

# Digitalization, Economic Development and Social Equality



# Digitalization, Economic Development and Social Equality

*Turbulent Convergence*

Edited by

Maria Mirabelli, Natália Brasil Dib  
and Sinan Mihelčič

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Turbulent Convergence

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# PREFACE

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY WCSA

ANDREA PITASI,

WCSA PRESIDENT

EMILIA FERONE,

WCSA VICE PRESIDENT

We are extremely proud to provide the preface for this important book edited by Maria Mirabelli, Natalia Brasil Dib and Sinan Mihelčič.

This book is the prestigious outcome of the research, debating and policy agenda-setting that followed the 8th World Complexity Science Academy (WCSA) conference held at the European Parliament's office in Rome, just around the corner of piazza Venezia, in November 2018. But it is not simply a record of the proceedings; rather, it encompasses research and policy in accordance with the WCSA's style.

Research is the fundamental descriptive side of a process which also needs very strategic normative policy guidelines to unify theory and practice and to provide added value to publication and beyond. 'Just another published research summary' would have been as useless as a bike to ride to the Moon. Moreover, in the strong spirit of the WCSA, the editorial team managing this book was cosmopolitan in make-up. A distinguished Italian Editor-in-Chief, Maria Mirabelli, was supported by two high quality editors, Natalia Brasil Dib and Sinan Mihelčič, respectively from Brazil and Slovenia. Science and research are global and collaborative undertakings, not disciplines pursued in solitude. Science-based problem-setting and problem-solving in relation to the key challenges of our age require a strong epistemological, theoretical and methodological framework that is able to focus on those differences that have a real impact on a global scale. That is why we need a systemic epistemology based on complex systems and complex processes covering dimensions from the psycho-social to the macro – via the micro and the

meso – being aware that the macro impact on the lower dimensions is far stronger and effective than the impact of the micro upward.

Not by chance, the two recipients of the WCSA Distinguished and Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award 2018 announced at the European Parliament conference were Abram de Swaan and Paolo De Nardis. The former, one of the most important living sociologists and a direct disciple of Norbert Elias, played a key role in developing Elias's sociology of civilization process into a more complex tool capable of understanding, criticizing and correcting by policy nudges some key problems of the age in the field of human rights. Paolo De Nardis was honoured for two crucial contributions he has made (and continues to make) in:

- offering telling criticism of the failure of the variants of systemic social sciences which are too focused on rigid inner integration, and denial, and rejection of the differences inherent in the intrinsic complexity of the world – a complexity they struggle to understand; and
- generously encouraging a kind of sociology focused on World Order Policy Modelling (WOPM) as a way of really making a difference in the board rooms of supranational and multinational organizations, a difference that will enhance the future of our species.

The two key lessons of de Nardis and De Swaan's linking the study of complex systems and processes epistemologically and on research-based policy modelling to correctly identify and solve macro problems of high impact in political and social sciences was a core outcome of the conference and one which will inform the WCSA's next steps.

1. First of all, WCSA is a research-based problem-setting and problem-solving think tank for WOPM.
2. WCSA works on complex systemic processes with high macro impact as well as genuine leverage and scale.
3. WCSA considers any "international-comparative" approach rather obsolete in our times, preferring instead a kind of global, convergent cosmopolitanism.
4. WCSA is very open to difference but is also very careful not to give way to obsoledge (obsolete knowledge).
5. For this reason, WCSA is a world class think tank that is attracting – and being attracted by – more and more scholars, investors,

entrepreneurs, policy modellers and policymakers who share the basic key features of hypercitizenship and thus enable WCSA to be a hypercitizen community. Ulrich Beck has outlined the key concepts of the WCSA:

Global cosmopolitanism; science-intensive, knowledge-based policy modelling, and procedural decision-making; entrepreneurial self-constructing, wide horizon spirit; social autonomy structuration at a systemic global level.

Beck explains the key concept of global cosmopolitanism as follows:

Cosmopolitanism [...] is a vital theme of European civilization and European consciousness and beyond that of global experience [...] What do we mean then by the cosmopolitan outlook? Global sense, a sense of boundarylessness. An everyday, historically alert, reflexive awareness of ambivalence in a milieu of burying differentiation and cultural contradictions. (Beck 2006: 2–3)

The cosmopolitan outlook can be described as follows:

As a counter-image to the territorial prison theory of identity, society and politics we can provisionally distinguish five interconnected constitutive principles of the cosmopolitan outlook:

First, the principle of experience of crisis in world society. The awareness of interdependence and the resulting civilizational community of fate induced by global risks and crises which overcomes the boundaries between internal and external, us and them, the national and the international.

