstract wage labor which meant the exploitation, alienation, and impoverishment of workers to gain profits, and willful blindness to the externalities of capitalist accumulation-namely environmental despoliation, endangering health, especially of workers and today, the very viability of humanity now facing a “sixth extinction. This, rationality, first evident in the factories of Manchester and had become fully rationalized with Fordism/Taylorism, and

now, an age of mass consumption-profitable for fossil capitalism enabling as much surplus value as possible. Nevertheless, a Hegelian Marxist understanding of the dialectical nature of social movements has told us that the progressive reaction to the adversities of the Anthropocene are evident especially in the various progressive mobilizations. The current generation of youth, generation Z, clearly impacted by the economic adversities of neoliberalism, whose progressive social values regarding race, gender/LGBT, ethnicity, having mobilized various reactionary movements, is clearly become the spearhead of progressive social change regarding the inequality and precarity of neoliberal capital, the environmental devastation as seen in more frequent and devastating hurricanes, flooding, droughts, forest fires etc. in the reactionary attempts to preserve essentialist, hierarchical, privilege granting identities. Across the globe the environmental movements of today, are attempting to change the very nature of production and distribution- any major aspect of which is moving away from consumerism that is for long time privilege the accumulation of material goods- considerably above any possible necessity- toward being fully human in terms of creative self-realization, equality, democracy, freedom, harmony between people living in meaningful communities and in harmony with Nature.

Keywords: Anthropocene, Mobilization and Youth

Interpreting Community Solidarity in Response to Social Crises: A Case Study of T Community in T City of China

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The expansion of urban territory has absorbed the original rural regions, which might leave the original villagers insecure in the face of life-changing shifts. In China, the community is the most fundamental urban governing unit, a platform for residents to participate in self-governance, ensuring the practice and operation of social policies at the grassroots level. Relocation communities are unique products amid urbanization by rebuilding villages into communities for the original people to live in. The original residents' experiences and efforts to cope with challenges and crises during the demolition, relocation, and return procedures, are academically valuable in researching community formation. - This paper takes the T community in T City of China as an example of a relocation community. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven original villagers who witnessed the community's formation and five staff members participated in community construction and future planning. This paper reproduces the process of T Community uniting residents, jointly solving crises, and enhancing individuals' capacity to deal with social crises over the previous 30 years of China's urbanization. It demonstrates how the community, as a fundamental component of social order, binds people to society; and how residents shape the new community. This paper found that the solidarity generated between the community and its inhabitants appears in three areas: economic rewards, cultural concepts, and social engagement. Residents participate in community governance and take the subjective initiative to shape the community form, which is critical for overcoming the insecurity caused by crises and future development. Further, this study discussed how to leverage the value of community solidarity to cope with foreseeable social risks in future-oriented

practices.

Keywords: case study, community-formation, solidarity and urbanization

Sociología y Sistemas Complejos: El Estudio De La Agricultura Campesina En El Emergente Contexto De Un Estado De Intervención Económica En México

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La sociología enfrenta el reto de asociarse con otras disciplinas del ámbito de las ciencias sociales, de las ciencias experimentales e incluso con las disciplinas relacionadas con las ingenierías para abordar problemas que afectan a la naturaleza y la sociedad. La vía que posibilita la conjunción de las diversas disciplinas es el enfoque de los sistemas complejos, una perspectiva multidimensional que debe ser articulada sobre la base de la formación de un marco epistémico común que articule a las disciplinas que intervienen en el abordaje y búsqueda de solución de un problema de la sociedad y la naturaleza. A partir de este marco epistémico común se pueden formular las preguntas que se derivan del campo de la sociología y que deben ser abarcativas para que todas las disciplinas participantes se vean identificadas con el problema a atender. Las grandes interrogantes del análisis social son de carácter sociológico, pero estas conjeturas deben armonizar a los conceptos y metodologías propias de cada una de las disciplinas. En el caso de la agricultura campesina, la biología, la geografía, la agronomía, la economía, la sociología y la historia, entre otras disciplinas, pueden dar forma a las dimensiones o campos de estudio que posibilitan adentrarse a la problemática campesina. Estos procesos de investigación e incidencia social deben considerar el contexto social y político de la nueva realidad nacional en México, donde emerge un nuevo sistema económico y político que orienta el curso de las investigaciones más allá de los retos teóricos y las metodologías de los sistemas complejos.

Keywords: Agricultura campesina, Estado, Sistemas complejos and Sociología

Asserting “Digital Sovereignty” to Rein in Platform Power? European Regulatory Instruments and Their Limitations

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Clément LE LUDEC (Université Paris Panthéon Assas)

In the context of a growing debate on adequate policy responses to Big Tech dominance (Moore & Tambini, 2022), the enactment of the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) highlight the European Union’s political efforts to regulate major digital platforms (Bietti, 2021). While the DMA focuses on ensuring fair competition in digital markets, the DSA aims to regulate digital public spaces by addressing the responsibilities of platforms in managing online content. - The EU is thus actively engaged in a global race for “digital sovereignty” – a concept that, while somewhat vague, has been widely discussed (Floridi, 2020; Roberts et al., 2021). In a bid to protect its citizens and promote the emergence of European tech champions, the EU is developing a framework of “digital constitutionalism” (Suzor, 2010, 2018; de Gregorio, 2021; Celeste, 2023). This approach involves a comprehensive legislative arsenal and new investigative and sanctioning powers aimed at regulating digital platforms. - Our research focuses specifically on the regulation of digital public spaces, through the lens of DSA negotiations and implementation. Key

questions include: What policy approach underpins the DSA? What regulatory instruments does it offer? At what level should they be applied and what are their limitations? Ultimately, does the DSA empower European states to counterbalance the influence of Big Tech? - To address these questions, we carried out documentary analysis and qualitative fieldwork. We conducted 19 interviews with members of the administrations involved in negotiating and implementing the DSA, and with stakeholders active in shaping the legislation. Our analysis delves into the origins of the DSA at national and international levels. We then assess the DSA's regulatory instruments to understand their impact on the division of powers within the digital regulation chain, involving the European Commission, EU Member States, social media platforms and citizens.

Keywords: Big tech, Digital Services Act, Digital regulations and Platform governance

Interplay between Law and Virtualization of Modern Society in Relation to Population Ageing

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Human rights law was born and has developed in the so-called Western world, and it is only in the legal systems that belong to that realm that it truly continues to be implemented. Virtualization of modern-day society, which started to transpire in the past decade and a half, originated from the Western world as well. It was there that all hardware technologies and software applications have been developed. However, the societies that form the Western world also suffer from strong ageing trends. These trends are challenging long-term viability of social insurance, pension and health systems. Many aspects of virtualization represent a response to the diminishing pool of human resources. Virtualization, however, is dehumanizing by its very nature. Not only is it alienating older individuals, who are not proficient in accessing the virtual realities, it is profoundly modifying the formation of children and adolescents. In the paper, an attempt is made to form a synthetic view on whether the values forming the core of human rights law are suitable to be regarded as a firm limitation on certain tendencies of societal virtualization, what would be a reasonably expected outcome if such limitation would have become effective, as well as what would be needed, at conceptual and/or policy level, to make them effective.

Keywords: European Union law, human rights, population ageing and virtualization of society

How to Capture the Unknown? Lessons from Systematic Forecasting of Future Labour Market Dynamics

Tobias MAIER (Federal Institute for Vocational Education)

The aim of the Qualification and Occupation Projections (QuBe) is to systematically extrapolate developments in the German labor market and education system to identify medium- and long-term matching problems at the occupational level as early as possible. By maintaining past behaviors and trends in a baseline projection while also modeling alternative scenarios, QuBe offers a systematic approach to provide decision-makers in the labour market and education sector with critical insights into actual and potential future labor market dynamics. - The model includes information on labour demand by 72 economic sectors, 144 occupational groups and 4 skill levels, labour supply by four qualification levels

and 144 initial vocational qualifications as well as information on occupational and regional mobility, household consumption and Germany's position in the world market. Since its inception in 2010, with a projection up to 2025, the baseline projection has now been updated for the eighth time (until 2040) and more than 30 alternative scenarios have been calculated. These include, for example, the digitalisation of the world of work, the socio-ecological transformation (climate adaptation, implementation of a hydrogen value chain) and the impact of a change in population growth due to changing migration flows (Syria and Ukraine). - Each update includes a comprehensive assessment of the model system, providing a nuanced understanding of whether current trends are in line with traditional trajectories or diverging towards alternative scenarios. Even though the model systems combine several rich data sources such as national accounts, the German microcensus and employment statistics, the evaluations show that it is not so much the exact forecast but the structural changes that add value for decision-makers. In the presentation I will show what kind of concepts have been useful and robust to inform about the uncertainty of the future, given the long history of the unique model system.

Keywords: education, forecast and labor market

Artificial Intelligence, an Intricate Part of the 4th Industrial Revolution – Motifs and Implications for Human Development?

Mokong Simon MAPADIMENG (University of South Africa)

This current decade witnessed an upsurge in scholarly research on the phenomenon dubbed the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR). This was largely influenced by the claims of its advocates that the 4IR is bringing changes at the global scale never seen before and therefore that the world will never be the same. Such claims are no new to academic scholarship. Francis Fukuyama before wrote about the end of history and others wrote about globalisation as marking an end to fragmented world. Whether such claims are founded or not, the point is that they are made based on observation under the subject that has always captured the imagination and interest of social scientists i.e., seeking to understand and explain epochal changes in human history. Presently, we have seen a shift in this interest to artificial intelligence (AI). The question though is: just how new is this AI phenomenon? Closely linked to this is, what drives it and what implications does it have for human development in the long term? Is it likely to mark progress or the opposite of it? This paper examines the AI phenomenon through a critical review of evidence. The drive behind its rapid growth and its implications for human development, as understood through the United Nations Development Programme's index, are also examined.

Keywords: 4th Industrial Revolution, Artificial Intelligence, Change and Human Development

The “Grey Digital Divide”: A Longitudinal Analysis of ICT Attitudes Among Italian Older Adults

Claudio MELCHIOR (University of Udine, Italy)

This longitudinal study examines the evolving digital engagement of older adults in northern Italy, addressing the critical intersection of population aging and societal digitalization. The

literature consistently demonstrates that older adults often exhibit lower digital literacy and technology usage, potentially leading to social exclusion. This research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of changes in digital engagement over time, informing targeted interventions to enhance digital skills and promote active aging. - The study employs a quantitative approach, initially comparing data from 1,381 questionnaires collected in 2019 and 2022, capturing perspectives before and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The research investigates: 1) changes in the frequency of digital device usage; 2) self-reported comfort with technology use as a proxy for digital literacy; and 3) attitudes and motivations related to technology and digital education among Italian adults aged 60 and over. - Preliminary findings from the 2019-2022 comparison reveal an increase in the frequency of digital technology use among older adults post-pandemic, albeit still low in absolute terms. This increased usage was not accompanied by improved comfort or perceived ease of use, suggesting that the pandemic-driven push towards digitalization did not necessarily enhance digital literacy or motivation for improvement. Counterintuitively, attitudes towards the digital technologies appeared to have deteriorated rather than improved post-pandemic. - To provide a more comprehensive longitudinal perspective, a new data collection based on the same methodological approach is planned for spring 2025. This extension will allow a periodic comparison in three-year steps (2019-2022-2025), providing insights into the long-term evolution of digital engagement among older Italian adults. The findings of this study can provide valuable input for policy and intervention strategies aimed at addressing the "grey digital divide" in the context of ongoing digital transformation.

Keywords: Digital Grey Divide, Digital Literacy, Italian Older Adults and Longitudinal Aging Research

Alienation and the Sense of Possibility

Dirk MICHEL-SCHERTGES (Aarhus University, Denmark)

What alienation theories and studies have in common is that they can be understood (implicitly) as contemporary seismographic reflections on social problems that reveal an "incompatibility" of the individual with the social structural dimension. If for Marx it is primarily a matter of structures of alienation that arise from alienated and alienating work practices and organization, exchange value and not least the commodification of everyone and everything, then analyses of alienation can be understood as depending on the particular form of human coexistence under the given formation of society. In this framework, it seems interesting to shed light on the currently significant (global) socio-cultural and political shifts in society with the help of Lefebvre's rhythm analysis. That is, the rhythms of the immanent relations between everyday life and social structure are to be addressed. In this context, the question arises whether and how currently developing social tendencies and their immanent contradictions can be anticipated in order to recognize, understand and react to possible future alienation scenarios.

Keywords: Alienation and Reification, Consciousness, Everyday Life and Rhythm Analysis

Giving Voice to the Future Generations: Bringing Future Generations to the Debate on Green Transformation in Poland through Deliberation Using the Imaginary Future Generations Method

Marcin MIELEWCZYK (Jagiellonian University, Poland)

The climate crisis has unleashed a series of doubts about what kind of future awaits us as a society. In the debate about social adaptation and acceptance of new climate policies, due to the longevity of the transition processes, it is essential to consider the fairness of the transformation process for current, but also for future generations. Although the role of future generations in the green transformation has been noted (cf. Jones et al. 2018), there is a lack of research on the procedural use of the category of future generations. Future generations are often referred to in political speech, media discourses, and scientific studies, but the “future generation” reference may be more than a rhetorical figure. Is it possible to gain insights into the worldview of values of future generations? If so, how can we give future generations a voice so they can speak for themselves? - The Imaginary Future Generations (IFG) method (see Hara et al. 2019) proposed the creation of imaginary groups that would represent future generations (not yet born) and negotiate with representatives of the current generation regarding visions of the future and related decision-making processes. In this way, future generations could become one of the stakeholders in the deliberation process. The method thus bridges the gap between the need for intergenerational justice and listening to the many different grassroots visions of the future, which has contributed to choosing sustainable regional policies while ensuring acceptance and understanding by the currently living local societies. –In the presentation, I’ll show the results of the application of the IFG method in deliberation about green transformation policies (shift from coal, housing policies, transportation policies, biodiversity protection) in Poland, comparing visions of the future and the needs and goals expressed by the current and future generations during participatory workshops conducted in 2024.

