REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Resilience/Sustainability for Communities in Crisis
Name of Session Convener(s): *George O. Tsobanoglou*, University of the Aegean
Chair: *George O. Tsobanoglou*, University of the Aegean
Comments: This session is organized on behalf of ISA RC26, Sociotechnics - Sociological Practice
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I) Use of Remittances of Migrant Mine Workers from Lesotho: Welfare and Public Policy Implications of Persistent Declines in Migrant Numbers
Samuel N-A Mensah, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus, Phuthaditjhaba

II) Coping and Working: Working Life as a Coping Strategy with Cancer
Fereshteh Ahmadi, University of Gävle

III) Young People Create, Share and Collaborate Using New Information Technologies and Communication
Karine Pinheiro de Souza, Universidade do Minho, Braga

IV) Sustainable Local Development and Community Capacity Building (CCB): Community Learning and Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in Dodecanese, Greece
Aristea Alexiou, University of Aegean

V) *A Look at Democracy*
Fabiane Maia Garcia, Universidade do Minho and Universidade Federal do Amazonas

Session description:

Various aspects of communal crises and the role of participative action will be presented here. Methods of social economy communal action which promote resilience and cohesion in local community employment as applied in various environmental settings will be invited for presentation. We will bring out the role of social economy, of micro-enterprises and the non-profit sector in general as it safeguards community resilience and shapes local partnership schemes.

Policies for eradicating child poverty, long-term unemployment, establishing cooperation and local partnerships will be further explored. Structural impediments to such policy developments within states or regions will be elaborated. The role of social innovation and the challenges it poses to political power will be the key issue to be explored here.

The process of interaction of diverse levels of social structure in the context of globalization will be of interest here. The European social theater with its North and South dimensions is our focus area in this session.

Abstracts:

I) Use of Remittances of Migrant Mine Workers from Lesotho: Welfare and Public Policy Implications of Persistent Declines in Migrant Numbers
Samuel N-A Mensah, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus, Phuthaditjhaba

Using mainly primary data, this article demonstrates that remittances of migrant mine workers put migrant households among the highest earners in rural Lesotho and increase their welfare levels through higher spending on basic consumption needs and on education in the short term, and, in the long term, on enlargement of agricultural operations and on constriction of residential accommodation. The article also demonstrates that, with migrant numbers and remittances on the wane as a result of retrenchments and non-renewal of contracts, former migrant households are threatened with income vulnerability and poverty in Lesotho's high unemployment environment. It is argued that the optimistic expectations of migrant miners to work in the mines "till retirement", which discourage interest in alternative economic activities, could worsen the economic prospects of their households. To redress the welfare loss, the article recommends that the "till retirement" mentality of migrants should be changed and that retraining of ex- and even current-migrant mine workers in trade skills and entrepreneurship as a way of increasing their absorption into economic life in Lesotho should be an important agenda of public policy.

Key words: migration, remittance use, welfare, retraining, public policy
JEL Classification: E24, F24, I31, J61, R23

II) Coping and Working: Working Life as a Coping Strategy with Cancer
Fereshteh Ahmadi, University of Gävle

There are plenty of studies which show that stress caused by working and stress at the workplace can bring about physical and mental illness, but it can hardly find any study which shows the possibility of the potential beneficial effect of working for those who suffer from a life-threatening crisis, such as the crisis causes by cancer.

The question is if working life can, in a society like Sweden where working is a virtue, play the role of a coping strategy. Historically, Sweden until a hundred years ago was one of the poorest countries in Europe; the road to development and success was to do a hard and skilled work. Here we should remember the effect of the Protestant ethic, which emphasizes the need for good and hard work as a component of a person's success and a sign of personal salvation.
The result of a qualitative interview study with 51 persons, who have hit by cancer, shows that working can play the role of a coping strategy in Sweden.
The aim of this text is to show the possible benefits of working in Sweden for those who suffer life-threatening crisis.