Second, the principle of recognition of cosmopolitan differences and the resulting cosmopolitan conflict character and the (limited) curiosity concerning differences of culture and identity.

Third, the principle of cosmopolitan empathy and of perspective-taking and the virtual interchangeability of situations (as both an opportunity and a threat).

Fourth, the principle of the impossibility of living in a world society without borders and the consulting compulsion to redraw old boundaries and rebuild old walls.

Fifth, the *mélange* principle: the principle that local, national, ethnic, religious and cosmopolitan cultures and traditions interpenetrate, interconnect and intermingle-cosmopolitanism without provincialism is empty, provincialism without cosmopolitanism is blind. (Beck 2006: 7)

Beck adds:

The cosmopolitan outlook calls into question one of the most powerful convictions concerning society and politics which find expression in the claim that modern society and modern politics can only be organized in the form of national states. Society is equated with society organized in nationally and territorially delimited states. When social actors subscribe to this belief, I speak of a national outlook. When it determines the perspective of the scientific observer I speak of methodological nationalism. (Beck 2006: 24)

### ***Science-intensive, knowledge-based policy modelling, and procedural decision-making***

This concept refers to Nowotny's key contribution on scientific citizenship which features the knowledge-based society; she affirms:

A knowledge-based society also increases its production of epistemic things, various kinds of abstract objects, and technical artifacts that are subject to the same rules. The democratization of scientific expertise is also merely the expansion of principles of governance that have served the Western liberal democracies well. Today, science and technology are no longer viewed with awe but are part of everyday life. Mediated by the educational system and qualifications and certificates people acquire, they determine people's chances of upward social mobility, their working world, and the course of their biographies. It is thus logical to extend the concept of citizenship to science and technology. "Scientific citizenship" comprises rights and duties and asks about both the functions that an expanded concept of citizenship could fulfil in social integration and also the duties that arise from it for citizens as well as for political institutions and administrations. (Nowotny 2008: 23–24)

### ***Entrepreneurial self-constructing, 'wide horizon' spirit***

This key concept is inspired by the book 'The Entrepreneurial Society' (Audretsch 2007). The entrepreneurial mentality and vision are synonyms of proactivity, a wide horizon strategy and relentless evolution (Laszlo 2008) as well as continuity in goal attainment, clear goal setting, high speed methods of change, and the tools and tactics, if required, to reach fixed goals and so on. The entrepreneurial attitude and vision imply 'lifelong' learning among evolutionary citizens who are always ready to distinguish shifts and shocks. They can mostly exercise emotional self-control and, when a shock is coming (shaped as the Schumpeterian winds of creative destruction as shown in Pitasi-Ferone 2008), they are already aware of how to act strategically and consistently. They do not live, nor do they wish to live, their lives as Broch's 'Sleepwalkers' (Broch 2011).

### ***Social autonomy structuration on a systemic global level***

This last key concept concerns the previous; indeed, it is a sort of consequence of it. The challenges of the knowledge society “dramatically provoke strong public opinion and debate, and their ‘consequences’ easily witness the fact that that emotional, incompetent reactions and attitudes simply generate a growing public misunderstanding of science, technology and their socio-economical impacts. That is why scientific citizenship is emerging faster and faster to solve the ‘incompetence’ problem. Scientific citizenship is reconfiguring itself and it is emerging in the shape of societarian citizenship” (Donati 1993) inspired by the autonomous, self-organizing ‘spirit’ and the mood among the most competent and skilled knowledge-based elites, educated according to the most self-reflexive, relational, responsible freedom (Pitasi 2015).

Social and public engagement by non-profit organizations is crucial as far as it allows the emergence of new trends, requests and needs if these organizations are cosmopolitan, managed by an entrepreneurial spirit and are science-intensive enough to follow deliberative systemic procedures. When these organizations fail to accomplish or reject this cosmopolitan, science-based, entrepreneurial and societarian model, they become a noisy movement, expressing only the most emotional moods of the crowd in radical democratic participation fuelled by bias and common sense. That is why e-democracy, for example, is becoming more and more procedural and complex. Organizations allowing e-voting have very clear settings and ranks as to who can vote. (Pitasi 2016)

The four key concepts – cosmopolitanism, scientific citizenship, entrepreneurship and societal autonomy – are the four dimensions of a new idea of citizenship, called hypercitizenship (Pitasi 2012, 2015a, 2015b, 2016; Pitasi-Ferone 2017). Hypercitizenship is sketched out by designing a multidimensional and multipolar convergence among the different kinds of citizenships explained above.

