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Mercati, identità e diritto in America Latina

Antonio Luigi Palmisano

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Markets, identity and law in Latin America

Abstract

Identities, and ethnic identities in particular, are the *in fieri* result of complex social and cultural processes which show how much the identities of the social actors are multiple, in transition, situational and constantly negotiated. However, the structure of the dominating social and political order of the contemporary post-global era coincides with the order of the financial markets. Based upon the ethnographies of Latin America this article claims that this new order interacts antagonistically with the structures which are acknowledged, proposed or anyway regulated by both the national juridical systems (customary law, Constitution, civil and penal law) and international law toward processes of fixation and reification of the identities. The social actor is thus reduced and constrained in the mono-role of consumer up to indebtedness and to his consequent epiphany as *res*. The way to a *law without State* is thus open: an icon and embodiment of elitist ideologies that are at the same time active and hidden but deeply inscribed the new order of the financial markets which convey social Darwinism and the subordination of man to financial capital.

Keywords: ethnic identity; anthropology of law; financial market; reification processes; Constitution

Federalism and Ethnic Minorities in Ethiopia: Ideology, Territoriality, Human Rights, Policy

Marco Bassi

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Abstract

In 1994 Ethiopia has adopted a new constitution, considered one of the most advanced in terms of provisions for human rights. The progressive ratification of several international treaties on minority rights had already begun in 1991, immediately after the fall of the Derg regime. This progress has brought Ethiopia into the UN monitoring system, but the review of the official UN documents reveals the mismatch between the mentioned constitutional and international steps and the on-ground situation. This article considers two possible causes of this gap. The first is the particular form of ethnic federalism, first introduced with the Charter of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and later developed in the new constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). The second is the contradiction between the constitutional theory based on the fundamental political freedoms, and the political practice of the ruling party, grounded in revolutionary democracy, a post-Marxist ideology based on the Leninist democratic centralism and on some of the principles of the developmental state. In this article the problems identified by a UN independent expert on minority issues have been re-considered with reference to the Ethiopian pastoral minorities. Special attention is paid to the controversy on the construction of the Gibe 3 dam along the course of the Omo River. This article claims that minority and indigenous rights are compatible with ethnic federalism as defined in the FDRE constitution, but are in conflict with the praxis inspired by the working ideology of the ruling party.

Keywords: Ethiopia; pastoralism; minority rights; federalism; developmental state; Gibe 3

La fotografia ai tempi della «realtà aumentata»

Vincenzo Esposito

p. 75

Photography in the era of «augmented reality»

Abstract

Photography at the time of augmented reality is no longer analogic. It has replaced the silver salts with the computer's pixels. It has become (could become) the terminal of a hypertext system that can offer to the viewer an infinite number of links. It has become a hyperphotography. Every spot of its surface can become the source of an interpretive itinerary of what is represented on it.

An anthropological hyperphotography is based on the idea of augmented reality which enriches it with other media: movies, audio recordings, other photographs or images, comments. The itinerary proposed by a photo augmented reality is no longer linear. In fact it is not even a path but a multiplicity of possible paths. It is an open itinerary that leaves to the photo viewer the freedom to decide the visual pathway and the possibility expand it with the addition of new materials also heterogeneous in nature.

The hermeneutical advantages of such a system of images are obvious. For example, each photographed subject can emancipate itself from the silence of its stillness. The pixels that form it can link it not only to other digitized material but also to a self-managed web space where everyone can interact and provide their version of the events. An area of digital remediation of meanings understood as the ability of a medium to contain different other media that contribute to increase the meaning of the image.

Starting from the studies of Bolter and Grusin on augmented reality and on the possibility offered to communication by the technologies of digital remediation, revised in the light of the considerations of Benjamin, Levi- Strauss, de Martino, Fontcuberta, Ritchin, Baudrillard, Geertz, Clifford and other authors, this article discusses the potentials, the limits and the dangers of a medium which, through the production of «of reality», all along represents an anchorage to ethnographic research.

In view of these possibilities, digital photography will be the new visual paradigm that uses images to start a broader discussion, multimedial and multi-channeled on the human condition, but it could also fall into dangerous deviations. For example, the danger of an informative «apparatus» (an information technology apparatus) built, influenced and led by the needs of the «power». In the Foucaultian sense of the term: danger linked to the necessity of the «machine», powerful and influencing, which, through an information overload can produce a flattening of the meaning, an insufficiency of meaning and renders all information alike, of equal importance and interchangeable.