Keywords: climate changes, climate policies, intergenerational justice and rights of future generations

Health Disinformation: A Comparative Study during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Brazil and Spain

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Antón CASTROMIL (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain)

Based on comparative research about health disinformation during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Brazil and Spain this paper discusses one of the new challenges to public health in the digital age. The research compares how editorials of the most read newspapers in Brazil and Spain engaged in debates about governmental measures against the Covid-19 pandemic. The editorials, published between March 2020 and March 2023, revealed much more political conflict and widespread disinformation in Brazil than in Spain. Associating frame analysis to historical and sociological sources the paper compares the editorial’s perspectives in each country as a mean to identify sources and themes of conflict, their protagonists, and positions. According to the editorials, while in Spain there was relative consensus on the measures against the pandemic and political disputes were mainly about legal aspects, in Brazil conflicts about health measures were stronger and involved the far

right's strategic use of disinformation against social distancing, mask use, and vaccination. Based on contemporary discussions on the new technomediatic public sphere, the paper tries to understand how and why health disinformation was not relevant in the European country while it has shaped the way Brazilian society faced the sanitary threat. Among the conclusions, the presentation highlights that health disinformation was widespread in Brazil because of a contextual alliance between the far right government and health market's actors in a network of disinformation coproduction. The results of this research might contribute to comprehend new challenges to public health that associate radical political actors and market interests in the strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Far right, Health disinformation and Political disputes

Strife-Torn World: Towards a Sociological Explanation

Rajesh MISRA (University of Lucknow, India)

There is hardly any doubt that human history has been marked by sanguinary at various phases, however, at this juncture humankind has been living in a critical conflict-ridden time. Time and again it appears like a series of crises would lead us to a world war. Armed clashes between nations, violent fights within nations, raging hostilities among communities, slaughters of innocent children and women in the name of right to defend, and savage brutalities of opposing groupings in all parts of the world have become normal. Currently more than 100 violent conflicts have been going on in different parts of the world. These conflicts need to be understood and analyzed social-scientifically. Traditional sociological explanations and theories have certain limitations. There would be a merit to go beyond basically materialistic, economic, political or functional explanations. A dated idea of ethnocentrism can be recapitulated to elucidate the socio-psychological process in various power struggles, either between nations or within a nation or a region. These are times of supremacist zeitgeist. Supremacist ideologies are contested by each other determined by race, religion, ethnicity, language, region, nationality, nation, tribe, and gender. A systematic exposition of the conceptual framework for ethnocentrism is called for.

Keywords: Conflict, Supremacist ideologies, ethnocentrism and zeitgeist

An Exploration of What Paid Work Means to Women over the Life Course from the Perspective of Older Women Who Work in Low-Paid Customer Service Jobs.

Eibhlís MOORE (University of Melbourne, Australia)

The research on women's employment has long shown that they are significantly disadvantaged in the labour market compared to men throughout their working lives. Women are more likely to work part-time; they are concentrated in low-paid and low-status industries; they shoulder the bulk of unpaid caring responsibilities which constrains their choices around work; and their retirement savings are significantly lower. - Despite this extensive research on women's employment, less attention has been paid to how women reflect on their working lives later in their life course. How do older women make retrospective sense of what paid work has meant to them at different points in their lives? How do they feel about the work they have done and how their working lives have unfolded? - To provide some answers to these questions, I present personal reflections on

paid work from narrative interviews with women aged 45-60 who work in retail and hospitality industries in Victoria, Australia. By looking at these industries, I also explore the women's experiences of ageing in low-paid, low-status occupational contexts where youthful subjectivities are prioritised in their affective, aesthetic, and emotional labour demands. Understanding what paid work means to women throughout their working lives is a necessary step for expanding what is known about women's employment and addressing the disadvantages women experience in the labour market.

Keywords: Gender equality in work, Narrative, Older women and Service work

Crisis and Future in Contemporary Sociological Discourse: Theoretical Approaches, Limitations and Potentialities

Mariana MOTTA VIVIAN (Freie Universität Berlin)

The present work addresses narratives of crisis diagnosis in contemporary social sciences with a focus on their discourse on the future. It starts from the understanding that, through the production of interpretations of the present, sociological narrative is continuously involved in articulating claims about the past and future of societies, thus being able to outline the most diverse aspirations and anticipations within social groups. This allows one to think of sociology itself as a future-oriented practice, which in contexts of crisis seems to gain an increased relevance. Though "crisis" appears as a disputed concept in the field of social sciences, there seems to be no doubt that we are currently living in troublesome times. At least since the events of 2007-2008 in the financial markets, the idea of a present in crisis has spread across diagnoses of different spheres of social life, appearing in such readings both in specific (e.g., "economic crisis", "environmental crisis", "democracy crisis", etc.) and in all-encompassing terms (e.g., "multiple crises", "entangled crises", "global crises", etc.). But what futures can emerge out of a crisis diagnosis? This is the question on which this work concentrates, and it does so through the discussion of the interrelation between both concepts within different traditions of thought in contemporary social theory. In order to substantiate the debate, the Brazilian case is presented as an example, as diverse sociological readings of a democracy crisis have produced different images of the future and ways of relating to it as well.

Keywords: Crisis, Future and Social Theory

The Future of Pharmaceutical Prices: Successes and Failures of Drug Pricing Reforms

Catherine MOURY, Portugal

Just like 30 years ago with new HIV treatments, the steep costs of numerous medicines are grabbing the spotlight in the media. These sky-high prices are influenced by various factors, with the main culprits being the lack of competition and the increasing financialisation of pharmaceutical companies. This increase leads to growing challenges in accessibility and the sustainability of health systems, even in wealthy countries. The presence of national and international regulations can contribute to reducing price, and hence enable a larger population to benefit from medications and/or result in significant public savings. Yet, those come with trade-offs: efforts to lower pharmaceutical prices may result in reduced investments and output in research and development, or cause delays and shortages in drug availability. Additionally, choosing not to reimburse promising medicines or quantifying the

value and quality of life for price determination might be politically costly. There are also trade-off regarding the basis for negotiating the prices - whether the costs of production (which are rarely very transparent) or the value of the pharmaceuticals (which is often uncertain and speculative for innovative medications and might lead to unsustainable prices (imagine if antibiotics had been priced according to their value). - The willingness and ability of certain governments to implement regulations on pharmaceutical pricing, and the choices of regulations they make, raise fundamental questions about the future of pharmaceutical prices. What prompts or will prompt governments to undertake reforms at a specific moment and not earlier? What factors will determine the success of these reforms? What insights can we deduce from this about pharmaceutical power and the (future) state's capacity to pursue the common good? - In this paper, we present the preliminary results of a funded project asking those questions, with a preliminary analysis of the Italian and US cases - both using a qualitative methodology.

Keywords: IRA, Lobby, health reforms and pharmaceutical pricing

Digital Public Sphere and Women's Rights in Turkey: The Dynamics of Feminist Activism and Opposition

Glenn MUSCHERT (Khalifa University of Science and Technology)

Duygu ÖZSOY (Mersin University)

Ahmet TAYLAN (Mersin University)

Women in non-Western modernization processes are assigned a specific role, symbolizing modernization while preserving national identity. The public sphere undergoes material modernization, while the private sphere, considered a moral domain, remains largely unchanged. Women's visibility in the public sphere is emphasized but often constrained by patriarchal national identity. Postcolonial feminists argue that women's oppression in postcolonial societies is shaped by both patriarchy and colonial legacies, making their struggle to enter the public sphere different from Western experiences. In Turkey, despite lacking a colonial past, a similar dynamic exists, as non-Western modernization processes frame the struggle over women's public roles within national identity debates. - In Turkey, women's access to the public sphere faces distinct challenges, mirrored in the digital public sphere. Digital activism around issues like violence against women is prominent. A key example is the opposition to Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. Feminist groups used hashtags like #İstanbulSözleşmesiYaşatır (The Istanbul Convention Saves Lives) to advocate for the convention, while conservative circles launched counter-campaigns with #İstanbulSözleşmesiİhanettir (The Istanbul Convention is Betrayal). Proponents argue the convention protects women's rights, while opponents claim it undermines the traditional family structure. - This research will analyze social media data, examining hashtag use and engagement on platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok, followed by interviews with active participants. It seeks to understand motivations behind digital activism on women's rights in Turkey, how participants perceive their role in shaping debates, and how digital platforms facilitate or hinder feminist activism and its opposition. By exploring these dynamics, the research aims to uncover the intersections of gender, identity, and resistance in Turkey's digital public sphere.

Keywords: Digital Public Sphere, Feminist Activist, Turkey and Women's Rights

Globalization—Everything, Everywhere, All the Time**Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE** (University of California Santa Barbara)

Is globalization still a proper descriptor? Does globalization also include satellites and space shuttles in outer space? Recent work widens the definition of globalization: ‘Globalization is the trend of greater worldwide connectivity of people over time and the awareness of this happening’ (Nederveen Pieterse 2021: 29). This shift of emphasis to connectivity as the driving force and the key point, implies that globalization is just one of the many forms this takes. Important is not the form, which changes according to circumstances, but connectivity and what it aspires and achieves. In an era of comeback of geopolitics this may be an important course adjustment.

Keywords: Connectivity, cold war, geoeconomics and geopolitics

La construcción de una subjetividad política a la luz de los movimientos sociales: El caso del estallido social chileno.**Anne NGUYEN** (Universidad Complutense, Spain)

Esta comunicación aborda los cambios en las subjetividades inducidos por la participación, sea activa o como observador, de un movimiento social. Me detengo en el caso del estallido social en Chile que implicó un sin precedente, una ruptura frente a los análisis de las subjetividades individuales de las décadas anteriores, consideradas mayormente despolitizadas. Este trabajo se fundamenta en una revisión bibliográfica, tomando como eje la siguiente pregunta: ¿Cómo se transforman los procesos de subjetivación política a la luz de los movimientos sociales? Propongo demostrar cómo se ha definido el concepto de “subjetivación política” en la literatura científica, especialmente aquella producida desde Chile, y sus implicaciones en el análisis del caso. Además, me apoyo en teorías desde la filosofía, la antropología y la sociología para analizar los conceptos de “subjetivación política” y de “movimiento social”. Los resultados desembocan en la aparición de un sujeto colectivo, producto de este proceso de subjetivación política. Esto significó un reencuentro entre individuos a escala de la sociedad y un primer paso para pensar un proyecto de sociedad común, favoreciendo una mayor cohesión social. Las consecuencias del estallido en la vida institucional del país fueron múltiples. Así, según Garreton (Avendaño y Osorio Rauld 2021), el resultado de las elecciones de constituyentes en 2021 refleja una continuidad con las preocupaciones de las manifestaciones. Finalmente, termino concluyendo que los manifestantes buscan tener acceso a mayores instancias de participación política, entendido como una *maximización* del régimen democrático imperante. - Avendaño, O. y Osorio Rauld, A. (2021). La institucionalización del estallido en la Convención Constitucional. Entrevista a Manuel Antonio Garretón. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales Ambos Mundos*. (2), 117–121.

Keywords: democracia, estallido social, movimiento social and subjetividad política

Unruliness in the Anthropocene: Subjectivities and Political Possibilities for Change

Andrea NIGHTINGALE (University of Oslo, Norway)

Fundamentally, the Anthropocene is a universal story, one where too often, the focus is on biophysical impacts that will leave traces in geological sediments. But the Anthropocene is also a sociological concern. Casting humans as the dominant driver of global change is not a neutral description. The legacies of colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy shape which processes or relations are prioritized when the Anthropocene is cast as a definitional moment. In this talk, I draw from feminist and anti-colonial thinking to suggest an emancipatory approach to these challenging times. As climate changes, so do key political subjectivities meaning that some people are assumed to understand change, while others are expected to adapt, creating new forms of inequality and exclusion at a global scale. These new inequalities are often rooted in gender, race and class, but exposure and vulnerability to biophysical hazards adds another intersectional dimension. I outline a relational framing of change that emphasises the affects and effects of climate change through a political, cross-scalar, and socionatural analysis in order to ask, how does uncertainty about the future shape subjectivities and political possibilities for solidarity in the present?

Keywords: Anthropocene, Climate Change, Gender and Political possibilities

Agileocracy: Agile Government for the Future of the Anthropocene

Jasmina P. NIKOLIC (University of Belgrade & Agile Humans Ltd.)

Biljana MARKOVIC (Agile Humans Ltd.)

As traditional governance models falter amid the Anthropocene's unprecedented challenges, there is an urgent need for innovative approaches. This presentation introduces *agileocracy*—an agile government framework that applies agile methodologies to revolutionize political and social systems. Drawing on my experiences as a former Serbian Member of Parliament, founder of Agile Humans, and university professor, I advocate for agileocracy as a dynamic and responsive governance model. - Agileocracy reimagines decision-making through decentralized, adaptive, and iterative processes. By dismantling rigid hierarchies, it empowers cross-functional teams and incorporates continuous feedback loops for swift and effective responses to emerging challenges. Actively engaging citizens and stakeholders, agileocracy fosters collaborative solutions to complex societal issues. In an era defined by rapid change and complexity, it offers the resilience and flexibility essential for navigating the intricacies of the Anthropocene. - Moving beyond theory, this presentation provides concrete evidence of how agile principles transcend business development to become powerful tools for political innovation and social transformation. Through case studies from my work with Agile Humans and my political career, I demonstrate how organizations and movements have harnessed agile methods to drive meaningful change. We explore how agileocracy aligns with social justice initiatives and redefines governance for an unpredictable future. - Combining firsthand political experience with agile expertise, this presentation makes a persuasive case for adopting *agileocracy* as a necessary path forward. It calls upon policymakers, scholars, and activists to rethink conventional governance models and embrace a system as dynamic and adaptable as the challenges we face. Join me in exploring how *agileocracy* can transform governance and

build a more resilient, just world for the future of the Anthropocene.

Keywords: Adaptive Governance Model, Agile Government , Agileocracy and Political Innovation

Technostress As an Obstacle to Dignified Aging in the Digital Age

Galit NIMROD (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)

Numerous studies have demonstrated an overall positive association between Information and Communication Technology (ICT) use and Subjective Well-being (SWB) in later life. Without detracting from the value of previous research, it should be noted that most studies on ICT use and SWB in older adulthood focused on positive impacts, typically neglecting adverse effects. By concentrating on technostress (“a modern disease of adaptation caused by an inability to cope with new computer technologies in a healthy manner” [Brod, 1984, p. 16]), which was highly documented in research on younger users, this presentation aims at illuminating a potential risk factor associated with technology use in old age. Based on the findings from three studies conducted in six countries, four topics will be reviewed: 1) the technology-induced stimuli that induce technostress in older age, 2) the background characteristics associated with higher levels of technostress in later life, 3) the association between technostress and older adults’ SWB in varying circumstances, and 4) the global nature of technostress as an adaptation challenge in old age. Following this review, it will be argued that technostress is critical in explaining third-level digital divides (i.e., disparities in benefits gained from ICT use) and should be considered a threat to well-being in older adulthood. Moreover, as the population most affected by technostress in all circumstances and all countries is that of the frailer older adults (i.e., older, less healthy, less educated, with lower income), it will be claimed that technostress is a factor increasing social disparities within the older population. Accordingly, technostress endangers frailer older people’s enjoyment of the human right to dignified aging, autonomy, and overall thriving by making them feel inadequate to live in dignity in an increasingly digital world.