With its four conceptual dimensions, hypercitizenship features the strategic attitude of those areas in which capitalism is becoming ‘turbogenetic’. The hypercitizenship concept is focused on the fact that communication about key challenges of our times is increasingly producing communication and public understanding of science and technology for governance and policymaking on global, glocal and cosmopolitan scales (Pitasi and Ferone 2019).

This book appears as one of three academic research and publishing follow-ups to the Rome European Parliament conference. It accompanies

the 76th edition of the Central European Political Science Review, dedicated to the WCSA Special Issue: “The Turbulent Global Convergence Game”. (<http://www.wcsaglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CEPSR-76.pdf>) and number 3/19 of RTSA (<http://www.rtsa.eu/>) published in December 2019.

WCSA was founded in Bologna, European Union, in December 2009 and this book is the official publication to mark its 10th anniversary. In ten years, the WCSA has played important roles in networking with:

ISA (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en>);

ESA (<https://www.europeansociology.org/>);

IFSR (<http://ifsr.org/>)

and has signed bilateral agreements with several organizations around the world (<http://www.wcsaglobal.org/partnership/>). We have members on four continents and are planning to expand, to improve and to provide value-added research-based policy modelling for a more open, proactive, wealthy and peaceful global order.

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## PROLOGUE

# TURBULENT CONVERGENCE, DIGITALIZATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL EQUALITY

MARIA MIRABELLI  
NATALIA BRASIL DIB  
SINAN MIHELČIČ

The world today is characterized by deep interconnections between actors and places that give rise to important convergences in social, economic, political-institutional, legal and digital terms. Starting from this basis, the aim of the 8th WCSA World Conference was to reflect on innovative policy models, policymaking, institutional strategies and law redesign, able to reshape socio-economic development.

As argued by several scholars, one of the effects of globalization has been the process of ‘re-spacing’ that helped to redefine collective life and individual experience. The coexistence of global and local and the redefinition of the concepts of space and time have created social dynamics that reduce their dependence on physical space and, therefore, their links with the territory. Examples of this logic are the financial markets, which have seen this development accelerate rapidly over the last 20 years, but also the Internet which affirms the disintegration of space, with the advent of social media and political and economic relationships that are outside the spatial dimension.

In this new scenario networking takes on greater importance as a way of achieving connection and mobility, both physical and symbolic, which allow spatial configurations to be recomposed dynamically. The different flows that cross societies and the networks that are established determine new scenarios within which contemporary life takes place.

Reconstructing the logic and the shape of these landscapes means understanding the new geography that is emerging as an effect of the

transition in which we are involved. These processes have opened up new and ever-widening possibilities for individual action, which can also extend beyond traditional boundaries.

At present, the whole world is undergoing such intense technological, economic, political and social change which, in Polanyi's words, can be defined as the second 'Great Transformation' – a significant revolution that requires a profound retraining of society and the areas that underpin it. It is a complex process of adaptation and thus it becomes essential to analyse and understand these transformations as well as to interpret multiple modernization processes in their social, economic and political contexts.

In this new context, it is particularly important to identify the new social divisions and the sociocultural contexts that give rise to them and to investigate the main social dynamics that produce new structures of opportunity at national and global levels.

The ongoing digitalization process and the increasing diffusion of new technologies involve structural and cultural transformations in different institutional spheres, affecting the very perception of reality, people's lives, the definition of identity and social relations. Thus, there is a need to cope with new challenges and opportunities.

The awareness of the importance and pervasiveness of the digital revolution is a starting point to strengthen our knowledge and deepen our understanding of what is happening in the world of innovation and what are the most appropriate forms for dealing with the paradigm shifts affecting individuals and communities.

It becomes essential to find the necessary space in which to understand the change that is taking place, to seek and define new solutions, new ways that can help us to grow in present and future transformations in order to acquire new awareness that will be useful to citizens to build up the necessary freedom in this new context.

This book, that we have the honour and pleasure to edit, represents one of the outcomes of the WSCA Conference held in Rome in autumn of 2018. The purpose of the book is to reflect on these issues by collecting some of the papers presented by scholars from several different countries. In particular, the book represents a great effort on the part of WSCA to gather together research carried out in Europe and beyond and to provide a forum for valuable discussion at international level in a cosmopolitan way.

Looking at the different papers, organized in three broad sections, readers will find a fruitful discussion on relevant topics such as globalization, citizenship, policy, development and much more. A truly global forum.