Keywords: augmented reality, ethnography, hyper-photography, visual anthropology, visual culture.

Corporations, tecnoscienze e sviluppo locale: dialogo o conflitto

Elena Bougleux

p. 91

Corporations, Techno-science and Local Development. Dialogue or Conflict

Abstract

The paper wants to propose an introduction to the Anthropology of Corporations, trying to establish some fundamental connections between this peculiar field of Anthropology and its historical, ethnographic, and epistemological premises.

The corporation is introduced as a relevant contemporary world actor, which is actually not a new element in the scenario of human relationships: such approach requires a broad confrontation between Anthropology and History of Economics. The ethnographic analysis of Anthropology of Corporation is then introduced starting from the primary needs of establishing precise borders in term of space and time for the Corporation as a research field. The paper moves on towards the reflection on some outcomes of my research, developed since 2009 in one of the largest world Corporations. In particular, I analysed the Centre of Research opened by the Corporation in Bangalore: in this context, belonging

both to a global and local settings, I observed processes of homologation as well as mechanisms of appropriation, that allowed me to reason on the overall part played by technology, on the relationships between power and development, and on the interlinks between separate and different contexts arising in unforeseen ways, all requiring a further investigation.

Keywords: corporation, technology, ethnography, development, appropriation

Poesia, dialetto e paese: una lettura etnografica della poesia di Giovanni Rapetti

Michele F. Fontefrancesco

p. 119

Poetry, dialect and village: an ethnographic reading of Giovanni Rapetti's poetry

Abstract

The article analyses poetry as a fundamental element in the making of a local community. In an ethnographic perspective, the article investigates the relationship between the literary works of Giovanni Rapetti (1922-2014) and the poet's native Villa del Foro, a village in the municipality of Alessandria (Italy). In the course of the Twentieth century, Villa del Foro has experienced a substantial depopulation and an economic marginalisation that turned a vital rural community into a dormitory suburb, largely inhabited. While the landscape of the village and its countryside seems to have lost significance to the present inhabitants of Villa del Foro, the poetry of Rapetti offers a starting point for recovering meanings from the oblivion. The ethnographic data collected between 2012 and 2013 suggests that the community has found in Rapetti's works a source of information concerning the social history of the village and an important testimony of its local language; a language only few people still fluently speak. The article suggests that poetry potentially is a tool for strengthening the sense of place and the cohesion of a community. In particular dialect poetry, a form of literature written in the traditional language of a community, represents a rich repertoire of ethnic memory; a resource for reactivating a community and countering its social disintegration and marginalisation.

Keywords: poetry; local community; language; dialect; Rapetti;

L'importanza della "fiducia" nei rapporti tra i membri della Soka Gakkai in Italia

Maria Giulia Pezzi

p. 133

The importance of "trust" in the relationships among the members of Soka Gakkai in Italy

Abstract

This article considers the analysis of trust issues among Buddhist Sect Soka Gakkai members in the Italian town of Monza. Soka Gakkai is a religious organization which bases its doctrine on the teachings of the Buddhist monk Nichiren Daishonin, who lived in the thirteenth century in Japan, and which has rapidly grown in Italy since the late 1970s. The organization is constituted by official members and neophytes, who interact on a daily basis in a familiar environment, with a high degree of intimacy and informality. Although one cannot account the existence of a proper "clergy", Soka Gakkai is constituted through a strict pyramidal organization, which influences the ways in which members interact. Trust among members can be considered as a core issue, and is seen as composed by three elements – instrumental, moral and emotive. Moreover, to analyze the attitudes of Soka Gakkai members toward themselves, but also towards fellow members, Soka Gakkai, its leaders and the religious doctrine, it is useful to use the concepts of "trust in trust" and "distrust in distrust", starting from the assumption that Soka Gakkai provides the devotees with a definition of self to which the member is required to conform, but that can also be manipulated in circumstances affected by uncertainty, as the conversion to a new religion can be.

Keywords: Soka Gakkai; believe; religion; ethos