III) Young People Create, Share and Collaborate Using New Information Technologies and Communication
Karine Pinheiro de Souza, Universidade do Minho, Braga

This research presents a case study based on the Digital Agents Project[i], and was developed with young students from a Portuguese Public School. The information and communication technologies were integrated motivate students to think about their local problems, with an approach focus on entrepreneurial activities. Cyberspace has become a means of generating social entrepreneurship and in this sense the young people involved in this project could be faced with questions about "how do I live?", "what are my dreams", "how can I transform my reality?".[ii] They were confronted with reflections about a Network Society (Castells, 2000) in which power relations promote a new rhythm of life – virtual, fluid, fast and connected. In a context in which social relations are no longer concrete and become abstract, the promotion of face to face groups meeting, with the social networks, to talk about local problems begin to overcome the space and time barrier, which promotes and creates new opportunities of collaboration, in an intersection between locals and globally, and in a new dynamic virtual mobility and ubiquity. Thus, the present study is based on the ideas of KURZWEIL (2005), Bauman (2010), Morin (2000), Lévy (2000), and the analysis of an era that requires a quick response towards the new job requirements, the instantaneity of facts, a time of pressure, in which the bits are worth more than the atoms and the material goods are no longer guarantee of power and wealth. Also in a context that cyberspace is an ideas accelerator and a timely means for a local development production. The questions that guided this study were based on the need for new approaches in school education, so that young people can understand the

changes of the Network Society and become more active individuals in this society with their multiliteracies. In order to mingle theory and practice it was developed a learning object, and a methodology aimed to promote the creation of ideas that could promote the use of ICT. The study had as its object of study the material developed by young people with prototype products and services to improve their communities through the use of ICT

i   http://blogtasabendo.com.br/ead-novo/
ii https://sites.google.com/site/geramovel/

IV) Sustainable Local Development and Community Capacity Building (CCB): Community Learning and Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in Dodecanese, Greece
Aristea Alexiou, University of Aegean

This research project aims to study in depth the relationship between community capacity building (CCB) and Sustainable Local Development focusing in an island region of Greece, Dodecanese. The importance of community capacity building in local development paying particular attention to its social, economic and environmental dimensions has been pointed out by various authors.

  CCB is a concept that describes community engagement in enabling their people as community to define their own destiny. Lately, it has gained special attention on the identification of priorities and opportunities for sustainable community building; therefore, it seems that it can play a decisive role in the local development processes. According to the literature review an important part of a sustainable ¨bottom up¨ community development approach is linked with Community Capacity Building.

  The primary objective is to analyze the relationship between community capacity building and local sustainable development. The inter-relationships between community capacity building domains and different factors of sustainable development are explored as well as how these can help in developing and sharing skills to enhance employability by delivering new resources that address local needs and in finally achieving resilience amidst deteriorating conditions.

   Researchers working on CCB projects have seen their use to address basic issues like improving local parks, gardens or providing a context for enhancing social networks. A certain developmental project in Rhodes Island with the objective that parks can be used for sustainable local and regional development is examined in relation to Community Capacity Building methodology as an example of the application of this tool in sustainable local development.

   The results of the study will be discussed and correlated with specific sustainable local development aspects and their role in building resilience against island community crisis.

Key Words
Local development, community capacity building, endogenous development, sustainability

V) *A Look at Democracy*

Fabiane Maia Garcia, Universidade do Minho and Universidade Federal do Amazonas

A sociological analysis of the issues of democracy can be seen from two perspectives. The first put democracy in the field of classical analysis in which the law and the other representative processes would ensure the collective interests. The other arises in the field of critical sociology with relevant contributions because her participation is not limited to representation. In traditional theories the compensatory policies, as result of the pressures from the participation of various segments in the State institutions are seen as an excess of democratic demands. They would be responsible for the high cost to the State and become capitalism less competitive and susceptible to the economic crises; beyond to accentuate the difference and allow "the least prepared" occupy the places of those who by merit would be the right. In this approach, the situation experienced today determines the settings and possible arrangements for a revival, or a new way of dealing with the old principles of capitalism to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness. Otherwise, public sociology perceives democracy from an inclusive perspective from her emerge new geographic areas experiences, as a way of addressing the problems of participation, and also contributes to contest to the old practices. In the second perspective, conflict and antagonism are signs of a truly democratic society with the consensus abandonment, the balance or predominance of a group, class or individual. In this dual understanding of democracy, the moment and the arising sensations from the economic crisis of 2008 seem fundamental to put democracy and its traditional sociological analyzes on the threshold of certainty to denial. From the articulated social movements, fights for gender issue, indignities, even the so-called "Arab Spring", we observe, almost stunned a revolutionary phase willing to change what we gave as until now established. Thus, it is necessary to overcome the promise of socializing the theoretical production of democracy to an every day space of democratic construction and conceptual. In general, the crisis, the struggles and movements indicate a desire to participate and focus on the direction of this world in which public sociology presents itself.