

Abstracts

Civil society and politics of scaling: local mobilizations and metropolitan governance in Rome

by Ernesto d'Albergo and Giulio Moini (University of Rome)

The article presents the results of research into the relationships between mobilisations of civil society and the ongoing process of reforming metropolitan government in Rome. The results are used to discuss various aspects of the constructionist and neo-marxist approaches to political scale and scalar transformations of political power. In particular, empirical evidence is provided to support discussion of the theory that carrying out reforms affecting the scale of government and governance in urban regions involves facing political, economic and social conflicts. In the case studies analysed the rescaling of metropolitan government is not part of the cognitive and strategic horizons of the civil society actors involved, who are excluded and exclude themselves from the arena in which the reform is being formulated. The reform is rather the subject of bargaining between political and economic actors, who are also better able to develop strategies along a trans-scalar dimension

Keywords: metropolitan government and governance, scale, politics of scaling, civil society

Popular Power in Venezuela: Participation and strains in the Consejos Comunales

by Stefano Boni (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

The paper analyses, from an anthropological perspective, the influence of government institutions on the autonomy of *Consejos Comunales* (Communal

Councils) in Venezuela with specific reference to three crucial issues: a) their composition, evaluating their capacity to represent and their participation; b) the limits imposed by institutions and the response through autonomous stances and actions; c) the consequences of their dependence on funding bodies. The two principal contributions presented in this paper are: 1) an analysis of the daily practices obtained through detailed contextual information on tensions between militants and institutions; 2) the presentation of opinions of the women and men who work in the *Concejos Comunales*. This perspective rather than confirming views for or against *Concejos Comunales*, allows to develop insights on crucial issues, transcending the political polarization of researchers.

Keywords: Consejos Comunales, Citizens Power, Direct Democracy, Venezuela

From the “small country “ to the International: people from Friuli in the nets of worker’s movement

by Gian Luigi Bettoli (University of Trieste)

The article proposes a hypothesis of reading of the international worker’s movement nets, reconstructed through the survey of the experience of emigration from Friuli, a territory that in the years between XIX and XX century has reached the peak among the migratory rates of Italian regions. Migratory experience has marked the story of the working class of Friuli, both in point of the acquisition of professional ability, and in regard of the construction of a political identity, thanks to the worker’s movements of the countries of emigration. At the same time, Friuli has given a lot of his trade-union representatives to the international movement. Therefore, the history of the working class breaks, through the migratory experience, the schematism of national worker’s movements historiography.

Keywords: Social Movements, Working Class, Internationalism, Trade-Unions, Emigration.

Discursive formations and transformations of and around the Basque nationalism: the case of Lizarra-Garazi Declaration

by Asta Maskaliunaite (Baltic Defence College of Tallin)

When it comes to research on the ethno-territorial movements, the case of the Basque nationalism seem to be one of the more popular subjects for investigation. It presents an especially interesting case for analysis with a mix of violent and non-violent forms of mobilization. During the democratic post-Franco era, all the attempts to end violence seem to be doomed to fail; the divisions remain as strong as before both within the Basque nationalism and between Basque and Spanish political forces. Consequently, the misunderstandings, different interpretations of the same facts, different narratives creating even deeper divides between the political actors flourish as much as before. In the article is examined just one particular episode in the historical development of the Basque (and Spanish) nationalism: i.e. the events surrounding the signing and further interpretation of the 1998 Declaration of Lizarra. Already at a time when it was signed the Declaration of Lizarra became one of the most controversially interpreted documents in the Basque politics, and it had been shaping the Basque(and Spanish) political debate also in the following years. Studying this case it is illustrated the difficult relationship between violent and non-violent parties in ethnonationalist movements, as well as the complicated interaction between the regional ethnonationalist political parties and the state ones. Furthermore, the case serves as a good illustration of how the political discourse is transformed and as an illustration of the importance of interpretation in politics and of the use of “historical discourse” in these interpretations. It will show how the new political myths are created and how they inform the future interrelations between the involved parties.

Keywords: Basque Nationalism and Politics; Spanish Nationalism; Political Myth; Political Discourse; Peace Processes; Ethnonationalist Conflicts

Democracy and Political Organizations. Rita Borsellino’s Cantieri

by Rossana Sampugnaro (University of Catania)

The study of Rita Borsellino's Cantieri shows the attempt to involve the people supporting her candidature for President of the Sicilian Region into policy-making within a new political organization. The analysis, based on the documents of the organization and many interviews, allows to evaluate how much an initial project

of highly inclusive participation has been realized in practice. In fact Rita Borsellino had two important programmatic objectives that concern the method of policy-making more than the policies in themselves: revitalizing political participation and guaranteeing legality. With the aim of engaging the greatest number of citizens in the process, she committed herself in the building of a political organization (Cantieri) that should construct the political program of the coalition. From a political point of view, the shared definition of program within the political organizations appears desirable because it strengthens democracy, even if with the concrete risk that it is irrelevant in comparison to the strategic choices: Cantieri work more as an advisory committee than as a decision-making structure. However, Cantieri emphasize the recovery of the associative dimension in opposition to the idea of individualized participation of other forms of citizen involvement.

Keywords: Participatory Democracy, Rita Borsellino, Electoral Campaign, Political Mobilization.