Keywords: aging, social disparities, technology and well-being

Navigating Urban Turbulence: Participatory Approaches to Security Futures

Perkowski NINA (University of Hamburg)

In contemporary Europe, urban residents grapple with an unprecedented convergence of security challenges. The lingering effects of the pandemic, looming threats of war, and the escalating climate crisis intersect with rising nationalism, social polarization, housing crises, and economic instability. This multifaceted turbulence is reshaping the landscape of certainties and uncertainties in urban life, demanding novel approaches to understanding and addressing everyday security concerns. While research on vernacular security has gained traction, there remains a significant gap in our understanding of how urban residents navigate this compounded erosion of relative security and envision futures amidst such turbulence. This paper bridges this gap by presenting findings from a qualitative study involving 125 Hamburg residents, demonstrating how sociological futures research can engage broader publics. In ten participatory workshops conducted across diverse

neighborhoods, residents collaboratively developed visions of a ‘secure city for all’. By integrating debates on vernacular security, futures studies, and the sociology of imagination, the paper examines how participatory methods can uncover nuanced perspectives on urban security and security futures. Key findings highlight urban residents’ capacity to reimagine security beyond traditional notions of exclusion and surveillance. Crucially, the study amplifies the voices of groups traditionally marginalized in security debates, including people with learning disabilities, the LGBTQI community, and migrantized individuals, thereby addressing critical questions of accessibility and representation in futures studies. By foregrounding citizen perspectives and employing participatory methodologies, this study not only advances theoretical debates in futures studies and vernacular security but also underscores the importance of inclusive methodologies in crafting resilient, secure urban futures that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of all city dwellers.

Keywords: imagination, participatory futures, urban security and vernacular security

Theorizing on Futures within the War: Expertise from and on Ukraine in Global Dialogue **Natalia OTRISHCHENKO** (Center for Urban History of East Central Europe)

War shatters the existing structure of everydayness; it is a time of radical vulnerability and protracted uncertainty when the horizons of the future are shrinking drastically. However, it also provokes an avalanche of academic reflections from different positions. Some traditions explain the war by appealing to historical, political, or economic arguments; some focus on collecting and analyzing data as quickly as possible; others aim to build models and forecasts. Differences in theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches can result in heated discussions and indicate tensions in global knowledge production. As I argue, these tensions also happen due to variations in assumptions about the future. The paper builds on interviews with scholars of and from Ukraine who engaged in international discussion after the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022. What kind of knowledge infrastructures support or undermine their expertise? What images of the future do they imply in their theorizing? What is the role of justice in framing the arguments in global knowledge production on and from the regions that have long been marginalized? My presentation contributes to the discussion on the “insider/outsider” dilemma as a range of positions that change and evolve. It also shows how the future as a resource is unevenly distributed, especially during unfolding violence, which has long-lasting effects on the development of regional expertise. Finally, the paper tackles what can be done better concerning international academic collaboration in war-related projects.

Keywords: Expertise, Knowledge production, Ukraine and War

Anticipating Late Petro-State Politics amidst Climate Catastrophe **Anna PALMER** (University of California, Berkeley)

Many Global North countries have historically developed by exploiting fossil fuel resources, which has contributed to the climate catastrophe we face today. But what happens when countries in the Global South discover oil late, during a global shift away from fossil fuels due to the climate crisis? Development scholars often propose a stagist model for economic growth, while emerging research on climate change temporalities highlights the need for all

governments to anticipate the far-reaching consequences of their fossil-fueled development plans, both for the present and future. By thinking from Guyana, where massive oil reserves were discovered in 2015, and where citizens contend with abject poverty imposed through (neo)colonialism, this paper investigates how state and civil society actors navigate entrenched visions of development amidst the pressing demands of responding to climate catastrophe. Through qualitative content analysis of judicial decisions, legal arguments, development plans, and speeches related to Guyana's oil industry, I introduce the concept of "late petro-state" politics. I show how the Guyanese government leverages compressed timelines and the anticipated impermanence of oil profits to justify accelerated development, often at the expense of decarbonization. In contrast, civil society actors resist this acceleration by invoking inter-scalar climate obligations and intergenerational commitments. As the climate catastrophe intensifies, this study illuminates how shifting temporalities influence state decision-making and resistance, contributing to broader discussions on the feasibility of fossil-fueled progress and imagining just futures in the Anthropocene.

Keywords: anticipatory governance, climate catastrophe, coloniality and development

Stewardship and the Future in the Anthropocene/Capitalocene

Diana PAPADEMAS (State University of New York/ Old Westbury)

How do people on the local level in the context of global (un)sustainability participate in movements for greater equality, justice in the future in the anthropocene/capitalocene? The imaginative stewardship concept is pursued and the research for this project on stewardship has been developed from the engagement, ethnography and documentary methods over the last 50 years in "northern Appalachia", USA. The New England region designation by the author indicates a geographic and cultural region defined by the Appalachian Mountains from Belle Isle in Canada to Cheaha Mountain in Alabama. Stewardship varies by region and locale, and the author's focus on the north is a way to dispel "Appalachian" stereotypes. Contemporary sustainable development goals are serious challenges, with a view from the transformation of land from the indigenous, to family farm settlements, to the industrial; land development shifted by both dairy to factory farms, and logging for commerce, transformation of forests and extraction of wood for paper products, the decline of paper mills, altered landscapes, energy challenges, and conflict with dominant corporate powers. Modern local movements have included ending the quest for hydropower transmission lines to current challenges by corporate controlled 'carbon crediting' programs from foreign and out-of-region corporate owner. Local stewardship concepts vision long-term into the future and reflect long-term practices from the past. The author is directly involved with a conservation project, working with local officials, and community members. Also, participation in the United Nations Stakeholder Engagement for Integrated Actions to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & the Pact for the Future, globalizes these activities and adds to the conversation on the local level. Such movement "agency" addresses indigenous, working-class, and other marginalized realities in order to promote greater justice and to "balance" idealism with realism about the future. The project poses comparative potentials for further research.

Keywords: Global Sustainability, Inequalities & Justice Movements, Local Strategies and Stewardship

‘Someone Makes Videos and Gets the Money for It’: Agency of Older Tiktokers in Digital Capitalism

Edit PAULÓ (ELTE Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary)

Regina GRADWOHL (ELTE Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary)

The capitalist operation of our time has been described in various forms by the literature, such as platform, surveillance, digital capitalism, techno-feudalism or digital colonialism. Although each concept underlines different aspects of the operation, they agree that big tech companies are the biggest winners of the change that determines the operation of the markets and customer behaviour. What opportunities does the individual have in this system? What options are open for those who are, because of their age, not the primary target group of this operation? Is it possible to win on an individual level in this setting? - In this research, we applied the Visual-Verbal Video Analysis Method to analyse the content of older Hungarian TikTokers. Our results showed four ways to utilise the platform. TikTokers can showcase their existing product, service, or brand by appearing in an expert role based on age. On the contrary, the popularity of a personal account can grow so much that it begins to provide income, and even related services and product distribution become profitable. Businesses also discovered the potential in reaching older TikTokers, who become faces of MLM systems, sharing their good experiences about the advertised product. However, some profiles do not belong to individual users: an actress plays the role of an older woman, and the product is barely unperceivable. - What is the role of age in each case? How prominent is the display and stereotyping of age, and what conclusions can we draw? Is the target audience of these videos the older age group, aiming at (creating) the ‘grey market’? Or, on the contrary, do these videos try to appeal to the younger age groups, and by (over)emphasising the grandparental roles, they try to create a bond? And finally, is it worth it for the older TikTokers?

Keywords: TikTok, ageing, digital capitalism and visual-verbal video analysis

Mobilités et Interactions Réelles et Virtuelles: Jeunes du Maghreb et d'Europe

Albino PEREIRA DA CUNHA (ISCSP, Portugal)

Prendre les mobilités et les interactions comme des éléments générateurs de profonds changements devient un intéressant exercice théorique et pratique dans le monde dans lequel nous vivons et, en particulier, en ce qui concerne les relations dites euroméditerranéennes, en même temps différentes et proches, que ce soit en termes économiques, politiques, sociaux, environnementaux, démographiques ou culturels. Pour appréhender ses relations dans toute leur complexité, il devient indispensable de regarder et d'étudier l'aire méditerranéenne dans le cadre de différentes logiques et interactions sociales, politiques, économiques et culturelles et qu'il faut savoir reconnaître, mettre en perspective et valoriser. -Ce que nous nous proposons de faire, compte tenu de notre champ d'intérêt de recherche sur les jeunes, l'éducation et l'interculturalité dans l'espace maghrébin et l'espace européen occidental méditerranéen, c'est de réfléchir sur l'impact que les mobilités, les circulations et les interactions (réelles et virtuelles) de (et entre) jeunes du Maghreb et de l'Europe, peuvent avoir dans la production de nouvelles altérités,

d'innovations personnelles et sociétales et de nouvelles revendications politiques et culturelles. - Dans le contexte particulier de la Méditerranée Occidentale, la présence réciproque des peuples et des cultures des deux rives : passé, présent, futur implique une vision commune, intégrée, partagée, inclusive et durable. En récupérant la perspective dynamique et dialectique du «temps historique» de Fernand Braudel, perspective nécessairement présente dans toute recherche, puisqu'elle s'applique dans différents domaines: culturel, géographique, social, économique, politique, écologique et psychologique, entre autres, nous chercherons à montrer comment la valorisation et la connaissance d'un patrimoine culturel commun et la promotion du dialogue interculturel dans l'aire méditerranéenne, notamment à travers les nouvelles générations, et par des mécanismes de coopération et d'intégration à court, moyen et long, sont à travailler pour changer et faire évoluer les perceptions et les attitudes envers l'Autre et envers l'environnement commun.

Keywords: Europe, Jeunesse, Maghreb and Mobilités

Technostress and Coping Strategies of Older Academics: Findings of Scoping Review

Jolanta PIVORIENE (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania)

Sylwia PRZYTUŁA (Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland)

Funda ERGÜLEÇ (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey)

Silvana CRIVOI (University of Bucharest, National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection, Romania)

Cristina Maria TOFAN (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University / Romanian Academy, Romania)

Accelerated technological development at universities is changing working conditions for academic staff, especially for older ones. Technostress in education has been researched from various perspectives: among school teachers (Siddiqui, Arif, 2022), university students (Alvarez-Risco et al., 2021; Upadhyaya, Vrinda, 2021; Kulikowski et al., 2022), non-academic staff (Aida et al., 2007), university teachers (Estrada-Muñoz et al., 2021; Penado Abilleira et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2020). However, limited research is done about technostress experienced by older academic staff at universities (Rasticova et al., 2022). - The aim is to discuss findings of scoping review about technostress of older academics in higher education, answering research question - How did older academics deal with challenges caused by technology? - Scoping review was registered on Open Science Framework (Pivoriene et al., 2024). It was done using PRISMA for Scoping Reviews (Tricco et al., 2018). Initially, 803 articles from five databases (WOS, Scopus, PubMed, ProQuest, IEEE) were identified, after deleting duplicates and exclusion with reason, 41 articles remained for data extraction. - Coping strategies employed by older academics and recommendations provided by the authors of reviewed articles highlight necessity of a comprehensive approach to managing technostress in higher education. Older faculty members have demonstrated resilience and adaptability by making the most of digital tools, creating supportive job environments, utilizing flexible work schedules, engaging in continuous professional development. These strategies, coupled with institutional support, facilitate a balanced work-life integration and enhance overall job satisfaction. On the other hand, recommendations emphasize the importance of addressing digital anxiety, reinterpreting technostress as opportunity for growth, implementing supportive organizational practices. Providing specialized training, promoting mental health initiatives, fostering positive work

environment are crucial for mitigating the adverse effects of technostress. Additionally, enhancing digital literacy and ensuring robust technical support are important in enabling older academics to navigate the challenges posed by technological advancements.

Keywords: higher education, older academic staff, scoping review and technostress

Green Startups as Drivers of Sustainable Change: Entrepreneurial Responses to Environmental and Economic Crises in Chile and Tunisia

Camila **PONCE LARA** (Philipps University, Chile)

This presentation examines the role of green startups in Chile and Tunisia as key players in the transition toward a sustainable economy. It analyzes the profiles and motivations of entrepreneurs who, amidst environmental and economic crises, develop innovative solutions in sectors such as energy, recycling, and sustainable agriculture. By balancing profitability with ecological commitment, these startups are reshaping local development while challenging traditional extractivist models and conflicts. The research that is based on this presentation adopts a sociological perspective to explore how these initiatives contribute to the creation of more equitable and environmentally sustainable economies in the Global South. This work highlights the potential of green entrepreneurship in driving social change and offers insights into the broader implications for global sustainability efforts.

Keywords: Chile, extractivism, green start-ups, sustainability, Tunisia

A Systematic Review on the Role of Digital Technology in Accessing Healthcare Services and Its Association with the Well-Being of Older Adults

Sarika **RAI** (International Institute for Population Sciences)

Digital technologies can be innovative solutions for healthcare access for rapidly-increasing ageing populations. Older adults are increasingly adopting digital technology for benefits such as healthcare access and social-connectedness. However, they encounter barriers such as digital-literacy and user-friendly interfaces. The aim of this systematic review is to synthesize the current evidence on the impact of digital technology use on healthcare-services and utilization among older adults and to study the various barriers that affect the adoption of different digital technologies. An electronic literature search (Medline, PsychINFO, Scopus, Web-of-Science, and PubMed) was conducted to identify relevant studies published from January 2003 onwards. Studies examining the use of digital technologies (mobile-apps, wearable-devices, telemedicine) by older adults. We identified 1,356 potentially relevant studies and 22 publications met the inclusion criteria. Sixty-three percent explored telemedicine use, 28% focused on mobile-apps, and 27% looked into wearable-devices. Results shown that digital technologies, particularly health-apps and telemedicine, have improved healthcare access for older adults by providing timely consultations and better management of chronic conditions. However, use of these technologies varies, with older adults in urban areas showing greater proficiency. The review identified several barriers to adoption, with digital-literacy being the most frequently reported. A lack of user-friendly interfaces was found as a barrier in 31% studies followed by poor access to devices (27%). Studies also reported 42% of availability of digital-literacy

training, social-support from family members (35%) and affordability of devices (37%) as adoption barriers. Study found that digital-platforms foster social-connectedness, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation impacting on mental well-being. Study suggests that the successful integration of digital technologies into the lives of older adults requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both technological and socio-economic and cultural factors. Further research is needed to understand the long-term impacts of cost-effectiveness of digital technologies for healthcare system to support healthy-ageing.

