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RN27 | Session 04a General Session: Southern European Societies: Current Issues

Networked and contentious? Exploring the determinants of movement parties' vote in Southern Europe

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The economic crisis has had deep political repercussions in southern Europe. One has been the electoral success of the so-called "movement parties" opposing austerity policies (della Porta et al. 2017). Syriza in Greece, Podemos in Spain and the Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S) in Italy shaken the domestic political scenarios, proposing alternative platforms in opposition to traditional parties. In this regard, it has been argued that these actors have occupied a political space contiguous to contemporary movements in programmatic, biographical and geographical terms. Nevertheless, whether these parties have also attracted votes from movement constituencies is yet to be proved. Beyond a protest component, another peculiar aspect of movement parties may lay in the use of the internet and social networks to communicate with their potential voters. Indeed, digital media might have mobilized citizens far from traditional channels of political representation.

By using three original internet-based post-electoral surveys in Greece, Spain and Italy, the article investigates the association between engagement in various forms of protest and the likelihood of voting for such parties in the three countries. Then, the article addresses whether the modes through which citizens get informed about politics are associated with movement party vote. The findings confirm that protest represents a supply of voters for Syriza, Podemos and the M5S, and that the probability of voting for these parties is stronger among those who use digital media as their main source of political information. However, the analyses also show that some country differences exist in these associations.

Transitions from military careers to civilian live: personnel motivations and institutional constraints

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The purpose of this communication is to highlight some of the dilemmas confronting the career personnel of the Portuguese Armed Forces when they leave the uniform service, to join the reserve component or due to retirement age. The transition to these two situations (reserve / retirement) has rights underpinned by specific legal requirements, which are intimately linked to the military condition and the operational needs of the Armed Forces. From the end of the last decade of the 20th century until now, there have been significant changes in the legislative framework of the military career, ultimate by the new Military Statute of the Armed Forces (EMFAR) in 2015. Among other changes, the new statute extends to 40 years the length of the military career, a fact that implies more contracting conditions to leave the active service and minor opportunities for promotions. As will be shown, the repercussions of legislative changes have been accompanied by increases in departures by the military in a position to benefit from the transition period between the former and the new legislation. For those who served the military institution, the transition to civilian life has individual and familial implications, necessarily translating into daily breakdowns, and may emerge as a condition of new life path (s) or inversely to problematic situations, both individually and in the family. The discussion proposed is based on the analysis of the legislative and political background, statistical data and case study results.

Lights and Shadow of the Knowledge Society in the time of crisis. The case of the highly-skilled emigration flows from Italy

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In the era of the 'global competition for talents' (Cerna, 2016), the so-called 'brain circulation' (Gaillard & Gaillard, 1997; Boeri et al., 2016) is one of the most relevant leverages to improve development both in the origin and in the destination countries. In the Southern Europe states, despite the public discourse on the process toward the Knowledge Society, post-2008 economic crisis weakened the structural conditions and the institutional tools that should support this form of mobility. This increased the traditional gaps of this area and transformed the positive effects of the high-skilled circulation into a new form of 'brain drain'

(Triandafyllidou and Gropas, 2014; Recchi et al., 2016).

The paper presents some paradoxical aspects within the Italian route towards the Knowledge Society and it proposes a critical analysis of the implementation process of its theoretical background. The case of the increasing number of highly-skilled youths that leaves Italy in order to seek insertion in more dynamic knowledge-based economies constitutes a special focus and a topical entry-point for the discussion.

How economic crisis influenced high-skilled youth emigration? What are the repercussions of these processes on the Italian society, culture, economy and politic?

Using secondary-data analysis of national statistics and institutional analysis of the transformations in Academic policy, the paper unveils the process of cumulative influences between national R&D public expenditures cuts, University reforms, transformation of knowledge-based labour market and new flows of young high-skilled emigrations. Against the backdrop of this controversial aspects of the Italian case, the paper proposes some possible general strategies to overcome the paradoxes of the Knowledge Society in the actuality of the Southern European countries.

Theater as an educational tool in southern european societies

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The importance of art and especially theater as a tool and not solely in the curriculum in educational systems is recognized by most European countries. My presentation will deal with theater as a necessary method in education because it develops significant life skills such as intuition, creativity, sensitivity, etc and it can be a mechanism for the socialization of the individual, and the participation of pupils to the societies. I will present the experience from Southern European countries

RN27 | Session 05a Education and Culture

Media literacy as an essential element for the full development of an active European citizenship

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This paper attempts to record European policies regarding media literacy which contribute to active citizenship. Reference is made to resolutions, communications, declarations, directives, amendments, research projects, working groups and conferences on behalf of the European Union in the field. Moreover the meaning of citizenship and active citizenship is clarified according to which citizens take an active and responsible part in the public sphere contributing to the coherence of the society. On the other hand, having given the concept of media literacy, which is the ability to access, analyze,

evaluate and produce in a variety of forms -print and electronic-, its connection with active citizenship, is presented. The critical evaluation of information and research skills that media literacy involves, empower citizens and enable them to exercise an active role in a participatory democracy. Additionally it is made clear the important role of media education in creating active citizens, since it teaches students at a very early age not to accept information without critical thinking, and to set basic questions in order to reveal its motives, purpose and validity. The media education encourages exposure to a variety of different points of view which results in the cultivation of appreciation and tolerance of "the different", necessary elements in a democratic society.

Also studies are presented showing the media literacy levels among the Member States and a comparison between Greece and Finland on the field is presented. The paper concludes by presenting proposals for strengthening media literacy level both at the EU and nationally.

Media literacy, media education, policies, European Union, active citizenship.

Culture and the Arts as valuable Vectors for European Cohesion in Sicily?

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The analysis of the implementation of the European Union Cohesion Policy in Sicily, focusing on its cultural component, brings a significant example of the integration process' fragility. Thanks to its considerable budget, this policy aims at offering a powerful instrument to reduce the inequalities throughout the continent, especially in its Southern and Eastern peripheries. Acknowledged for its contribution to the development of a heritage-based tourism, which is considered to be a major local asset, culture was given a predominant role, thus substantial funds were allocated to cultural programmes. However, this opportunity didn't translate into a dynamic cultural and artistic scene.

An approach at the microscopic scale based on numerous interviews and a long participatory observation discloses an ineffective operating framework. The extreme complexity of the Cohesion policy, which is the produce of a multilevel governance system, makes it difficult to agree on common concepts and to implement it. The increasingly divergent interpretation of the cultural referential in Brussels, Italy or Sicily has weakened its role, reflecting a simplistic vision paying attention only to heritage and focusing on its economic impact. In addition, though Cohesion policy promotes the principle of partnership, implying the involvement of all the stakeholders in a region, the powerful regional government in Sicily remained by far the main beneficiary of these funds. As a consequence, the cultural field and the world of art, which are poorly organized, remained largely excluded. This led to a feeling of indifference or rejection of this policy, which