The first section groups together papers dealing with ‘Social change, Inclusion, Identities, Migrations’ and includes contributions from Antonio Mancini and Alberto Tarozzi. Their paper, ‘The paths of hope. Forced migrations to Italy, along the Balkan Route between reception and refoulement’, concerns the political and cultural debate that has developed in Italy about the reception of forced migrants, coming from Africa, across the central Mediterranean. According to the authors, some aspects (e.g. push factors) of these phenomena had not been given sufficient attention in the sociological debate. They try to describe some examples where the answers to the problems take a more operative character, and to evaluate if and how concrete problems can be at least partially resolved.

Gianugo Cossi’s theoretical essay, ‘Is global citizenship possible?’ relates the polyvalent character of the cultural notion of citizenship in the fluid dynamics of globalization. The author considers that citizenship in its national sense is not only controversial but, in practice, paradoxical for many national communities, as is the functional substitute of global citizenship that, in the Luhmannian context, emerges in the metaphorical structure. Global citizenship can thus be called a meta-narration.

In turn, Anna Elia writes about ‘Unaccompanied Minors or Minors on the Move? Life Experiences at the Frontiers of Citizenship’. The issue of unaccompanied minors is presented as a structural component in the European scenario of contemporary migration. Young migrants try to affirm their rights as minors but, at the same time, put their experience inside a migration family strategy. Being at an age which could be seen as a border between adolescence and adulthood puts these migrants on a sort of ‘contradiction of citizenships’. The article, reporting the main findings of an empirical investigation carried out in Calabria, a region of southern Italy, draws attention to the need to overturn this approach, starting from the observation of the interactions between unaccompanied minors and the ‘adult world’ of social workers, lawyers, caregivers and educators. Within their experiences of transnational mobility, unaccompanied minors express forms of resistance to social inequalities that require alternative forms of protection and support, strictly related to the concept of ‘Universal Citizenship’.

Walter Greco’s paper, ‘Citizenship and social inclusion. A global challenge?’ presents the result of his research. The author claims that the concept of ‘citizenship’ has played a key role across all modernity. Nevertheless, the passage towards a new era defined as ‘postmodern’ seems to be characterized by a sense of ‘displacement’ that shows the vulnerability of societies facing uncertain scenarios that exacerbate the sense of social inadequacy. Postmodernity also poses challenges related to

the perceived insecurity within weak forms of welfare systems that are currently losing their ability to achieve inclusion which, in turn, produces a new marginality, vulnerability and social exclusion. This underlines the necessity to examine closely the social meaning of citizenship as a matter of recognition in this age of great transformation, where social problems are played out on large, even global horizons. In this regard, the paper provides some empirical evidence from narrative interviews with young and second generation migrants, conducted in both Italy and France.

Emanuela Chiodo and Mariafrancesca D'Agostino's paper, 'Migrants or European citizens? Romani between old myths, everyday marginalization and new dynamics of racial segregation', addresses similar themes. The paper focuses on the issue of Romani mobility within Europe in a context of multilevel governance that stresses the role of local government as being primarily responsible for the promotion of their inclusion. In this way they offer a contribution to the current debate on the politics of European mobility, analysing some evident obstacles that still do not allow the creation of a unitary system of post-national membership, even if considered a constitutive feature of the socio-political formation of the EU.

Antonio Floriani's paper, 'Social Solidarity: Beyond the Reductionist Concept', examines the way in which solidarity is considered one of the basic values or ideas of law and how it can be understood as a consequence of the approximation between ethics and legal science. In other words, there is hardly any social justice without the selfless help of others. With these considerations in mind, what is being studied is the possibility of considering solidarity as a duty on all of us.

Finally, at the end of this section we present the paper written by Alexandra Martin, 'Intimate Partner Violence Against Men: Medico-Legal Professionals' Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices'. The paper explores how interactions and practices among legal, medical and social systems impact the accessibility of supportive services for individuals who experience violence in Brazil. Violence exists on interpersonal, community and international levels. Interpersonal violence threatens community cohesion and international relations. Lessening interpersonal violence requires local and international communities to continuously adapt their legal, health and social systems. It is crucial for these systems to collaborate in order to successfully cultivate solidarity within a safe atmosphere.

