



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: August 2009

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SOCIAL POLIS – update on the Research Agenda

The process of refining the Social Polis research themes for a final Research Agenda is now in an advanced stage.

After some proposals to merge themes of the Research Agenda circulated among the Lead Partners and the stakeholders from Inner Circle, consensus was reached on a completely reworked version of FRA. Half of the FRA themes became transversal topics which should be present in the research methodology of each theme, and many additional themes have been merged.

The final result is four core themes and eight additional themes, obtained without dropping almost any of the research proposals (apart from the two additional themes on local welfare which were already covered by the last EU SSH call)

During the next weeks, the themes will be edited by teams consisting of at least one researcher from the Lead Partners and one stakeholder. The Research Agenda will be finalized at the Lead Partner meeting in October.

WORKS project

After four years the WORKS project - Work Organisation Restructuring in the Knowledge-Based Society - has almost come to the end.

The WORKS consortium started in June 2005, and it involves partners from seventeen different institutes in fourteen EU member states. It has carried out an ambitious programme of theoretical and empirical work aiming to better understanding the current value chain restructuring and the ongoing changes in the labour markets. The results of the theoretical, empirical, quantitative and qualitative analyses carried out by the project are now collected together and published in eleven thematic reports. One report identifies some key challenges for future policies.

The publications can be downloaded in pdf from the WORKS project website http://worksproject.be/Project_reports.htm, or they can be ordered on line via the print-on-demand publisher Unibook.

Upcoming events

Date	Title
21 Oct 09 – 24 Oct 09	WARSAW REGIONAL FORUM 2009 - Networking in the European, regional and local space
15 Oct 09 – 17 Oct 09	4 th workshop on architectural theory – Fribourg
05 Oct 09 – 06 Oct 09	Conference: Equality & non-discrimination, a framework strategy – Maastricht
01 Oct 09	Conference: Poverty in Medium and Small Cities of Developing Countries – Lubumbashi (DRC)
17 Sep 09 – 19 Sep 09	Workshop: "Contentious Dynamics in Local Contexts" – Roma
17 Sep 09 – 19 Sep 09	7 Annual ESPA net Conference 2009 – Urbino

New publications

REPENSER LE DÉVELOPPEMENT TERRITORIAL?

Confrontation des modèles d'analyses et des tendances observées dans les pays développés
Magali Talandier & Laurent Davezies
Editions recherche du Puca n° 198 , juillet 2009

Rethinking regional development is needed, especially after the growing evidence about the divergence, since the 1980s, between economic growth and development. The metropolitan area, focus of the theoretical work of the "new economic geography" is growing much slower than expected in the U.S. and in Europe. These trends can be explained by a renewed approach to the theory of economic base, emphasizing the role of residential base, the factors which attract population and the role of incomes coming from outside the territory. The book presents a critical overview of recent literature on territorial development in developed countries. It stresses planning and urban quality are not issues distinct from local development, and it furthermore discusses the matter of potential trade-offs between local development and national welfare.

POOR WOMEN IN RICH COUNTRIES

The Feminization of Poverty over the Life Course.
Edited by Gertrude Schaffner Goldberg, Oxford University Press, 2009

The first book to study women's poverty over the life course, this outstanding collection compares the economic condition of single mothers and single elderly women—while also considering partnered women and immigrants — in eight wealthy but diverse countries. By identifying the social and economic policies that enable women to live independently, Poor Women in Rich Countries provides nothing less than a blueprint for abolishing women's poverty.

The volume includes papers from G. Schaffner Goldberg, D. Sainsbury, A. Morissens, C. Martin, U. Klammer J. Millar, E. Tide, P. Evans, E. Morlicchio, E. Spinelli, K. Kimoto ,K. Hagiwara.

RIGENERARE LA CITTÀ

Pratiche di innovazione sociale nelle città europee.
Edited by Vicari Haddock S., Moulaert F., Collana "Il Mulino/Ricerca", 2009

This work presents the outcomes of an important interdisciplinary research project, funded by the European Union. It analyses social innovative programmes carried on by private, public and not-for-profit organizations in different European cities for fighting social exclusion. The evaluation of these experiences shows their effectiveness in addressing needs increasingly neglected by public policies. The current economic crisis, with its heavy physical and social impacts on the city, calls for analysis of models other than neoliberalism, based on the activation of local resources, on the creation of collective spaces and on the valorisation of diversity.

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The SOCIAL POLIS NEWSLETTER
is published by
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Catholic University of Leuven

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