

ABSTRACTS



Jacques de Bellange, *Diane courant*

QUO VADIMUS SARTORI?

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CONTROVERSY

Antonio Camou

SUMMARY. In October of 2004, Giovanni Sartori published a brief article, "Where is political science going?", that generated a long controversy. In the notes that follow I am going to retake this dispute but moving the attention from the mainstream of political science to the studies of public policies. My purpose is to pay attention in one of the outstanding problems marked by Sartori: the weak connection between theory and practice. My main argument has two claims. On the one hand, I maintain that the critical analysis offered by professor Sartori is applied to some aspects of the studies of public policies, but not to others. On the other hand, I indicate that their critics and proposals are up to a certain point adapted, but also are little realistic, and to a certain extent they are insufficient, because he concentrates his reflection on the epistemological aspects of knowledge but he neglects the political-institutional aspects largely.

KEY WORDS: Political science, public policy, production of knowledge, decisión-making, expert knowledge.

DEBATES AND PROGRESSE IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL SCIENCE: THE THEORY OF INTERDEPENDENT DECISIONS AND THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POLITICS

Godofredo Vidal de la Rosa

Summary. Rational Choice Theory, or Theory of Interpersonal Decisions, has a particular importance in contemporary political sciences, which is growing as the theory evolves and involves new methods and perspectives. But very often this theory is ignored from south of the Río Grande. This essay underlines its dynamism and makes a call to assimilate it critically.

KEY WORDS: Progress and programs of political and social sciences, rational choice theory and Interdependent decisions, social sciences and norms of political justice

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL SCIENCE: CONSTRICTION OF THE SCIENCE AND ANNIHILATION OF THE POLITICAL? CRITICAL NOTES FOR POLITICAL STUDIES IN LATIN AMERICA

Martín Retamozo

SUMMARY. Giovanni Sartori's essay "Where is Political Science Going?" has generated an important polemic. In this context, this article deals with theoretical and metodological aspects of contemporary political science, especially the discussion in the Latin-American field. This article argues that a restricted vision of the "science" and of the "politics" (forgetting the "political") has led North American political science to a crisis. Nevertheless, this situation is not a tragedy for the study of politics in Latin America, but an opportunity to check research methods and to overcome the current limits.

KEY WORDS: Political science, epistemology, politics, the political, Latin America.

POLITICS IN MEXICO: IDEAS, GLASSES AND GLASS

Adrián Acosta Silva

SUMMARY. This is a brief essay about the relations between facts, ideas, and focusses that have marked various tendencies in Mexican political science in the last thirty years. The central argument is that these works have taken shape in the "epistemological communities" that comprise contemporary political science in Mexico. Starting from a revision of literature produced from 1980 to 2008, we propose a general,

preliminary map of the orientations, agendas, problems and methods of investigation that characterize Mexican political analysis of recent years.

KEY WORDS: Political change in Mexico, political science, epistemological communities, investigative agendas, ideas, political authoritarianism, transition, consolidation of democracy

MEXICO: PROCESS AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW POLITICAL REGIMEN

Octavio Rodríguez Araujo

SUMMARY. In the eighties, Mexico vacillated between two political regimes: one, statist, populist, and authoritarian, and the other neoliberal, technocratic, and less authoritarian. The interest of powerful business groups, Mexican and foreign, who adopted neoliberal dogma, was sufficient to install Carlos Salinas de Gortari, via the “new” *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI) in the presidency in a fraudulent election in 1988. The technocracy, first with the PRI and later with the *Partido de Acción Nacional* (PAN), grabbed power and retained it, carrying out a *coup d’etat ex ante* against Andrés Manuel López Obrador to keep him from winning the presidency in 2006. The reason is not hard to understand: this candidacy represented something that the power elites were not willing to concede: that the new régime would be toppled to return to one with more state intervention and protection of national sovereignty, especially in matters of control of energy resources.

The dilemma of the two overlapping regimes was resolved, with scams and frauds, from the upper echelons of power, in favor of technocratic neoliberalism, under the control of the right-wing PAN since 2000. The major problem is that the center-left party of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas and López Obrador, doesn’t seem to be up to the historical challenge that it faces.