Keywords: Digital Literacy, Digital Technology, Healthcare Services and Older adults

Strengthening the Transdisciplinary Network of the Amazon (RETA) for Advancing Climate Justice and Democratic Participation

RETA - Rede TRANSDISCIPLINAR DA AMAZÔNIA (Escola da Cidade, Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Dionéia FERREIRA (Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil)

Eduardo STASZOWSKI (The New School/Parsons School of Design)

Claudio BUENO (University of California Santa Cruz)

Renata ZAMPRONIO (The New School for Social Research)

The Purus-Madeira interfluvium, one of the most preserved regions of the Amazon in Brazil, faces escalating threats from illegal deforestation driven by logging, mining, industrial-scale agriculture, and cattle ranching. These pressures disproportionately impact Indigenous and traditional populations, particularly women and young people, who are on the front lines of defending their territories. In response, the Transdisciplinary Network of the Amazon (RETA) was established to foster a collaborative model of governance that integrates climate justice and democratic participation. In democratic regimes, the dynamics of collaboration and conflict often reveal tensions between local communities and external stakeholders, such as government agencies, corporations, and NGOs. Local communities possess deep knowledge of their environment and sustainable practices, but their voices are frequently marginalized in decision-making processes dominated by external actors. RETA counters this marginalization by building solidarity with these communities and ensuring their active role in governance. By leveraging a network of local communities, public authorities, artists, and civil society organizations, RETA focuses on biodiversity conservation and advocates for collective action. RETA exemplifies how grassroots movements in Latin America can amplify the voices of vulnerable populations and mobilize collective efforts for social and environmental justice. Its transdisciplinary approach offers valuable insights into how social movements can drive both climate justice and democratic reform, particularly in regions facing environmental and political crises. - RETA is a collective that de-emphasizes individual authorship; therefore, this abstract is attributed to RETA. Contributors to the writing (in alphabetical order) include: Cláudio Bueno, Jolemia Chagas, Dionéia Ferreira, Ligia Nobre, and Eduardo Staszowski.

Keywords: Climate Justice, Democratic Participation and Transdisciplinary Collaboration

Older People's Perception of the Use of Personal Data By Private Health Services.

Ana RIVOIR (Universidad de la República de Uruguay)

Maria Julia MORALES (Universidad de la República)

The paper addresses the perception and meaning attributed by the elderly to the accumulation and use of their personal data by private health care providers in Uruguay, the need for this use for the benefit of their welfare and the treatment and safeguarding given to them for their protection. Research results are presented (Reilly & Rivoir, 2023) that the accelerated process of digitalization and digitization of health services leaves the elderly facing the possibility of deepening inequalities. – The development of digital competencies is essential for older people to avoid their digital exclusion in a context of progressive digitization of society and services (Llorente et al., 2015; Lüders et al., 2017) especially considering the specific characteristics of the digital divide in this sector (Hunsaker & Hargittai, 2018) Due to the Covid19 pandemic and the increasing use of platforms, these issues became more important. – The paper is based on a case study in Uruguay that sought to learn about personal data literacy processes to identify the needs of older people in the use of data and characterize their knowledge about the implications of sharing personal data through digital platforms. Cumulative digital literacy workshops were conducted through the Zoom platform and discussion forums via WhatsApp. – We conclude the existence of limitations on the freedom to choose whether or not to provide their data versus the services provided in return. On the other hand, visualizing that the development of digital capabilities of the elderly improves the possibilities to manage their personal data within the health systems and promote citizenship and their rights.

Keywords: datafication, digitalization, health services and older adults

Capitalist Models of Development and Social Movements in Latin America

Federico M. ROSSI (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Spain)

Social movements are crucial actors in producing transformations in society. One important dimension in this regard is certainly capitalism. The goal of this paper is to analyze social movement dynamics across the capitalist models of development that predominated in Latin America from independence from colonial rule until the early twenty-first century. This is done through the lens of a political economy of social movements, understood as the substantive and theoretical recoupling of the political and economic spheres in the relational study of social movements and capitalist dynamics. If an economically determinist approach is avoided and the North Atlantic mainstream narrative is decentered, a political economy of social movements reveals multiple struggles for the expansion of the socio-political arena and the resistance to this expansion with plutocratic retrenchment periods that contract that arena. In Latin America there has been an enormous development of research since the 1980s linked to protest and the transformations of capitalism. However, this accumulated research has not yet been systematized into models of development to understand the impact of capitalism on social movements, and even less so, the role played by social movements and protests in economic change.

Keywords: Latin America, capitalism, relational analysis and social movements

Logos Ex Machina: Policy Implications for AI-Driven Consumer Systems

Nandita ROY (Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, India)

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming consumer products from mere intermediaries—tools people interact through—into active communicators, enabling more direct and immersive actor-to-actor engagement. This shift introduces new opportunities for co-creation, agency, and value exchange, but also exacerbates issues such as algorithmic bias, surveillance, and ethical dilemmas. AI-driven systems, particularly those reliant on black-box models like large language models (LLMs), raise profound questions about transparency, accountability, and user trust. -In this research, we explore the evolving digital ecosystem from the perspective of AI consumer products, focusing on user engagement with both explainable and opaque AI. Through five exploratory studies, we examine the complex interaction between consumers and AI technologies, highlighting the challenges posed by black-box systems and their broader societal implications. We identify the varying outcomes shaped by differential access to AI resources and regulatory frameworks, particularly in global contexts. Our framework for understanding AI-consumer interactions informs a set of considerations for policymakers, emphasizing the need for global, comparative perspectives on regulatory interventions. -Ultimately, this research contributes to ongoing debates about the social shaping of AI technologies, offering propositions for future investigation into how AI may exacerbate inequalities or foster new forms of empowerment in different geopolitical regions.

Keywords: Explainable AI, Information Asymmetry, Natural Interaction and Personal Control

An Ecosocialist Labour Form

Ariel SALLEH (University of Sydney, Australia)

As the mega-economy brings down the complex of natural systems that sustain planetary life, sociological concepts of labour and value that evolved with industrial capital need to be re-thought. A first step in this political shift is acknowledging labour as the ontological moment that bridges human intention and the material world. This allows us to rethink the relation between productive work and reproductive or regenerative work. It certainly will not do, to accept the rhetoric of progress that runs from industrial manufacture to post-industrial dematerialisation. Moreover to build future ecosocialist alternatives with the broadest possible democratic base, a generic notion of labour is essential to integrate workers, women, peasant, indigenous, and ecological objectives. A grassroots and global resistance to capital calls for the recognition of these 'othered' labors and the unspoken value that they catalyse. It means theorising non-monetized activities carried on in a space somewhere between economics and ecology. For it is here, that what we might call 'meta-industrial' labour anticipates future models of provisioning in a green and autonomous commons. While marxists have been moving towards an ecological socialism for several decades now, their theoretic focus has remained with 'relations of production'. By contrast, a living ecosystem is about metabolic exchanges between Earth systems - soils, plants, water, atmosphere, and the diversity of species that interact with them. This broad ecocentric perception is essential to the design of 'an ecosocialist labour form'.

Keywords: humanity-nature metabolism, meta-industrial labour, movement integration and relations of reproduction

Time to Call the Androcene

Ariel **SALLEH** (University of Sydney, Australia):

An ecofeminist sociology of knowledge and corresponding critique of eco-modernism will challenge the existential self-understanding of many social movement activists across classes and ethnicities. Why so? Whereas Anthropocene scientists emphasise 'deep geological time', social life is infused with another time, the metabolic pulse of materially embodied energies – libidinal and unconscious, intentional and judgmental. The Earth-wide changes classified today under 'deep geological time' actually have their motive source in the repression of 'deep affective time'. If you want a transdisciplinary reading of the planetary polycrisis and a subliminal reading of The Anthropocene Imagination - this is the session for you. It is based on my book DeColonize EcoModernism! recently published with Bloomsbury, London. The work is part of a trilogy, which understands the patriarchal-colonial-capitalist system as a single political entity - The Androcene. This re-naming opens the way for a shared strategy of resistance among feminist, decolonial, socialist, and ecological movements. The trilogy delves into the deep structure of political ecology by examining how workers, women and indigenous peoples are each manipulated by an ontology of systemic dualisms. The Androcene is a vibrant historically evolved complex of patriarchal-colonial-capitalist privilege and rulemaking. Over millennia, it has expanded across the world from local civilizations and religious rites, through tribal invasions and imperial adventures, arriving at its modern capitalist phase some 500 years ago. DeColonise EcoModernism! focuses on where the action is right now; that is, the tensions between neoliberal ecological policy and global grassroots initiatives for change.

Keywords: Androcene, Anthropocene, decolonization, eco-modernism, polycrisis

Futurs Numériques : Transformer La Gestion Migratoire à Travers L'innovation Digitale

Bakrim **SANAA** (Université Mohammed V de Rabat, Morocco)

Tout au long de ces dernières décennies, le profil migratoire du Maroc est devenu l'un des plus dynamiques, un pays d'installation et/ou de transit pour des milliers de migrants provenant principalement d'Afrique subsaharienne. Le lancement d'une politique migratoire volontariste a été une réponse aux divers défis liés à la migration, notamment l'intégration. Dans ce contexte, la mise en place d'un système de gestion numérique apparaît comme une nécessité. - Dans la perspective du Maroc Digital 2030, cette étude s'inscrit dans un contexte marqué par l'absence d'outils numériques pour la prise en charge des migrants africains subsahariens, qu'ils soient réfugiés, demandeurs d'asile, sans-papiers ou régularisés. Ainsi, la conception et la mise en place d'une application mobile innovante visent à faciliter leur intégration à l'échelle nationale. - L'application mobile, avant tout un projet de gestion, contribuera à simplifier l'échange d'informations sur les difficultés rencontrées par les migrants, quel que soit leur statut administratif, dans leur accès aux services fondamentaux tels que le logement, la santé, l'éducation et l'emploi. Elle est également destinée aux personnels des associations, des organismes publics et des ONG qui s'intéressent à la question migratoire des Africains subsahariens au Maroc.

Il s'agit d'une application mobile conçue à partir d'un système de gestion de contenu (CMS Joomla) et d'une base de données MySQL. Cet outil numérique deviendra sans doute incontournable pour soutenir la communication, l'échange et la diffusion d'informations

relatives aux migrants subsahariens au Maroc.

Keywords: Intégration, Migration, Technologies de l'information and Transformation digitale

The Solidarity Economy as a Reconfiguration of Social Movements in a Context of Dismantling

Fabio SANCHEZ (Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Brazil)

The aim of the present work is to discuss the constitution of a solidarity economy agenda in conjunction with the Brazilian social movements in the last decades, seeking to perceive its constitution as a political subject and its relationship with the Brazilian democratic process and the social movements after the 1980s. - The literature temporally locates the (re)emergence of the solidarity economy in Brazil - understood as the creation and expansion of associative and self-managerial ways of organizing economic activities – starting from the re-democratization in the early 1980s. - However, the hypothesis of this work is that only in the 1990s - as a response to the advance of neoliberal policies and the consequent configurations of social movements in this scenario – did the solidarity economy acquire meaning and presence in the public sphere and become a political subject. The experiences of the solidarity economy and its political agenda could be considered more as the result of the dynamics of the 1990s and its context, characterized by the advance of neoliberalism and the ebb and flow of democratic experiences of the previous decade, than the opposite. - The central argument of this work is that this process takes place precisely because of the more general reconfiguration of social movements throughout the 1990s, which stemmed from profound transformations in Brazilian society. These transformations led a group of social movements and several of their activists to find in the solidarity economy a new agenda that allowed them to (re)position themselves in a field of conflict in profound mutation. - Considering that, we aim to discuss the reconfiguration of the mobilization processes originally organized around the grammar of the solidarity economy, focusing on the semantic sense of democracy in both cases.

Keywords: activist trajectories, grammar of rights, reconfiguration of social movements and solidarity economy

Filling the Gap: Technology-Facilitated Repression of Social Movements in the Spanish Context

María SANTIAGO PRIETO (University Complutense of Madrid, Spain)

The relationship between social movements and new technologies has been widely studied (Earl and Kimport, 2011; Fominaya and Gillan, 2017; Treré, 2018), as has the role of digital technologies in controlling dissent. Extensive research exists on surveillance capitalism (Zuboff, 2020), Big Data and protest (Degli, 2014; Ferguson, 2017), and more recently, the role of artificial intelligence in policing (Polcumpally and Rahar, 2022; Drage and Frabetti, 2024). However, there has been limited integration of studies on social movements and repressive technologies, with most work focusing on autocratic regimes and their suppression of dissent (Topak and Mekouar, 2022; Kuznetsova, 2024). The lack of research in other contexts presents a notable gap in the literature, especially as emerging digital

technologies, such as AI, significantly impact how protests and social movements are controlled. - The shortage of empirical studies is particularly pronounced in Spain, where the literature on technology-facilitated repression is largely confined to human rights organization reports (Defender a Quien Defiende, 2024; Scott-Railton et al, 2022; Miralles et al, 2021) and a few academic works (Gunzelmann, 2022; Maroto and Segura, 2018). This paper offers a literature review on technology-facilitated state repression of social movements, as part of a broader PhD thesis focused on the Spanish context, seeking to identify key findings and gaps in existing research. Additionally, preliminary results from interviews with Spanish human rights defenders, academics, and activists who have experienced technology-facilitated repression will be presented. Therefore, this paper seeks to expose the main repertoires of technology-facilitated repression, their impacts, the resistance strategies developed by activists, and potential future lines of research on this issue, contributing to the collective reflection on how digital transformation may erode (or strengthen) struggles for social justice.

Keywords: Digital, Social movements, Spain and Technology-facilitated repression

Pandemic Neoliberalism and Struggles for Vaccine Equity

Sara SCHOONMAKER (University of Redlands, USA)

I analyze the development of what I call “pandemic neoliberalism,” where neoliberals strive to regulate global public health through neoliberal institutions, particularly intellectual property law and the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) within the World Trade Organization (WTO). During the COVID-19 pandemic, pandemic neoliberals used the TRIPS Agreement to define vaccines and therapeutics as intellectual property. They employed the dominant form of intellectual property law involving patents on vaccines and therapeutics, which included a wide range of trade secrets and tacit knowledge owned and controlled by major pharmaceutical firms, states and other institutions in the global North. In order to challenge this regime, states in the global South advocated vaccine equity, seeking to develop local capacities to manufacture and distribute vaccines. - Pandemic neoliberalism developed through interconnected conflicts between the global North and South over intellectual property law. They arose in October 2020, when the Indian and South African WTO delegations requested the WTO to temporarily waive TRIPS restrictions on COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. WTO delegates from the global North opposed this request as an infringement on intellectual property. They delayed and ultimately restricted access to lifesaving vaccines and therapeutics. - Simultaneously, related struggles emerged over vaccine technology, production and distribution. Vaccine equity advocates at the World Health Organization (WHO) established an mRNA Technology Transfer Hub in South Africa to expand vaccine production in the global South, particularly Africa. The Hub posed an alternative to the dominant model of drug development under intellectual property law that relied on patents, exclusive licensing, and the profit motive. - I explore these two interconnected conflicts between pandemic neoliberals and vaccine equity advocates between 2020 and 2024. I evaluate prospects for “technological sovereignty” over vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. Such sovereignty involves local ownership or control over these technologies to prepare for future pandemics.