In the second part, 'Globalization, Innovation and Development', attention is focused on innovation processes in society. Antonio Russo's paper, 'Digitalization, technological unemployment and welfare state

crisis in cognitive capitalism', discusses the impact of the current technological revolution on the labour market. Starting from the Marxist theory of technological innovation, the paper analyses the impact of digitalization on the contemporary model of capitalism, and on its ability to sustain inclusive and dynamic economic growth. The current technological revolution is going to reshape all economic sectors with unprecedented speed and intensity, leaving the supply of labour far in excess of demand. This trend also affects functional income distribution, inducing a gradual concentration of capital within a smaller group of capitalists controlling high-tech enterprises with monopolistic positions. According to the hypothesis discussed in the paper, current productive forces, developed in cognitive capitalism, are a fundamental cause of the increase in social inequality in all advanced economies. Redistributive policies may slow such trends, but they cannot reverse the structural tendency to capital concentration, generated by productive forces able to replace work in every economic sector and set up markets with strong monopolistic features dominated by big multinational companies. The empirical evidence discussed in the essay suggests that digitalization has had a negative impact on job demand and on salaries, increasing social inequalities. If the current trends of technological innovation continue to exacerbate inequality, they could endanger social cohesion in advanced countries and destabilize their democratic systems.

Ellen Taricani, Tyler L. Adams and Sara Petroccia's paper, 'The Matrix Reloaded: Impacts of Technology on Human Processes and Function over Time' analyses the impact of technology on the processes and functions of society. The paper considers several technologies and looks at the areas of creation, adoption, use and influence, to review their application and impact. What is vital for the reader to know, is how computers and microcircuits have developed. The issue of human-computer interaction is essential to understanding the personal and ubiquitous computer environment. It is important to understand the history of computer and microcircuit design in order to see beyond what is known today and into our possible tomorrows.

Vincenzo Fortunato and Maria Mirabelli, from the University of Calabria, have contributed a paper, 'Work and new technologies in the era of Industry 4.0: policies and trends' which deals with a subject particularly relevant in the current international debate, but still little explored by the sociological literature in Italy. They focus their attention on the implementation and impact of the principles related to the 4th industrial revolution (*Industry 4.0*) within complex public and private organizations. In fact, new technologies such as advanced robotics, the internet of things,

big data analysis and Cyber-Physics Systems (CPS), are certain to have a significant impact on ‘traditional’ ways of working and, by transforming the nature of work as we have always understood it thus far, will affect other related social spheres, such as markets and divisions of labour, both local and global. These changes inspired the authors to talk about a new ‘great transformation’, adopting the famous expression of Karl Polanyi, used to describe the birth of the market economy. The change, even if heterogeneous (at sectoral and geographical level), will be relevant. However, it is important to analyse in detail the dimension of transformation and related trends, to ask if innovations are really new, and to assess the impact on labour organizations and workers and how this will affect education and training. In this regard, the supposed new paradigm requires the availability within the labour market of flexible workers able to deal with new technologies and to cope with the challenges, not only passively, but actively using their skills, knowledge and their control over technology.

Carmela Guarascio’s paper (University of Calabria) addresses the topic of ‘Digital Economy and Collective Bargaining. ICT value chain and self-employed in a Southern Italian Region’. Outsourcing has grown over recent years, in particular in the ICT sector. This has been due to the combined effects of growth in ICT services and a digitalization and automation of the economy. This is changing both the working patterns and social conditions of workers. Outsourcing could also be linked with the flexibility of work and the increase of non-standard jobs, self-employment, and the ‘bogus self-employed’. On the one hand, this reflects a reinforcement of productivity. But, on the other hand, it has enormous consequences for the ability of workers, especially women, to achieve a good work–life balance. Without appropriate policies to protect workers, flexibility might become flex-insecurity, creating new social needs for policymakers to address. The paper shows the main findings of a European research project. It has a specific goal to understand how outsourcing of ICT services impacts the lives of employees, in particular women, and how collective bargaining might be structured to meet the challenge.

In their paper, ‘Community Development Banks: Instruments of Capabilities Expansion and of Social and Economic Development in Brazil’, Andressa Jarletti and Antônio Carlos Efling look at Brazil and offer a detailed analysis of the contribution made by community development banks to social and economic development. The ‘capability approach’ assesses various conditions needed to give people the freedom to lead the kind of lives they choose. The variability of personal characteristics and other social, political and environmental factors may

impose obstacles on people's freedom to achieve alternative functioning combinations. Another complexity is that some functions are fertile and promote other related abilities, while some disadvantages are corrosive, since a deprivation in one domain can produce large negative effects in other areas of life. These notions are particularly important in the domain of credit and financial regulation, since credit can be, on the one hand, a fertile function that contributes to freedom and widens social opportunities for individuals, and, on the other hand, a corrosive disadvantage if it results in over-indebtedness. The new strategies in human development should pay attention in community development banks. This peculiar banking model offers microcredit and other micro-financial services, stimulating local production and consumption networks. They generate income and local trade, through microfinance, social currency and professional training, matching local production with consumption. The relationships are based on trust and are guided by the knowledge of a community's specific needs. By creating opportunities and promoting the social, economic and sustainable development of the community, these banks contribute to the expansion of horizons.

