



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: January/February 2010

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Educational materials: Understanding Social Science

The blog Understanding Social Science, elaborated as an educational resource for popularising the Survey Papers of the EF 2, 3 and 5, has been launched. It contains information and pedagogical materials on social polarisation, labour markets, economic restructuring in Europe from a urban perspective, housing policies, social cohesion and environmental politics in cities. It includes slideshows (viewable on-line through the Slideshare platform, as well as downloadable in pdf format), a glossary, thematic fiches, and it has an hypertextual structure.

It was realized by Nuria Francoli and Mar Camarasa from the SURT foundation, who we would like to thank for their excellent job. We hope that you will have a chance to visit the blog, leave your comments and answer to the brief evaluation questionnaire.

You can find the blog on:

<http://understandingsocialscience.wordpress.com/>

Impact of the blog in its launch phase

The blog Understanding Social Science has been on-line since January 15th, 2010. During the launch phase, the blog has been viewed 1,548 times (excluding visits from the blog administrator).

As regards interactivity, 22 evaluation questionnaires were received and 7 comments were published. Questionnaire results show a general positive evaluation of the blog: comments received via evaluation questionnaires showed interest in the initiative and made several suggestions to administrators, such as translating the content to other languages and accompanying diagrams with more elaborate pedagogical explanations.

Visitors' comments posted on the blog showed a positive reception, emphasising the visual clarity of explanations and the usability of the glossary, and pointing out possible further developments, such as encouraging discussion between socialist and neoliberal approaches.

Special issue of the Canadian Journal of Regional Science

A special issue of the Canadian Journal of Regional Science/ Revue Canadienne des Sciences Régionales (Vol 32, no 1) on Territorial Development and Social Innovation was recently published under the direction of Juan-Luis Klein as Guest-Editor. The papers included in this special issue are the following:

1. Juan-Luis Klein/ Jean-Marc Fontan/ Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay : *Social entrepreneurs, local initiatives and social economy: foundations for a socially innovative strategy to fight against poverty and exclusion*
2. Frank Moulaert : *Le développement territorial intégré : le rôle des rapports sociaux*
3. David A. Wolfe: *Social Dynamics of Innovation and Civic Engagement in City Regions*
4. Jean-Louis Laville : *Services aux personnes et innovations*
5. Abdelillah Hamdouch /Oana Ailenei /Bruno Laffort/Frank Moulaert: *Les organisations de l'économie sociale dans la métropole lilloise : Vers de nouvelles articulations spatiales ?*
6. Isabel André/Alexandre Abreu: *Social creativity and post-rural places: the case of Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal*
7. Martin Jayo/ Marlei Pozzebon/ Eduardo Henrique Diniz: *Microcredit and innovative local development in Fortaleza, Brazil: the case of Banco Palmas*
8. Emmanuel Raufflet : *La planification territoriale collaborative sous la loupe : l'expérience du plan municipal de développement de Tlalmanalco au Mexique (1997)*

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 18 Mar 10 - 20 Mar 10 | Conference: Is There a European Model of Governance? A Comparative Perspective – Luxembourg |
| 14 Apr 10 - 18 Apr 10 | AAG - City of Negotiation: Social Innovations and Urban Living - Washinton DC |
| 22 Apr 10 - 24 Apr 10 | Room in the City: A Forum for the Civic Square - Glasgow |

Santiago, a Neoliberal City

Paper by Alfredo Rodríguez & Paula Rodríguez, from Corporación SUR

The working paper *Santiago, a Neoliberal City* (You can download it on www.socialpolis.eu, in the Fields and Themes section (EF12 section Social Cohesion and the City as a Whole) is a synthesis of the book *Santiago, una ciudad neoliberal* (Quito, Ecuador: OLACCHI, 2009), edited by Alfredo Rodríguez and Paula Rodríguez. Starting from the Santiago case, the authors show the consequences of a neoliberal model of urban development implemented under the unconstrained rules of the market. Resting on theoretical frameworks developed by authors like Harvey, Brenner, Theodore and Hackworth, they analyse the evolution of the city from the 50s, showing the transformations of a rather democratic city, in which, until the military coup in 1973, most of inhabitants were entitled to basic civil liberties and political rights, into a city ruled by business and speculation. The paper shows how the Pinochet dictatorship shaped a territorial and institutional pattern which the subsequent democratic governments have not tried to transform, even though important improvements have been done after the dictatorship. The territorial division of Greater Santiago implemented by force by the government of Pinochet shaped a context in which the spatial fragmentation of the city expressed and reproduced the deep social fragmentation of its society, whose profundity is being revealed by the current events in the country. "What existed continues to exist" the authors say referring to a chapter authored by Carlos De Mattos, asserting that neoliberal urban order is not a natural but a political order, and therefore other options are possible.

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