Keywords: intellectual property, neoliberalism, pandemic and vaccine

The Halting Movements for Disaster Socialism from Above and below: US Disaster Politics in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries.

Tyler SCHUENEMANN (Keene State College, USA)

In spite of the considerable public attention and resources that recent natural disasters generate in the United States, these events rarely trigger the kinds of broader social, economic, or political change hoped for on the left. Instead, discussions of humanitarian relief, blame games, and culture wars dominate the public sphere until attention and concern moves elsewhere. When we do see grass-roots experiments to build alternative economic, cultural, and political institutions in the aftermath of disaster, they are often ignored. Moreover, these organizers find themselves in a dilemma: are their efforts to generate alternatives on the ground effectively building political power in support of a more democratic, ecologically sound responses to disaster? Or are they falling into a neoliberal trap of self-help, surrendering what claim to government support that they had under the administrative state? In this paper, I argue that this political inertia and the movements to overcome it are responses to an unfulfilled promise of America's administrative state. I provide an analysis of the evolving thinking and experimentation on display in response to major disasters in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, starting with the Great Galveston Hurricane (1900) and ending with Hurricane Maria (2017). This record demonstrates how disasters have been sites of political reform in the past, generating an emerging social contract of environmental security from above. Today's political inertia is shaped by the perceived failure of that social contract. Any progress made toward a fairer, ecologically sound response to disasters in America will have to contend with that legacy and the public's waning trust in administrative authority.

Keywords: Disaster Socialism, Environmental Politics and Natural Disasters

Between Extractivism and Green Transformation: Scenarios of Mexico's New Sexennium

Markus S. SCHULZ (FLACSO, Sede Académica de México, Mexico)

What can be learned from a major oil-producing country's balancing the desires for the material wealth and lifestyles of the Global North with the goals of ecological sustainability and social justice? The recent election of a climate scientist to become Mexico's first female President was accompanied by high expectations that are now facing turbulent geopolitical dynamics. This study examines competing scenarios of the new sexennium and the drivers behind them in order to address broader questions about the political leverage for transitioning from extractivism to sustainability. Critical observers ask to what extent the new administration is bound to continue the deeply entrenched support for a carbon economy and prioritization of military collaboration over human rights. Other policy analysts point to a congressional supermajority that allows more progressive politics and a green transformation. What alternative visions do political parties, corporate lobbies, and civil society actors articulate? What specific roles do social movements, including indigenous communities, environmental activists, and academic researchers take? How do different social forces contest the future pathways, and what factors shape their efficacy? How are solidarities conceptualized, enacted, and mobilized to advance social justice within the political, economic, and cultural transformations? What lessons can be drawn from the Mexican case that is relevant for other countries and regions and the broader struggle for

socially and ecologically sustainable futures? Session Selection: Solidarity and Justice in the Anthropocene: Global and Local Perspectives

Keywords: Climate change, Extractivism, Mexico, Solidarities

Chapbooks Against the Machine: (Re)Developing Local Community-Based Publishing in the Age of Generative AI

Enric SENABRE HIDALGO (Universitat de Barcelona)

Following the hypothesis of a revival of analog creativity modes, channels and techniques, the pliegOS.net project promotes paper content co-creation on the spot as a form of resistance against the pervasiveness of generative AI. Originating from the discovery of early 1900s Catalan chapbooks, this ethnographic action research and coop-driven initiative develops open tools for rapid community-based writing and publishing. The project's activities include chapbook editing and distribution at local fairs and academic congresses, or a mobile printing van at cultural festivals, engaging participants in creating zines using typewriters and collages –about ad hoc and co-decided topics and issues. By emphasizing hands-on, local production methods, this approach highlights the authenticity and immersive qualities of print media against cloud-based AI. Recent experiments with the project tools, such as postal mail-chapbooks for artist residencies and youth mental health projects, further orient our dedication to digital obfuscation techniques and anti-extractive, low-tech creative processes.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, chapbooks, ethnography and zines

Disconnection: A New Trend in Sociology of Resistance

Olivier SERVAIS (University of Louvain, Belgium)

Based on a multi-sited ethnography conducted in Alaska, the Pyrenees and the French Alps, this contribution aims to lay the groundwork for a sociology of digital disconnection, viewed as a system of social control or domination. It will demonstrate how voluntary disconnection emerges as a new form of social struggle. Additionally, it will examine how the advent of satellite-based connectivity (e.g., Starlink) disrupts these efforts. After outlining 3 ethnographic cases, the presentation will examine the perspective of digital power and avoidance strategies as a means of rebalancing relations of domination at a local level. It will also look at how these struggles take shape in communities between supporters of hyper-connection and those defending the right to total disconnection. Ultimately, the work will draw on David Graeber's theories to explore the rearticulation of local resistance in the digital age.

Keywords: Connection, Digital, Marginalities, Resistance

Foresight Study on Digital Trust in Taiwan for 2040

Po-Jung SHIH (Market Intelligence & Consulting Institute, MIC Institute for Information Industry, Taiwan)

Jian-Bang DENG (Department of Education and Futures Design, Taiwan)

People's daily lives are more and more embedded to the digital environment, including the use of digital technology in everyday lives and exchange messages through various social medias and other online platforms. However, the “trust” in the digital world is always a central issue. There could be at least two dimensions of digital trust, the mechanical digital trust and relational digital trust. The “mechanical digital trust” is related to the issues like cybersecurity, transparency, fair and other issues on technology mechanism. Instead, the “relational digital trust” is concerned more about how the people’s attitude toward to the technology, the experience of using technology and how to make people feel that digital technology is trustworthy. Different generations and social economic classes maybe have different way of trust building process with the new technology. Practically, in the coming years and decades we may expect to see the artificial intelligence and robot will more involve in our daily lives. Are we well prepared to live with the robot at home? Are we expected the robot become a caregiver to take care the elders? This session welcomes papers to discuss the issue of digital trust and foresight with empirical studies, scenarios and other innovative ways of thinking.

Keywords: Digital Trust, Foresight, Taiwan and Trust

Theorizing Economic Imagined Futures from the South: Coloniality, Dependency and Radical Alternatives

Elizabeth Freda SOER (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)

Stefan GRUBER (Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy)

This paper provides a broad overview of the theoretical contributions a “Global South perspective” can make to the literature on political-economic imagined futures, with a specific focus on Latin America and southern Africa. The vibrant literature on imagined futures in political economy contributes greatly to our understanding of the role that uncertainty and credible expectations play in capitalist dynamics. Although this work is crucial, it has tended to focus on the Global North and therefore it does not adequately capture capitalism as it is experienced by the majority of the world. Conversely, there is a burgeoning and fascinating literature on imagined futures in the Global South. Yet there is a tendency to focus on cultural and literary dimensions instead of political economy. This paper begins to address the gap by attempting to rethink the temporality and future-orientation of capitalism from the vantage point of the South. This perspective would challenge the trope of an “open future” associated with capitalism in the North and would rather foreground experiences of the closure of alternatives to capitalism. Relatedly, it questions a linear temporality of progress, development and “foreword movement”. Furthermore, it revises concepts of innovation and growth and highlights notions of imperialism, dependency and stagnation. However, the Global South is not simply characterized by exploitation; it is also a source of utopias and socio-economic alternatives to capitalism. These utopias and proposals for a New International Economic Order (NIEO) are often perceived as failures. Yet new perspectives on these “past futures” might provide crucial insights as we attempt to address the current multidimensional crises of capitalism.

Keywords: Alternative Futures, Dependency, Global South and Imagined Futures

Artifacts of the Future. Exploring Imagined Futures with Speculative Design Objects

Anne SONNENMOSER (Technische Universität Chemnitz)

Juliane WELZ (Fraunhofer IMW)

Ina BAIER (Fraunhofer IMW)

In a time of rapid technological, social, and environmental change, speculative design offers manifold possibilities and public arena for exploring and interrogating futures. By creating artifacts, scenarios, and narratives that challenge conventional assumptions, speculative design opens up non-linguistic forms of critical reflection on emerging technologies and societal shifts. On the basis of visual analysis, the presentation investigates speculative design as a form of data that provides insights into the social, cultural, and ethical, dimensions of imagined futures. Analyzing design objects on the basis of visual methods, not only imagined futures are explored but also the embedding of these imaginations in contemporary knowledge forms. The data corpus for the visual analysis is made up of design objects and documents on design techniques that are created from October 2024 until June 2025 in a joint project with designers and the Grassi Museum of Applied Arts, Leipzig (Germany), funded by the Fraunhofer Network for Science, Art and Design. The research project aims to use speculative design to harness the transformative potential of residues and waste from agricultural production in the development and application of new materials. The designer Fiona Raby and Anthony Dunne argue that “design speculations can act as a catalyst for collectively redefining our relationship to reality” (Raby and Dunne 2013). As part of the data analysis, we focus on the problem that design speculations not only imagine futures developments, but also selectively open up ways to realize these futures by drawing on specific knowledge forms while neglecting others. Based on the results of the visual analysis of the design objects, we will explore in what way speculative design objects, embedded in professional discourses and forms of knowledge, can form a space for redefining future realities, i.e. a heterotopia (Foucault 2005).

Keywords: Futures Research and Speculative Design

The Capitalist Rise of China Has Strengthened US Hegemony: Understanding Dependent Integration in Contemporary Geopolitical Dynamics

Sean Kenji STARRS (King's College London, UK)

Conventional wisdom has oscillated from US hegemonic decline since the 1970s to a “unipolar moment” in the 1990s to now back to decline especially in the face of the rise of China. This paper argues the opposite, that the capitalist rise of China since the 1990s has rendered US structural power stronger than ever before. This is in large part due to the nature of China’s historically unprecedented dependent integration into US-centered global production and financial networks. This paper will map China’s techno-dependency on the US in especially advanced semiconductors (using *Bloomberg Professional’s* supply chain database, among others), and show how the United States can leverage its techno-supremacy in a manner that was unavailable against Japan in the 1980s let alone the Soviet Union in the 1950s—both of which were much more technologically independent. Concomitantly, China’s role as export platform for the world’s workshop funnels the world’s primary transactions currency (US\$) back into the United States—a familiar story—which then allows the US to spend far more than any other state, whether \$5 trillion on Covid-19

stimulus (more per capita than was spent in the 1930s New Deal) or endless wars, including those that impact China. In regard to the latter, this paper ends with how US-driven geopolitical events—US support for Ukraine in its war with Russia and US support for Israel in its war in the Middle East—has significantly diminished the prospects for Xi Jinping’s Eurasian grand strategy of the Belt and Road Initiative and increased the prospects for the US’ counter-vision of the India-Middle East-European Economic Corridor. That China has offered very little pushback to this spiraling US aggression reveals its extraordinary weakness stemming from its dependent integration into US-centered global capitalism.

Keywords: Geopolitics, Global Capitalism, Rise of China and US Hegemony

Social Theory on Future: A Case for Hope in Navigating Futurelessness

Piotr STATUCKI (University of Lodz, Poland)

The understanding of time in sociology has evolved continuously alongside social theory. Time was first recognized as a social problem by scholars of the Durkheimian school, who emphasized the importance of collective rhythms and social integration. Phenomenological sociology and symbolic interactionism later portrayed time as the basis of individual human experience, focusing on how people experience and act in relation to time in their everyday lives. Theorists of modernism and postmodernism introduced the temporal dimension as an element of the social system, demonstrating how time is subject to historical and structural change. - The future has been embraced in sociology as a realized, autonomous and widely explored issue only relatively recently. Contemporary social theorists increasingly focus on the role of future perspectives in shaping modern life, discussing how time is now characterized by acceleration, alienation, and a suspension in the “eternal now”. These theories may explain the emerging sense of futurelessness that often accompanies life in the Anthropocene – a period marked by multiple crises, including ecological degradation, political instability, and pandemics. These circumstances force us to rethink traditional notions of time and progress as we face deep uncertainty about the future.

I argue that contemporary theories on time can help us understand this sense of disconnection from the future and point toward possible solutions. In response, I propose adopting hope as a key concept for reengaging with the future. Drawing on sociological and philosophical frameworks, I suggest that hope offers a way to maintain an open, rather than deterministic, approach to the future. By embracing hope, we might overcome feelings of futurelessness and encourage both individual and collective action to face the current challenges.

Keywords: future perspectives, hope, social theory and uncertainty

Investor-State Dispute Settlement: Arbitration Threat As the Backdoor for Neo-Colonial Exploitation of Natural Resources

Adriana M. SZABO (Arizona State University (HAIC))

Extant research on unequal ecological exchange generally, although not exclusively, focuses on the North-South political relationships, using the history of colonialism as a lens through which to explicate contemporary environmental inequality and injustice. However, as the locus of power has shifted from imperialist nations to transnational corporations,

contemporary analyses of unequal ecological exchange need to consider the new global economic hierarchies and discuss the role of international trade instruments in not only furthering exploitative ecological exchanges, but also hindering community efforts towards environmental justice, with the cooperation of local and national-level government actors. To address this need, I analyze the case of Roșia Montană Romania, the site of almost two decades of contestation that succeeded in stopping the opening of a polluting gold mining project. The case of Roșia Montană was the object of an arbitration in front of the World Bank, filed by Canadian Corporation Gabriel Resources, that was eventually won by the Romanian state. Data come from a years-long study, drawing from in-depth interviews (n=45), and the analysis of arbitration and governmental documents. The results highlight the role of international treaties in furthering unequal ecological exchanges, namely the role of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) system, used by transnational corporations in pressuring local communities in developing countries to choose between poverty and pollution. This study also explains how third-party funding (TPF) is instrumentalized in ISDS by financial speculators, and how such instruments are used to expand the power of transnational corporations, at the expense of the taxpayers in developing countries, continuing the colonial legacy of exploitation of nature, rural communities, and indigenous lands. Finally, I discuss the role of state recreancy in furthering unequal ecological exchange.