Angel Antonio Alberto, in 'Globalization and its consequences for SMEs', writes about the impact of globalization on small and medium enterprises (SMEs). SMEs, especially in developing economies, must be prepared for the changes produced by developments in international trade. Globalization is a continuous process that presents opportunities, risks and challenges. According to the author, globalization must be considered an important process that impacts the individual development of economies, thus contributing to a higher standard of living for all participants. However, globalization has a double effect on SMEs. For some, it provides new opportunities for expansion and growth, enabling them to take advantage of the possibilities of the international market. For others, by contrast, globalization brings risks that their current situation makes hard to cope with in the absence of improvements in the quality of their products and services, strengthening of their competitiveness and other improvements in their management practices. The SMEs of the twenty-first century must take all these factors into account, since every single one of them has an internationalized context. This does not necessarily imply active participation in international markets, but it can take the form of a passive threat, starting with competitors in foreign markets at more advanced stages of internationalization.

In his paper, 'Cloud knowledge. Cloud interlace between academia, industry and governance', Sinan Mihelčič describes a particular case study programme of interdisciplinary collaboration between Ljubljana and

Stanford Universities between 2012 and 2015\*. In this programme, he interlaced urbanism with business and technological knowledge in an online environment. In particular, Mihelčič analyses the possibility of implementing a triple helix educational approach (urbanism, business and technology) into a triple helix model of governance, industry and academia. The author explains how experiences from primarily online educational programmes could also be used for the professional and educational growth of enterprises, academia and government bodies. The paper describes also how to achieve balance between education, industry and governance, focusing on large-scale infrastructure or urban (real estate) development projects, where intelligence and knowledge are in the cloud, enabling different stakeholders and participants to access the knowledge from anywhere in the world. That online cloud model of combining industry, governance and academia, could be used to narrow the gap between differently developed global regions, cities or countries, to promote investment and to share knowledge with minimum effort.

In the chapter, 'The LOFT structure: new approaches and key implications for European Youth Unemployment', Andrea Cara, Beatrice Elia and Francesca Jacobone, analyse existing European labour policies and programmes, and go on to deal with youth employment in an effort to demonstrate how the organized interaction of private and public expertise can contribute to an effective redefinition of public policies, capable of tackling the current mismatch between supply and demand in the labour market. The attractiveness of the structure is going to be crucial in effectively connecting educational institutions, public decision-makers and businesses in order to shape clear and long-term policies supported by dedicated structures which will eventually ensure equal opportunities for labour market access.

The third section presents papers dealing with 'Politics, policy and citizenship', providing us some thoughtful insights into the future of digital democracy as Lucia Montesanti, Valeria Tarditi and Francesca Veltri discuss in 'The cases of Pirates, the M5S and Podemos movement'. In recent decades, European political systems have gone through a crisis brought about by the end of ideologies and economic and social turmoil. The growing delegitimization of traditional parties highlights the gap between citizens and the old political loyalties. Two trends emerge: a) the need to identify with a leader; and b) the progressive individualization of political participation and demands for instruments of direct democracy. Among them, we see the Pirates in various European countries, the Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S) in Italy and Podemos in Spain. This chapter analyses the use and the functioning of the three parties' digital platforms:

Liquid-feedback for the Italian Pirates; Rousseau for the M5S; and Plaza Podemos for Podemos in Spain. The analysis of online decision-making processes allows us to identify the types of prevailing democracy, the advantages in terms of member involvement and possible disadvantages in the way consent can be manipulated. From these ideas, the authors identify the effects of digitalization on participation and democracy in the parties analysed.

In her paper, ‘What can we learn from Starbucks, Wal-Mart and Lidl? How global trade can benefit from presented cases’, Lara Floriani from Brasil analyses how the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) aims to provide a fair and modern regime for contractors. It contributes significantly to ensuring trade security and reducing transaction costs. At present, there are 89 States party to the Convention, reflecting the level of interest in uniform international trade rules. However, in spite of innovations brought about by the Convention, there is still some way to go before the CISG can claim to be able to solve all conflicts arising from the international purchase and sale of goods. The Convention regulates the *ex ante* moment of conclusion of the contract and provides guidelines for the satisfaction of *ex post* rights. Disputes can be resolved in two ways, either through the election of a forum competent to deal with a cross-border dispute, or through the constitution of an arbitration agreement, in which case the matter will be resolved under international arbitration. The problem is that the forms of dispute settlement and the enforcement of decisions represent costs detrimental to trade, stemming from information asymmetry and the limited rationality of economic agents.