KEY WORDS: Mexico, political regimens, technocracy, neoliberalism.

HERMENEUTIC CITIZENSHIP

(A FOCUS THAT GOES BEYOND THE MULTICULTURALISM OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE IN THE SOCIETY OF KNOWLEDGE)

Jorge Francisco Aguirre Sala

SUMMARY. Globalization and migration trigger the “universalism vs. peculiarism” problem. The solutions generated so far haven’t been sufficient. Multiculturalism doesn’t save relativism. Tolerance is not enough for Interculturalism. Multiculturalism isn’t explicit as to how to “take in” the differences. The Society of Knowledge brings a new notion of Citizenship that hermeneutically melts diverse horizons of significance; it achieves an empathic comprehension that affirms the originality, authenticity and social peculiarity, as well as preserving individual identity.

KEY WORDS: Universalism, ethnocentrism, multiculturalism, society of knowledge, hermeneutic.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA AND INTERNET: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF SPANISH MEDIA

Luciana Fleischman
Xavier Ginesta
Miguel López Calzada

SUMMARY. Internet has changed the social structure. Consequently, media have changed, too. This article is focused on Spanish online alternative media. In the Information Society, Internet has become the gateway to spread different news that would have been excluded in the mainstream media. Moreover, Internet permits new organizational structures in the newsrooms. However, the main conclusion of this article is to highlight that there is not a single model and ideology for online alternative media in Spain. On the contrary, there are different models and ideologies.

KEY WORDS: Alternative media, alternative communication, internet, portal, spanish state.

THE AESTHETIC JUDGMENT OF BEAUTY.

THE SUBLIMITY IN ART AND KANDINSKY'S THOUGHT

Marina Silenzi

SUMMARY. The Kritik der Urteilskraft is a fundamental piece in the history of art. Kant develops the two categories that mark an important division. The category of beauty predominates in the paradigm of classic art; representation, which is a determined form, prevails in the composition of the work. The category of sublime breaks with the limits imposed by the form, letting the deepest feelings of the human being appear. Kandinsky is the first one to pass over form to get into abstraction, reaching a more pure way of expression. This painter shows in the material support the "internal element"; his work moves away from the category of beauty and the prototypal representation. His art settles what is sublime for the artist.

KEY WORDS: Art, Kant, beauty, sublime, Kandinsky.

THE IMAGE OF NICARAGUA AND NICARAGUANS IN THE FIRST TEXT USED IN THE TEACHING OF NATIONAL HISTORY

Guillermo Fernández Ampié

SUMMARY. After presenting some considerations on the importance of schools and in particular history textbooks in the formation of a national conscience and the creation and consolidation of a sense of nationality, in this article we analyze the first book used in Nicaragua as a textbook for teaching Nicaraguan history and geography, at the end of the 19th Century.

We consider this book, *Notas geográficas y económicas sobre la república de Nicaragua* (Geographical and economical notes on the Nicaragua republic), written by a French engineer, Paul Lévy, to be one of the first textual images of that Central American country, reflecting the vision and concept that Nicaraguan elites of that time had of their own country.

KEY WORDS: Teaching national history, concept and image of the nation, Nicaragua national history textbooks of the 19th century.

FROM BOHEMIA TO THE INSTITUTIONS: THE WINDING ROAD OF CULTURAL POLICY IN TIJUANA

Cuauhtémoc Ochoa Tinoco

SUMMARY. The border towns of northern Mexico have been regarded as spaces little conducive to the culture development. Tijuana is a sign that contradicts the idea, widespread in the past and current today. In recent decades there was a significant boost in different areas of cultural activity in the city, which gradually acquired an outstanding diversity, richness and complexity, traits that currently define their cultural field. This text presents a brief look at the development of Cultural Policy in the city of Tijuana during the twentieth century. It examines the role of social actors involved, the ideological orientation that guided their actions, domains for intervention, as well as the most prominent practices and relationships of these actors in the cultural field of Tijuana.

KEY WORDS: Cultural policy, patronage, cultural institutions, art, northern border, Tijuana.