Keywords: ISDS, ecological, exchange and unequal

Resistance to Extractivism: Mobilizing for Sustainability and Social Justice

Ligia **TAVERA FENOLLOSA** (FLACSO, Mexico):

Latin America's environmental defenders stand at the intersection of struggles for social justice, cultural preservation, and ecological sustainability. Their resistance to extractivism is not just a local fight, but a global one, as the health of the region's ecosystems is crucial to the future of the planet. In this presentation I examine social mobilization against extractivism in the region, focusing on social movements that have succeeded in their struggles against mining companies. I argue that social movements have a greater possibility to successfully resist extractivist projects and thus create a more sustainable future when: a) they consolidate a broad network of actors—including local communities, Indigenous groups, environmental organizations, lawyers, and activists—, b) resort to a repertoire of contention that comprises mobilization in the public space with legal mobilization; c) when they actively seek shifts in public opinion through the framing of their struggle as one not just against a particular project, but against a larger, systematic threat to the land, culture, and way of life, and d) when they are able to come up with alternative and more sustainable economic projects.

Keywords: extractivism, mobilization, resistance, social justice, sustainability

Home As Assemblage: A More Just Approach to Technology-Enabled Ageing in Place?

Ruhamah **THEJUS** (University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK)

As the proportion of older people increases globally, ageing in place is given increasing value as a strategy for care. Considering the ubiquitous presence of technology in the home and in society in general, healthy ageing in place involves significant interactions between older

people and digital technology to foster a dignified and independent experience of ageing. - This paper applies assemblage thinking to technology-enabled homes of older people. Assemblage thinking enables reflection on the home as not only a physical space, but also as a conflation of decisions, influences and actions, which may not always occur within the physical space conventionally called home, but that affect the experience of home. Listening to the voices of older people in Germany and Scotland, the paper will highlight the nature of interactions between older people and technology and will encourage a shift in approach to not only better understand these interactions, but to suggest ways in which they can be made more humane and just, and ultimately result in a more flexible and adaptable experience of ageing at home. - The application of qualitative tools such as home tours and interviews will enable older people to articulate their reflections on home around the use of technology for healthy ageing. The empirical focus will be Scotland and Germany. The findings are intended to shed light on the complexity of 'home', especially for older people, and to highlight some key theoretical as well as practical aspects of these important ideas to be considered when thinking of a more just approach to ageing in place.

Keywords: Adaptability, Ageing in Place, Assemblage and Technology-enabled Care

De l'Excès Émotionnel au Contrôle de Soi: Quelle Mise en Scène de la Masculinité dans la Formation des Traders Professionnels ?

Steven THERRIEN (Université de Montréal, Canada)

Le milieu financier est historiquement dominé par les hommes, et cela est particulièrement vrai pour des catégories professionnelles comme les « *traders* », c'est-à-dire celles et ceux qui achètent et vendent des actifs sur les marchés. Témoins de cette tendance, plusieurs enquêtes réalisées dans les années 1980-90 auprès des professionnels de la finance ont permis d'émettre des constats qui relèvent les enjeux d'égalité et d'inclusivité dans ce secteur, en montrant que le travail des *traders* dans les salles de marchés à la criée s'accompagnait de la « performance » d'une masculinité agressive qui marginalisait la place des femmes. Dans cette communication, nous souhaitons remettre à l'examen cette thèse à la lumière des récentes évolutions de la pratique du *trader*, dont la virtualisation de l'activité, ainsi que la diffusion de nouvelles formes de savoirs issues de la finance comportementale. Pour ce faire, nous présenterons les résultats d'une analyse documentaire réalisée auprès des ouvrages de « psychologie du *trading* » les plus influents dans les communautés de *traders*, avec pour objectif d'étudier les nouvelles normes, pratiques et représentations auxquelles ces acteurs sont sensibilisés dans leur formation, et leur influence sur la marginalisation des femmes et des minorités de genre. Nous verrons que cette littérature prescrit aux *traders* un important « travail émotionnel », fondé sur le contrôle des émotions ressenties dans le contexte de leur pratique. Bien qu'il s'agisse d'une transformation majeure, ces représentations reproduisent en réalité d'importantes discriminations, alors que le contrôle émotionnel et la maîtrise de soi sont traditionnellement associés à la masculinité. En étudiant les normes émotionnelles prescrites dans cette littérature, notre communication souhaite mettre en exergue le rôle des savoirs professionnels dans la (re)production d'inégalités de genre dans le secteur financier, à un moment où la participation des femmes et des minorités de genre connaît paradoxalement une croissance.

Keywords: analyse documentaire, marchés financiers, performance de la masculinité and travail émotionnel

Knowledge Production and Boundary Setting in Polarised Social Media: Competing Narratives of the Odesa Fire 2014

Aleksei TITKOV (University of Manchester, UK)

The Odesa Fire of 2014 is one of the key contested topics in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian confrontation of the last decade. The incident occurred during street clashes between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian activists on May 2, 2014 in Odesa (Odessa), Ukraine's third-largest city. In the decisive moment, more than forty pro-Russian activists were killed in a deadly fire in the Trade Union building, which pro-Ukrainian activists were trying to storm. This episode became the basis of a atrocity narrative, blaming the pro-Ukrainian party for (allegedly) deliberately burning their opponents alive. One of its main tropes, the 'Odesa Khatyn', compares the incident to a famous Nazi war crime against civilians. In parallel, a rival pro-Ukrainian narrative has shaped, equally irreconcilable. According to this, the incident in Odesa was an early episode of the Russian-Ukrainian war, in which 'patriots saved the city'. - Previous studies of this case focused on early representations of the incident, with a particular interest in media manipulation, distortion and collective affects. The presentation aims to show other trends emerging over longer time period. These were shifts towards versions, albeit biased, but based on reliable video documents, as well as rational discussions about the facts in social media, which were limited in time but important in their consequences. Thus, the case under study provides grounds for reconsidering popular models of knowledge formation in social media, primarily the concept of echo chambers. As an alternative, a symmetric model of knowledge dynamics in polarised social media is proposed to explain both the prerequisites for producing valid collective knowledge and the strong limitations to doing so. The model is developed in a Durkheimian paradigm, primarily based on Mary Douglas's 'grid - group' concept, combined with the ideas of David Bloor's 'strong program' in the sociology of scientific knowledge.

Keywords: echo chambers, framing battles, knowledge production and social media

Disinformation and Framing Battles in French Immigration Debates on X

Katharina TITTEL (Sciences Po Paris, France)

Disinformation and "fake news" around immigration have long been contentious in France. While misleading stories have circulated in the press for decades (Tucher 2022), the concern that social media magnifies their impact has pushed the topic to the forefront of public debate. - This paper presents an empirical analysis of (dis)information and framing contests in the immigration debate on X, a key battleground in the technomediatic public sphere due to its popularity among media and political elites. Focusing on France, we analyze 1.1 million posts (2020-2021) employing ideological embedding techniques to estimate users' ideological leanings, exploring how established news sources and alternative online ones circulate. Drawing on 42 interviews with users, we examine the motivations and strategies behind the production and sharing of immigration-related (dis)information. - We identify a

significant disparity in the reach of far-right media compared to mainstream sources, where a small yet hyperactive far-right faction disproportionately amplifies hyperpartisan content. These actors initiate targeted campaigns by highlighting isolated incidents and leveraging alternative media, often positioning themselves as defenders of truth against perceived media bias. Instead of relying solely on factually false information, they selectively use statistics or incidents, obscuring essential context to frame narratives that serve their agenda. When these narratives gain traction on social media, traditional outlets often pick them up, typically presenting alternative framings. - Our analysis moves beyond content to examine the social and technological dynamics shaping the spread of (dis)information. We show that far-right actors strategically use digital platforms to reframe immigration narratives countering what they describe as biased mainstream coverage, while left-leaning users tend to disengage, contributing to asymmetries in online participation. This selective amplification allows fringe sources to gain disproportionate visibility, especially through retweets. This underscores the need to address the socio-technical infrastructures facilitating content amplification, and investigating message diffusion and motivations beyond false/true binaries.

Keywords: Alternative Online Media, Ideological Polarization, Immigration Debate and Social Media Dynamics

Mapping Platform Cooperatives: Identities, Dimensions and Challenges

Stefano TORTORICI (Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy)

A young and digital cooperative movement is trying to emerge in reaction to the triumphant platform capitalism of the last thirty years. Despite the growing scholarship, the numbers and dimensions of platform cooperatives are not well known. There are no quantitative studies describing a large number of platform cooperatives. This paper constitutes a first attempt to map platform cooperatives globally. On the basis of the first international economic survey on platform cooperatives, it constitutes a comprehensive international economic chart of the identities, dimensions and challenges of platform cooperatives. Data from 86 respondents registered legally in 5 continents outline 27 platform cooperatives' geographies, dimensions, legal forms, values, the number of workers, co-owners, users and providers of these platforms, the amount of capital involved, where their original capital comes from, their relationship with blockchain, their governance, their legislation obstacles, and their main challenges. The paper distinguishes platform cooperativism from platform cooperatives, and it addresses definitional issues that have arisen since they were defined. It finally offers a grounded understanding of platform cooperatives' challenges and their most up-to-date empirical picture.

Keywords: Challenges , Platform Cooperatives, Platform Economy and Survey

'Digital Good' and Vulnerable People's Digital Inclusion: Key Findings from Testing a Social Lab Framework.

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Gianfranco POLIZZI (University of Liverpool)

Magdalena BRZESKA (DeMontfort University)

In this paper, we present findings from a pilot study exploring what ‘digital good’ looks like from the perspective of vulnerable people in relation to their digital inclusion and associated socio-digital inequalities. The study adopted a social lab framework (Tsatsou & Polizzi, under review) to explore the concept of the ‘digital good’ and to test whether such a framework is effective in generating insights into the relationship between ‘digital good’ and the digital inclusion of three vulnerable groups - ethnic minorities, older people and people with disabilities. Methodologically, the study was informed by Participatory Action Research (PAR), which is often championed for generating social change (Abma et al., 2017; Penfield et al., 2014), and it adopted a decolonising research approach (Thambinathan and Kinsella 2021), thus addressing three questions: In what ways, if any, do vulnerable people’s perceptions and experiences of ‘digital good’ (re)shape their digital inclusion and associated inequalities in the digital and broader social realm? What initial conclusions can we reach about individual agency and resistance as part of how ‘digital good’ is perceived and experienced by vulnerable people in relation to their digital and broader social inclusion? How effective is the proposed social lab framework in enabling research to explore how ‘digital good’ speaks to vulnerable people’s digital inclusion and associated socio-digital inequalities?

Keywords: Digital good, Digital inclusion, Social lab and Vulnerability

Crafting Collective Futures: Exploring the Process of Vision Creation

Rina UDAGAWA (Chuo University, Japan)

The purpose of this study is to clarify the process in which the imagined futures are constructed in social movements. A specific imagined future observed in social movements is not something that participants have from the beginning. As Melucci (1989) pointed out, these imagined futures are the result of interactions among diverse participants in the movement. Therefore, the imagined future that emerge in social movements do not necessarily align with the individual visions held by participants, but rather are the result of adjustments among multiple futures. - To clarify the process of creating these futures, it is necessary to identify the components of the futures. To achieve this, I analyze imagined future held by participants in several past social movements. Two key aspects are identified: First, what components constitute the observed imagined future. Second, how these visions of the future were constructed. - By comparing the results of these analyses across different cases, I aim to examine the mechanisms behind the creation of visions of the future in social movements.

Keywords: Future, Imagination, Social movement and Solidarity

Mexico: Democracy and Social Mobilization: Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional and the “Marea Rosa”

Rene VALDIVIEZO-SANDOVAL (Ibero-Puebla, Mexico)

Since the 1980s, political discussion in Mexico has primarily focused on electoral democracy, which became the primary indicator of political organization and conflict. The presence of political parties reduced political struggle to the electoral arena. The 1988 social mobilization aimed to create a center-left political party that concentrated the main

conflicts and social movements. The struggle for greater democratic channels was focused on opening electoral spaces, leading to electoral reforms and the institutionalization of political-electoral processes. The exhaustion of this model, resulting from disputed elections and party bureaucracies, led to the emergence of movements and parties that once again focused their struggle on achieving political power through the electoral road. This was the case with the Movement for National Regeneration (MORENA), born from a split within the PRD and from other social movements. It defined itself as a party-movement, although its tendency toward bureaucratization and electoral participation has shaped it into a party with an electoral vocation. Its victory in the 2018 election turned it into a government, and the priority of having a majority in the legislative branch distanced it further from its roots as a movement. In the 2024 election, the groups that maintained their vision as a movement sought to influence candidacies and the government project. During the federal government from 2018 to 2024, the right-wing opposition suffered electoral defeats and formed a social movement that confronted the government's initiatives: the "Marea Rosa" (Pink Tide). Thus, Mexico's political life and its democratic struggle center on the confrontation between two social movements, but with political parties behind them. This paper analyzes the actions and presence of these two movements and their confrontation over national democracy.

Keywords: Democracy, Mexico and Social mobilization

An Exploration of the Elementary Forms of Religious Integration and the Futures of the Gynocene'

Martha VAN DER BLY (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Elsewhere (Van Der Bly, 2021) I coined the term the Gynocene, whilst strongly rejecting the idea of calling the next phase of humanity's relationship with Earth the *Anthropocene*. Following the Greek singular 'anthropos' referring to 'man' and the plural 'anthropoi' to 'humanity', the term the *Anthropocene* effectively semantically excludes over half of the world's population from our collective future. Yes, there is a new epoch dawning for humanity, let's call it the Gynocene. - In this presentation, I explore pathways towards of a non-war world society within the Gynocene. I do so by exploring a common cause of war, religion, in a society free of religious strife. This is a society not free from either war or conflict, and not Utopian in any way – yet free from *religious* conflict. I present the preliminary findings of a longitudinal research study and I do so on film, democratizing the idea to whom futures studies are accessible. - Yet, paraphrasing Durkheim, I am not describing this society for its own sake, my interest is primarily the present, the practical, the global: scenarios for the future. I attempt to show how sociological futures research can engage with broader publics through the medium that drives our imagination, namely film. While our history has widely demonstrated our talent for war and terror – I argue that the scientific study of a multi-religious society that nonetheless is characterized by an absence of religious strife, offers us valuable insights into developing scenarios to futures of global solidarity within the Gynocene, through the sociological construction of a 'collective global totem', within one society, on one earth - under one sky.