In her paper, ‘The Horizontalization of Constitutions and the equilibrium point’, Laura Appignanesi makes an interesting and theoretical contribution on the sociology of constitutions, within the framework of a systemic approach. The starting point is the current transition towards a ‘world society’. The globalizing factors challenge not only the constitution of the state, but also its fundamental pillars: sovereignty, people and territory. This current situation makes necessary an analysis of the multi-centre legal system, which poses the question of how it is possible to predict legal developments. In the paper, a spatial/temporal difference is hypothesized between the cognitive and the normative processes. The first seems to be subject to more rapid change and to insist on a global space that goes beyond national boundaries. The latter is still anchored to the national territory and to the complex procedural process required for adaptation to social change. The text proposes a new model, a ‘fluid constitutional system’.

After that we have a forceful insight into the failure of the institutional model adopted in Italy over the last thirty years in Onofrio Romano's paper, 'Which future for the Italian Mezzogiorno? The inconsistency of the ruling class development imaginary in a European periphery'. Romano suggests that, having lain dormant for thirty years, Italy's so-called 'Southern Issue' of removal, resurfaced as a result of the 2008 crisis. The 'Southern Issue' involves a debate around the persistent state of economic and social stagnation that concerns the 'Italian Mezzogiorno', undermining its integration into the EU. The author presents the main results of recent research into the development visions shared by the members of the southern ruling class. His hypothesis is that one of the main, and little explored, causes of the Mezzogiorno stalemate is the weakness and the inconsistency of the development imaginary produced by the ruling class, aiming at social mobilization.

In her paper, '*Grossraum*, the legal order and the Nature of the European Union', Michela Felicetti's main concern is to understand if there is continuity between the concept of *Grossraum* introduced by Schmitt and the EU, or whether the legal space of the European Union is an antithesis of the one of *Grossraum*. In the nexus between legal framework and localization depicted by Schmitt, it is important to understand the evolution of EU law. Thus, building Europe as a large space entails some contradictions. The author aims to find out if contemporary developments demonstrate that the EU is a project promoting specific values or an expansionistic entity based on security issues. An additional question examines whether the EU has imperialist features or not.

Roberto De Luca and Marino De Luca deal with political participation in their paper, 'Citizens' involvement in the digital age: Internet effects on political Participation'. In their analysis, they argue that several studies on elections indicate the rise of social media and its positive impact on political participation and political consensus. However, social networks have their own rules and the transformation of a 'like' into a vote is not automatic. The authors pay attention to the political consequences of the increasing use of the Internet and the ways in which social networks have affected political participation in recent electoral campaigns in Italy. Drawing on data from the personal Facebook and Twitter accounts of Italian political leaders, they show the differences among them, their use of social networks and their impact on the web. Finally, the paper analyses how the Internet has contributed to improve the 'stakes' in order to increase electoral participation.

Romina Gurashi's paper, 'Economics of Peace and Sustainable Development. The European Union and its economic relations with the Western Balkans', looks at the principle that underpins the creation of the EU and of the more extended European Economic Area, namely the assumption that economic interdependence and cooperation are harbingers of peace. The chapter tries to verify this assumption in order to demonstrate the social and economic pillars of its success and to investigate the challenges it implies in the areas of development and sustainability. In this framework the author considers the impact of two development strategies in the Western Balkans such as 'Horizon 2020' and the United Nations 'Agenda 2030' whose Objective 16 is aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, based on justice, responsible and effective institutions at all levels of government and administration. The author discusses the means used to promote these important challenges and the importance of the process of culturalization in achieving these goals.



## **PART I**

# **SOCIAL CHANGE, INCLUSION, IDENTITIES, MIGRATIONS**

## CHAPTER ONE

# THE PATHS OF HOPE: FORCED MIGRATIONS TO ITALY ALONG THE BALKAN ROUTE BETWEEN RECEPTION AND REFOULEMENT

ANTONIO MANCINI, ALBERTO TAROZZI<sup>1</sup>

### **Forced migration in Europe: a relatively new phenomenon**

In a recent interview on European migration policies, Saskia Sassen, the American sociologist pointed out to us that our vocabulary ('migrants', 'refugees', 'displaced', 'asylum seekers' etc.) is now insufficient to characterize the emerging flows of desperate people who move and cross our planet. Our words belong to a language that is no longer able to grasp the deep processes underway. "The level of political responsibility is challenged by the complexity of the flows and by the fact that the total potential of these flows is fifteen times greater than that which has so far emerged. As we lose time, wars continue unabated. Europe responds to this challenge by looking back. A regressive response is thus given: reinstalling borders and building walls on top of old borders. (...) But we need another language, we need a new language. There was a time when the differences were clear and the immigrant... left a house behind" (Dotti 2018. See, also, Sassen 1999). "To send him back home", Sassen argued, is a response that represents both a new form of brutality and a failed solution, while the solutions we need should include and understand what is happening in the areas of origin and the provenance of migrants. "There is a mixture of increasing negative conditions that equates to massive global habitat loss. While war is today the basic cause of displacement,