Keywords: Sociology of Religion , Solidarity , Visual Sociology and World Society

Remaking European Futures through Digital Innovation Politics

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Gert VERSCHRAEGEN (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Amidst the unfolding of global economic and geopolitical challenges, the European Union (EU) has increasingly projected its future as closely intertwined with its 'power to innovate'. From artificial intelligence (AI) to blockchain, from digital health to personalised medicine, emerging areas of digital innovation have been targeted by the Union for major investments, as well as governance and regulatory efforts. EU-led initiatives in digital sciences and technologies, which cut across other prominent innovation sectors such as life sciences, are widely seen as promising to address complex societal challenges and transform the way we live, move, communicate and are cared for. Moreover, while they aim to provide the knowledge and material infrastructures for an ever more integrated and globally competitive European knowledge economy, they are heralded as the 'European way' to digital innovation, tailored to what are framed as distinctive European values and principles such as privacy, solidarity and fairness. - Drawing on insights from STS-informed infrastructure studies, the sociology of European integration and the political economy of digital technologies, we explore how the constitutive elements of European 'post-digital' societies, such as AI algorithms and genome sequencing, are increasingly assuming the role once assigned to coal and steel as building blocks of the European integration process. Based on the book 'Project Europe: Remaking European Futures through Digital Innovation Policies' (Edward Elgar, 2025, co-edited together with L. Marelli, J. Dratwa), we address the question of how novel digital orders are co-produced with distinctly European social, political and economic identities, institutions and practices, and provide an understanding of how 'Europe' is being reimagined and repositioned in a wider debate about the identity, shape and future of the EU, including in relation to other geopolitical entities such as the US and China.

Keywords: Digital infrastructures, Digital innovation, European Union and Future imaginaries

The Digital Revolution: A Threat or a Blessing for Older Peoples' Access to the Law (from Inclusion to Exclusion)

Barbé VANESSA (UPHF)

Stephanie MAUCLAIR (Faculté de Droit Economie Gestion Orleans)

Article 1 of the French Declaration of Human Rights of 1789 sets out the principle that everyone is equal before the law from birth. If this principle exists, there is no doubt that we are not all equal in fact, because we are all different. One of the purposes of the law is therefore to restore the balance between individuals. For several years now, public policy has sought to ensure that all individuals have equal access to the law and justice. However, the inequalities encountered are of several kinds. There are generational inequalities, which stem from the difficulties that people of different ages have in gaining equal access to the law. Here, it should be noted that the populations whose access to the norm is weakened are very often the oldest. Added to this are territorial inequalities relating to the isolation of certain rural populations who will not be able to access certain legal or judicial access points. One of the measures designed to remedy this problem is the dematerialisation of

access to law and justice. The aim is to give everyone access to the same level of knowledge, but also to make it easier for individuals and litigants to do their work. But this digital revolution is not without its problems. The deployment of digital technology is creating a real digital divide across the country. This might not be so serious if new technologies did not play such an important role, especially in fundamental areas such as access to the law and justice. The digital revolution is also creating new forms of vulnerability. The question then arises as to how to deal with these new tools to ensure that older people have access to the law, while at the same time not exacerbating their vulnerability.

Keywords: digital revolution and generational inequalities

What Is the Flip Side of This Coin? Investigating the Impact of Automation Risk at Work on Health Outcomes in Germany

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Christian DUDEL (Max Plack Institute for Demographic Research)

Automation transforms work at a rapid pace, with gradually increasing shares of the workforce being at risk of replacement by machines. However, little is known about how this risk is affecting workers. In this study, we investigate the impact of high risk of automation at work on subjective (self-reported health, anxiety, and health satisfaction) and objective (healthcare use and sickness absence) health outcomes of workers in Germany. We build our analysis on the survey data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and administrative data from the Occupational Panel for Germany (2013-2018). Employing panel regression, we demonstrate that exposure to high risk of automation at the occupational level worsens self-reported health and health satisfaction of workers and increases their sickness absence and, depending on how the risk is measured, anxiety. No effect is found on healthcare use. We also conduct several robustness checks with results remaining mostly consistent with our main findings, while uncovering some heterogeneity in effects among the analyzed groups.

Keywords: automation risk, health outcomes, routine tasks and substitution potential

Edtech Companies and the Digitalization of Education in Chile: The Growth and Consolidation of Technosolutionism in the Global South

Cristóbal VILLALOBOS (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

In Global South, recent research shows that transnational technology corporations have increased their engagement in educational development following variegated institutional logics and rationales (Patil, 2023), with special emphasis to commercial digital platforms provided by Big Tech companies -the so-called GAMAMs- (Williamson and Hogan, 2020). In contrast, to date, the role of national edtech companies in public policies and educational policies has been little studied. - This article analyses the network of actors involved in the contemporary digitalization of the Chilean school system and the role of private EdTech corporations in this ecosystem. Using a framework based on new modes of education governance and contributions from the cultural political economy, three sources were triangulated: i) 22 semi structured interviews with key actors and policymakers, ii) a database of startups in the EdTech sector in Chile and iii) a systematization of the main digital education policies implemented in the country. - The findings reveal a poorly

coordinated network of actors, which has allowed the inorganic and heterogeneous growth of EdTech corporations, whose role encompasses not only the production of technology but also its articulation and management. Secondly, the results show that edtech companies (along with BigTech) promote educational techno-solutionism, promoting images that directly connect students with technology and diminishing the role of schools in education. Finally, EdTech companies, although with national roots, seek to expand their models to other countries in the Global South, through the idea of "local solutions, global problems." To this form, EdTech companies play a central role not only as producers of technology, but also as articulators and administrators, illustrating a displacement of the State from some of its historic functions.

Keywords: Digitalization, EdTech, Education and Technosolucionism

El Rol de la Red Social Tik Tok en el Posicionamiento de las Instituciones Públicas en el Perú en el 2023

Janeth VILLEGAS ARTEAGA (Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Peru)

El TikTok ha emergido como una herramienta crucial para las instituciones públicas en Perú, destacando en la promoción de servicios y en la interacción con sus públicos. Con un enfoque descriptivo y cuantitativo, se empleó el machine learning para analizar las reacciones de más de 36,000 usuarios a los contenidos de estas instituciones en la plataforma. La metodología aplicada incluyó la segmentación de las reacciones en categorías de análisis de sentimientos: positivo, negativo y neutro, así como el análisis de variables como horarios de publicación y tipos de contenido. - Además, se aplicó una encuesta a 10 responsables de instituciones públicas en TikTok, en la que se analizaron los objetivos, estrategias empleadas, tipos de contenidos e impactos, entre otros aspectos. Los resultados son reveladores e importantes para las instituciones públicas, ya que evidencian desafíos en la creación de contenido relevante y en la gestión continua de la plataforma. Asimismo, subrayan la importancia de adaptar los tiempos de publicación para maximizar el impacto.

Keywords: Gestión pública, TIC, TIKTOK and posicionamiento

The Worlding Practices of Autonomous Stores

Ana VISEU (NOVA FCSH)

Pedro LUCAS (ICNOVA, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)

João Pedro PEREIRA (ISCTE-IUL)

‘Autonomous stores’ are often characterized in the media as the future of shopping: physical environments made smart by augmentation through digital technologies that can process data automatically, seamlessly, and without the need for workers, identifying both consumers and their actions. References to autonomy and automation conjure a set of imaginaries of technology in the service of consumption and progress: for consumers these novel environments are purported to mean gains in convenience, whereby saving time is saving money. For retailers, they mean the possibility of gathering significant amounts of information on the behaviour of customers in a store environment, thus being another manifestation of what Zuboff (2019) calls ‘*Surveillance Capitalism*’. - Despite being hailed as autonomous, these spaces are vast digital assemblages that rely upon networked

infrastructures composed of people, knowledges, values and numerous technological entities (such as, AI, sensors, algorithms, computer vision, cameras). Departing from the premise that “technology is society made durable” (Latour 1990), this paper draws upon 17 semi-structured interviews conducted with three Portuguese corporations – Sensei (a startup tech developer of autonomous stores), Continente (large food retailer) and Galp (large oil and gas retailer) – who are collaborating in the development and implementation of autonomous stores in the Portuguese context, to examine the discourses and practices that drive, justify and sustain their collaborations. - We pay particular attention to the discourses through which they are built: Who is pushing for them? Why? What are the main issues that are being discussed both in terms of advantages and problems? Who is included/excluded? And, finally, what futures are being built? This will then allow us to shed light on the concepts that underlie these spaces – What are “autonomy” and “smartness” in autonomous stores?

Keywords: Autonomous stores, data infrastructures, feminist technoscience and smart retail

Imagining Regulation of AI: Comparing Czech and Portuguese Media Representations with Cads

Tibor VOCÁSEK (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal / Charles University Prague)

Raquel AMARO (FCSH NOVA / CLUNL NOVA Lisbon, Portugal)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an inevitable part of the visions of the digital future. Thus, the possibility of AI regulation is one of the most crucial questions in shaping it. The development of technologies like AI depends on media-shaped public perception (Chuan et al., 2019). This research focuses on media debates about AI regulation from an interdisciplinary comparative perspective. It analyses imaginaries in the Czech and Portuguese online mainstream media, using Corpus Approaches to Discourse Studies (CADS) (Baker et al., 2008). CADS combines corpus linguistics with CDA while reflecting on critiques of the latter (Orpin, 2005). It mainly strengthens data representativeness and interpretative transparency of the analysis. CADS allows the investigation of the aggregate effects of language, highlighting typical discursive patterns. Czechia and Portugal represent intriguing study cases; the countries similar in area size, population, or GDP (Eurostat, 2024) differ significantly regarding their tech sectors and the length of the EU membership. Conceptually, this study approaches AI regulation visions with "sociotechnical imaginaries" (Jasanoff and Kim, 2015, p. 4), which have been plagued by conceptual ambiguity recently (Rudek, 2022). This research overcomes it by adopting a three-level imaginary concept (Sau, 2021). It structures the analysis of media representations by asking for imaginary's (1) social commentary, (2) vision of the future, and (3) means to achieve it. The research also highlights the roles of different related actors. Comparable corpora are collected from digitally available media in each country, covering the period of discussions about the EU's "AI Act" regulation (3/2018-12/2023). Results are explored and compared using Sketch Engine (Kilgarrieff et al., 2014), analysing keywords, collocations and concordances. Such research provides innovative, empirically rooted comparative insights into the current media debate on the future of AI. Also, it provides a clearer perspective of sociotechnical imaginaries by grounding these to objective linguistic cues.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Corpus Approaches to Discourse Studies, Regulation of Digital Technologies and Sociotechnical Imaginaries

Prognostic Cultures in the Digital Age: Epistemic and Authoritarian Forms of Governing the Future

Uwe VORMBUSCH (FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany)

Different kinds of future predictive techniques such as scenario analyses and forecasts, roadmaps and predictive policing contribute to an epistemic culture of the present, which is primarily concerned with its potential futures. These futures may be envisioned as socially desirable disruption, driven by technology and leading to human progress, as is the case in what Barbrook and Cameron (1996) called *The Californian Ideology*. Or they are bound up with proliferating fears of harm and catastrophe, as in sociological analyses criticizing precautionary strategies and the *Emergency Imaginary* (Calhoun 2004) in general. In any case, these futures are technically constructed, algorithmically calculated and digitally mediated. Their origin is not, like in former times, the disclosure of an eremite, they spring from serverfarms and digital infrastructures. But just like yesterday, envisioning the future implies new systems of social ordering and control as well. - Against this backdrop, the talk sorts contemporary cultures of prognostics using three contrasting, empirical examples. These can be assigned to two ideal types of modelling uncertain futures by data: an *authoritarian future* as the product of autonomized algorithmic decision-making systems (ADMs) on the one hand, and (referring to the works of Rheinberger and Knorr-Cetina) *epistemic futures* on the other. The latter appear paradigmatically in two contrasting social arenas: first, as the systematic multiplication of competing futures in financial-economic arbitrage trading (e.g. Beunza and Stark 2005), and second as unattainable futures in the mundane practices of self-measurement/self-tracking (Noji and Vormbusch 2018). The former (ADMs) appear as calculative infrastructures accumulating and synthesizing Data, thereby assigning resources and social positions to people without them having control. The talk contrasts these techniques of producing future knowledge with regard to the opening and closing of attainable futures, the relationship between human and machine knowledge, and the embedded power relations.

Keywords: Algorithmic Regulation, Automated Decision Making, Digital Knowledge Culture and Future Predictive Technologies

Digital (Il)Literacy and (Un)Dignified Ageing in Contemporary Europe: Comparing Statistical Data for Serbia, Bih, and Montenegro

Ana VUKOVIC (Institute of Social Sciences)

The shared experience of ageing in the European Union and beyond is recognizable through common problems of lack of digital literacy and even the interest in mastering the knowledge and skills for navigating and maintaining dignity in the digital age. The elderly cohort experiences twofold alienation in personal agency and respect in the public sphere because of ageing and digital knowledge deprivation. - The constant pressure of “digital protocols” upon them in everyday life, from the apps for m-banking to ATM money withdrawal, e-delivery of communal bills and obligatory tax payments, even grocery shopping to scheduling medical appointments, underlines and augments the lack of skills and often the abilities for the digital interactions and transactions that this mature populace usually does not wield. Digital technology older generations encounter relatively late in their lives makes them vulnerable and sometimes heightens their insecurity. This strips them of their dignity, turning their living into a “bare existence” invaluable to society, burdening

governing institutions with their rights to live a life of dignity, value, and virtue. - Comparing the statistical data on digital habits and skills for the cohort of 65+ in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Montenegro intersectionally with the same Eurostat statistics for the European Union, Norway and Switzerland, we will try to discern the patterns of twofold alienation primarily aiming to outline the deprivation of dignity that older people experience. One of the main possible findings will be how the abuse of elderly rights to dignity and dignified living springs from their digital illiteracy or naivety of their genuine living habits before the digital epoch.

Keywords: Ageing, Alienation, Deprivation of digital literacy and Dignity

Crisis Bequests Conflict: A Sociological Analysis of Their Relationship

Anthony WATERS (Institute for Sociology and Cultural Organization)

Volker KIRCHBERG (Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany)

Crisis highlights political, public policy and social imperatives. Crisis implies that a conscious intervention is needed to address a perceived threat in a context of insecurity and contingency (cf. Luhmann 1982) and implies a removal or mitigation of the causes of the crisis. This in turn implicitly assumes conditions of security as outcome. Implicit to any crisis though is an acknowledgment of urgency, and the potential for conflict before a return to the normal. - Implicit to policies addressing a crisis is a belief that as the desired goal is achieved, there will be resumption of a putative “normal” or even an improvement to the situation prior to crisis. Such assumptions are implicit to the practice of fields seeking to mitigate conflict and re-establish security, such as Social Work, Policing and International Relations. On the micro-level such assumptions are implicit like Social Work and Policing. In international relations, confrontation and conflict followed by a desire for de-escalation is also a part of policy goals, and strategy. - Judgments about how to intervene in and implicitly solve a crisis (or not) are also the reason for designing and realizing alternative conditions or “Real Utopias” (Wright 2010) that avoid the underlying reasons for social crisis with its potential for conflict. The relationship between crisis, conflict, intervention, and the search for crises-free alternatives is largely undertheorized from a sociological perspective. Thus, a systematic description of the relationships between these concepts and development of hypothesis about the current links of current crises and conflicts is of interest. - The relationships between insecurity, contingency, crisis, conflict, and de-escalation is sociologically explored by developing illustrative examples from Real Utopias as “alternative life concepts” in Social Work, Policing, and International Relations.