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<sup>1</sup> The authors discussed and worked together on the elaboration of this paper. In the final version, paragraphs 1 and 2 are written by Antonio Mancini; paragraphs 3 and 4 are written by Alberto Tarozzi; paragraph 5 is co-authored.

many other factors will generate more and more flows of people leaving their lands” (Dotti 2018).

Recent migrations (*mixed migration*) and the rapid rise in migration flows are the result of a number of factors, and therefore the categories used to understand migration (basically, the notion of people seeking a better life by moving away from family and home, with the intention of supporting them from afar and possibly returning) are no longer entirely appropriate (see Carling, Gallagher & Horwood 2015; Carling, Erdal & Ezzati 2014; Martin, Weerasinghe & Taylor 2014).

The world today is very different from the past (Zanfrini 2019), if one looks in particular at the loss of natural habitat that is caused by a variety of extreme development models and consequent negative behaviours (Sassen 2014). For example, the uncontrolled private building boom and the large land acquisitions by private, but also public and often foreign companies, the strong expansion of intensive agriculture and the mining and manufacturing sector, have not only seriously accentuated the poisoning of land and water but, combined with the proliferation of asymmetric wars (*push factors*), have determined new dynamics of flows that are substantiated in the forced exit of an increasing number of people from their territories (Sassen 2016). The combination of this series of factors determines ‘*a massive loss of habitat*’ and, consequently, new dynamics of expulsion or ‘new migrations’, to which, in a perverse way, we try to find viable solutions by placing the burden of explanation not on our model of development, but on those expelled, pretending to ignore that migrations exist, that migrants are more and more numerous and will be even more so in the future (Allievi 2018).

Particularly illustrative, in this regard, is the review of the annual Report on International Protection in Italy edited by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) (2017a), which its own sources and analysis of data, but also information from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and the Atlas of Wars and Conflicts in the World. The most recent data show how, during 2017, many of the 37 conflicts underway in the world were exacerbated in eleven crisis areas, with the number of deaths caused by wars – mostly civil wars – almost tripling in the last decade. Areas of crisis that generate forced migration include, alongside the obvious places like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, other geographical realities closer to us, although largely absent from our news media, such as the states of Transcaucasia and Ukraine, and areas of less recent crisis such as Kurdistan or Kosovo. These are just a few territories that have been sources of refugees and (often internally) displaced persons whose flows

have affected and continue to affect, albeit recently with less intensity, the land borders of the European Union.

As mentioned above, however, many other factors are combined with situations of instability in determining the dynamics and flows of migration. Based on the *Global Trends Report: Forced Displacement in 2016* (UNHCR 2017b), a total of more than 65 million people were uprooted from their places of residence. Over the last two decades, the number of people forced to flee has not only doubled around the world, but has recorded particularly high growth rates in the four-year period from 2012 to 2015, pushing the current number of people forced to flee globally to levels never reached before. Today, one in 113 people is forced to move, while the ratio was one in 160 just a decade ago. The UNHCR identifies the high number of forced displacements in five main ‘flight’ factors which, together and in combination with conflict situations, have led to forced displacement of populations.

A) Escape from appalling economic inequalities. Increasingly extreme economic inequality characterizes a very small minority of the world’s population (1.75%), which benefits from the majority of the income produced (56%), while more than a third of the population (37%) lives in poverty.

B) Escape from inequality of access to food. Despite an annual 15% increase in agricultural production capacity, food waste has also increased annually, to the detriment of almost a tenth of the world’s population, which is estimated to suffer from hunger.

C) Escape from inequality of access to water. Currently, about one-tenth of the world’s population lives without drinking water (the poorest rural areas on the planet are particularly affected) and one-third of the population is not guaranteed access to essential sanitation.

D) Flight caused by the hoarding of productive land. Land grabbing has been afflicting the poorest countries of the African continent for some time (but recently the race for land has also involved some Eastern European countries). Africa alone accounts for just under three-quarters of the land affected by the phenomenon. Foreign governments, multinationals and investment funds (not only from the West, but also from some emerging economies among the BRICs, the Persian Gulf and the Asian East) buy or rent productive land over the long term, often planting monocultures useful for securing food resources to the detriment of the inhabitants of the territories concerned.