Keywords: Conflict, Crisis Sociology and Social Theory

Platform Politics: Corporate Power, Grassroots Movements and the Sharing Economy

Luke YATES (University of Manchester, UK)

The platform economy, powered by companies like Airbnb, Uber and Deliveroo, promised to revolutionize the way we work and live. My presentation shows how platform capitalism is not only shaped by business decisions, but is a result of struggles involving social movements, consumer politics and state interventions. It focuses in particular on the controversial tactics used by platform giants to avoid regulation. It identifies some common trajectories of political struggle across contexts and across several 'lean platforms'. It

discusses platform rhetoric, the contentious and confrontational language and stories told by platform businesses. Using a case study of former Airbnb workers, it also delves into 'platform power', the ways in which platforms mobilise their users and allies to shape or avoid state regulation. These concern the imaginaries, potential and future of the new digital economy: platform possibility.

Keywords: corporate power, platform capitalism, platform power and social movements

The Dialectical Taming of AI Futures from Below

Thomas ZENKL (University of Graz, Austria)

Applications of artificial intelligence are anticipated to impact the delivery of public employment services (PES). Sparked by discourses between utopian notions of automated job allocation and rather dystopian side effects of discrimination and loss of agency (Allhutter et al., 2020; Busemeyer, 2022), this study explores perceptions and anticipated effects of algorithmic technologies from the perspective of frontline-workers as "analog interfaces of the digital welfare state" (Kaun & Liminga, 2023). - Based on 23 interviews with employees of the Austrian PES, I find that concerns associated with the use of algorithms and AI (loss of jobs, biases, formalisation) are being "tamed" within workers' aspirations of futures (Appadurai 2013) by emphasizing the importance of the "human", while simultaneously affirming technological developments. Situated within the entanglement of digital transformations of the welfare state and the resulting shifts in governance regimes (from "street-level" to "system-level" bureaucracies, Lipsky 1981; Bovens & Zouridis, 2002), such aspirations are rooted within problematisations of present working conditions (not enough time for clients and resources) and role reconfigurations (administration of systems instead of supporting clients) which they envision to repair. - By synthesising futures that promote the values of a truly "human" counselling situation through "machinic" means, such taming is dialectical: As prevailing logics of datafication are sought to be overcome by resorting to imaginations prioritizing workers' "humanity" and highlighting the necessity of "customer care" over "data/system care", these sociotechnical futures challenge a perceived status quo while intrinsically relying on the very means of computation that are considered responsible for it.

Keywords: AI Futures, Advanced Algorithms, Anticipation and Artificial Intelligence

Digital Odyssey: Navigating Cosmopolitanism amid State Intervention in the Consumption of Chinese Console Players

George Ran ZHAO (Renmin University of China)

The global console game industry in China operates in a grey zone, with players adopting digital strategies to bypass state-imposed restrictions. Similarly, Jenkins'(2004) concept of "pop cosmopolitanism" suggests global popular culture drives consumers away from local culture, fostering an embrace of cosmopolitan identity, but it overlooks the role of state intervention. State intervention is a tangible method of defining market boundaries (Amengual&Bartley,2022), imposing dynamic structural elements on individuals' everyday consumption practices. It accommodates the practical turn in sociology, where practice theory views consumption as an active process involving both personal and institutional factors (Swidler,1986; Reckwitz,2002; Warde,2014). - This study treats both players and the state as actors. By clarifying console game consumption of Chinese players, it explores how state intervention shifts in this grey zone and how players balance cosmopolitan gaming

identities with national identity in the face of state intervention. - It conducted in-depth interviews with 24 players and engaged in participant observation of digital intermediary platforms frequently mentioned, with the collection of Chinese policy documents. - It finds that this consumption is built on global information and economic networks, facilitated by players' strategic use of digital platforms. State interventions here primarily include internet firewalls, selective content censorship and public opinion control, with varying degrees of impact influenced by political and economic conditions. - Players create local communities centered around foreign console games, distinguishing their gaming practices from consumption. Although they recognize the challenges posed by state intervention, players do not regard their circumvention efforts as resistance. They perceive console games as an identity-free cultural sanctuary to rationalize their behavior, indicating that their cosmopolitanism coexists with national identity in different layers, challenging the binary opposition between global and local. Furthermore, players even support state intervention, as it aligns with their deeper sense of national identity. Thus, I term this phenomenon "limited cosmopolitanism."

Keywords: Console Game, Cosmopolitanism, Cultural Consumption and State Intervention

Positioning China in a Rapidly Changing World: A Generational Lens

Rachel ZHOU (McMaster University, Canada)

The transformation of China in the context of contemporary globalization has been predominantly understood through political-economic and geopolitical lenses. Comprising multiple, concurrent processes of urbanization, industrialization, and modernization, China's globalization also means dramatic changes in people's lives. Drawing on data from in-depth interviews with key informants in an empirical study on globalization and nostalgia, this paper presents how the globalization generations in China understand the changing relationship between China and the world (especially the West) since the 1980s. Informed by Beck & Beck-Gernsheim (2009) concept of global generations, I closely attend to the three emerging themes that reveal the intersection of globalization and generation. First, individuals who have experienced the pivotal moments of China's engagement with globalization – such as its open-door policy, participation in the WTO, and the COVID-19 lockdown – often describe them in the context of generations. Second, China's transformation has been accompanied by some distinctive generational characteristics, such as unprecedented mobility, post-materialistic pursuits, individualism and, even, growing disenchantment with the West, though these effects appear uneven across cohorts. Third, China's globalization processes have not precluded young generations experiencing many predicaments, including pressure to marry and procreate (especially for women), shrinking opportunities, and an increased perception of prejudice toward the country by the Western world (especially the US). It is concluded that generation is a unique and fruitful lens through which to examine not only the trajectory of globalization at a micro level but, also, people's divergent experiences (including those across generations). These findings also make visible the nuanced social costs of China's rapid development in its society and the convergent difficulties (e.g., economic stagnation, unemployment, and political division) shared by young generations elsewhere.

Keywords: China, generation, globalization and the world

Practical Hints

Host City: Rabat, Morocco's capital, is located on the Atlantic coast at the mouth of the river Bou Regreg. Rabat was founded in the 12th century by the Almohads, with precursor settlements dating back to Roman and possibly Phoenicians times. Its historic medina is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

How to Get to Rabat from Abroad

Rabat–Salé Airport (RBA): approximately 10 km from Rabat city center.

Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport (CMN): the country's major airport, only 100km from Rabat, and well connected by train.

Tangier Ibn Battouta Airport (TNG): 240 km from Rabat, but the high-speed train can cover this distance in less than 1.5 hours.

How to Get to the Forum Venue: The nearest Tramway Stop for the Forum Venue on the university campus is “**L1 - Ibn Rochd**”. Most of our meetings take place at the **Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES)**, room **SJES013**.

Accommodation: Forum participants are referred to secure accommodation through their preferred booking platforms. Apart from Rabat itself, the following other cities are also reachable by train service from/to Rabat: Casablanca (1h/87km), Skhirat (25min/28km), Kénitra (35min/49km), Tangier (1h30 min by high-speed “Al-Boraq” train/240 Km).

Lodging Grants: Lodging Grants were announced to be available for presenters from B & C category countries at the on-campus student dormitories, with priority given to students. Since details were available at the closing time for the production of this newsletter (April 28, 2025), please check periodically for announcements as to when the application process would open, how deposits could be made, and how reservations could be secured.

Climate: In early July, weather is expected to be dry and warm, with average temperatures ranging from low 19.2 C (=66.5 F) to high 28.8 C (=83.8 F), average monthly rain total of 2mm (=0.1 inch), and average daily sunshine of 10.5 hours.

Visa: Confirm latest requirements on Moroccan government's website: www.acces-maroc.ma. If you need a visa, then request as soon as possible an official Moroccan visa support letter via <https://www.isaforummorocco.com>, even if you already have your visa.

Presentation Format: Unless specified otherwise by the Session Chair(s)/Organizer(s), presenters may expect to have approximately 10-20 minutes time for their talk, allowing 20-30 minutes for collective discussion at the end. The available time for each presentation varies with the overall number of presentations in a given session. This is typically not the occasion to read a paper with all its details, but to establish channels to an audience by summarizing main points. Observing time limits is essential in order to allow subsequent presenters equal opportunity and to enjoy discussion.

If you wish to show power-point slides, it is recommended to bring a USB-compatible thumb drive for upload before the start of a session to save time between presentations. Those who want to connect their own device to a monitor may need to bring adapters. However, it can be a good idea to have a backup plan in case of unexpected incompatibility issues or equipment failure.

It is good practice, to send to Session Chair(s)/Organizer(s) and, if applicable, to the Discussant(s), full papers well ahead of time. In case no other specific date is set, it is suggested to send it a copy by 15 June 2025.

In order to facilitate discussion across linguistic lines, presenters are encouraged to provide their audience with handouts or visual aids in languages other than the one in which the paper is presented or written.

Further Questions?

- For questions about the program, contact: isarc07@gmail.com.
- For questions related to a particular session, contact the respective Session Organizer(s) and/or Session Chair(s).
- For questions about your registration, contact isaconf@confex.com.

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NEWSLETTER

RC07 newsletter aims to be a means of communication among the members of RC07 as well as other scholars interested in futures research. It is published non-periodically according to the needs of our scientific community. In addition to announcements of events organized by our RC, or related to our research concerns, we include news from our members, reports of activities, information on new publications, ongoing projects and works in progress as well as short thought pieces on pressing issues and current debates in our field.

Please contribute to our newsletter and help making it an effective tool for interaction. Send your comments and any news item for the next newsletter to isarc07news@gmail.com.

Acknowledgments and Disclaimers

Cover design

The cover design uses as background a partition of the photo taken of the Noor 1 and 2 Ouarzazate Solar Power Station 17 October 2019, 11:13 by Richard Allaway, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en>). The Ouarzazate Solar Power Station is near Aït Benhaddou, the ancient fortified village on the historic caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakesh in the Drâa-Tafilalet region in Morocco. At 510 MW, it was and continues to be at the time of this writing the world's largest concentrated solar power plant. The word cloud in the cover design is based on the program's academic session descriptions.

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Disclaimers

This program is subject to potential change, including, but not limited to, potential change in the sequence and composition of sessions, schedule, and venues. Please make sure to double-check times and locations upon arrival.

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5th ISA Forum of Sociology Futures Research Program

|   الرباط RABAT | 09:00-10:45 [105min] | 11:00-12:45 [105min] | 13:00-14:45 [105min] | 15:00-16:45 [105min] | 17:00-18:45 [105min] | 19:00-20:30 [90min] |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Sunday 6 July | Registration Desk Opens | | | | Forum Opening Session and Reception | |
| Monday 7 July | SJES013 1. Polycrisis <i>(Nederveen Pieterse)</i> | SJES013 2. Special Session <i>(tbc)</i> | SJES013 3. Work <i>(Costa/Foughali)</i> SJES005 4. Aging (I) <i>(Vukovic)</i> | SJES003 5. Disaster Socialism <i>(Carroll)</i> SJES005 6. Aging (II) <i>(Stefanovich/Stambuk)</i> | Regional Associations tbd | SJES013 7. Authors Meet Critics: New Books <i>(ISARC07)</i> |
| Tuesday 8 July | SJES003 8. Anticipation <i>(RC07/RC16 Nederveen Pieterse/Schulz)</i> | SJES023 9. Prefigurations <i>(Gerharz/Garbe)</i> | FSE001 10. Generative AI in Social Research & Teaching – Ad-hoc Workshop | SJES013 11. Social Movements & Pol. Imagination (II) <i>(Tavera/Garcia)</i> | SJES005 (tbc) 12. Solidarity&Justice: Anthropocene (Integrative) <i>(RC09/RC02/RC07/RC24 Schuerkens/Khondker)</i> | SJES013 13. Thèmes Ouverts (in French) <i>(Foughali)</i> |
| Wednesday 9 July | SJES005 14. Globalization <i>(RC09/02/07/24 Schuerkens)</i> SJES013 15. Aspiration <i>(Baillergeau/Olivia/Zimmermann)</i> | FSE035 16. Social Movements & Pol. Imagination (I) <i>(RC07/RC47/RC48 Ponce Lara/Schulz)</i> | SJES024 17. Disinformation <i>(RC07/WG10 Miskolci)</i> | SJES003 18. SocMov&Dem. Latin America <i>(RC07/RC48, Tavera)</i> SJES013 19. Open Themes <i>(Sooryamoorthy)</i> | SJES005 20. Anthropocene: Social Movements (Integrative) <i>(RC07/RC47/RC48 Fadae/Schulz/Tamayo)</i> | SJES013 21. Exploring Systematically: Unknown/Uncertain <i>(Vögele/Brauner/Shamon)</i> |
| Thursday 10 July | SJES013 22. Health <i>(Rozanova)</i> | SJES013 23. New Perspectives <i>(Rozanova)</i> | SJES005 24. Digital Futures (I) <i>(RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10)</i> | SJES005 25. Digital Futures (II) <i>(RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10)</i> | Integrative tbd | SJES013 26. Business Meeting <i>(ISARC07)</i> |
| Friday 11 July | SJES005 27. Digital Futures (III) <i>(RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10)</i> | SJES005 28. Digital Futures (IV) <i>(RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10)</i> | SJES005 29. Digital Futures (V) <i>(RC07 RC10 RC14 RC23 WG10)</i> | SJES018 30. Alienation <i>(RC36/RC07 Michel-Schertges)</i> | Forum Closing | Closing Reception |

NB: All academic sessions of ISARC07 are expected to take place at the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences (JES) or the Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE). Numbers and letters in *italics* indicate the room number. Ordinal numbers refer to a session further described in the program. Please note that all scheduling information is subject to potential change. For special announcements, see <http://isarc07.org>. Please make sure to double-check details upon arrival.