

1) Eva Frankova

Title: Economic Localisation and Degrowth

Key words: economic localisation, economic degrowth

Abstract

This paper looks at two concepts within the current ecological economic debate; those of economic localisation and economic degrowth. After introducing the context and definitions, the authors explore the interlinkages, common assumptions and arguments, as well as the joint weaknesses and inconsistencies of the two streams of thinking. Both localisation and degrowth share similar values and also on the practical level, both are proponents of similar policy and on-the-ground solutions. However, both also share unclear points. Definitions are not settled yet and the position (or opposition) vis a vis mainstream economics is variable. Also, writings on these issues tend to be normative and idealistic rather than analytical and realistic.

Whereas within the localisation texts degrowth is not explicitly mentioned at all, from the other side connections exist and localisation is a usual item among the degrowth principles and/or policy suggestions. However, a detailed analysis of its prerequisites and consequences is lacking and hence problematic issues remain unresolved. These include the question of how to limit the international flow of goods and services and yet retain the flow of innovations and ideas at the same time, how to achieve this democratically, or how the difference in approaches towards global North and global South should be conceived.

It is argued that both localisation and degrowth argumentation could benefit from exploiting each others' intellectual attainments and that the remaining uncertainties and inconsistencies need to be addressed rather than sidestepped. Some suggestions for further dialogue between the two approaches are provided.

2) Peter Pavlovic

An abstract of an intended paper for a forthcoming conference (without finished research).

In 2006, the International Law Commission adopted the Draft Articles on Diplomatic Protection, codifying existing customary rules and progressively developing new rules of international law that deal with diplomatic protection. By analysing annual reports of Special Reporter of the International Law Commission on this topic and the final results embodied in the Draft Articles, there is no doubt about the intention of its authors to adopt a multilateral treaty on the diplomatic protection in the future.

This paper analyses the will of the states for this step in the context of newly developed rules contained in Article 8 of the Draft Articles. This grants the state a right to exercise diplomatic protection in favour of refugees and stateless persons. Following the customary rules based on inadmissibility of claims lacking in a genuine link (generally expressed by the nationality of a natural person) between them and a protecting state, states usually refuse to grant protection to such persons.

The Draft Articles create a link of a new quality between these subjects expressed by the "lawful and habitual residency" of refugees and stateless persons, thus extending their protection in international law. However, incorporation of Article 8 in a multilateral treaty may become a serious impediment to successful adoption of such a legally binding instrument, due to missing interest of states in enlarging protection to politically exposed persons, without any relevant link to the protecting state. This example shows that a progressive development of law may foil a codification attempt.

3) Petra Sachova

Restorative Justice represents an important approach to the criminal justice systems worldwide. Being its main perspective the central role of the victim and assumed responsibility for loss and damage of the offender are the issues confronting the current criminal justice system in the Czech Republic. Thus, the two main points of this study are the meaning and the purpose of the punishment imposed and the extent of satisfaction awarded in Czech criminal proceedings. Czech legislation on criminal law and the Czech criminal justice system itself are compared to the legislations and systems of countries that have attempted to incorporate the Restorative Justice framework in a wider and more open manner than its more limited incorporation in the Czech system. Special attention is given to the countries governed by continental law. It is often argued that Restorative Justice might function well solely within the scope of Anglo-American law, where it has its origins. The study claims that too little attention is paid to the potential that Restorative Justice offers in the indicated way to European countries, particularly to the Czech Republic and its criminal justice system.

4) Hana Surmova (Abstract for a conference)

Unemployment is relevant phenomenon throughout society which has a specific impact not only for unemployed people, but also for their families. This research is concerned with families affected by unemployment, especially families with unemployed women. The aim of this qualitative research is to provide a description of components of the marital relationship which are more affected by unemployment than others and finding coping strategies used by these families. Semi-structured interview and some methods of family assessment (Family Crisis Oriented Personal Evaluation Scales, Family Hardiness Index, Family Environment Scale) were conducted with eight families. The possible change of marital relationship in the context of unemployment is suggested to be perceived negatively. Preliminary results show that the families which performed well prior to the episode of unemployment have less problems in coping with their situation than more dysfunctional families.

5) Fedor Tirsell

The paper deals with the text entry strategies designed for touchscreen devices. We argue that there is a need for a universal eyes-free text input method, through which the user is able to transfer his or her writing skill without device-specific training. We propose Orthographic Text Entry Strategy (OTES), an eyes-free text entry method based on orthographic symbol system input, and speech or non-speech output. The OTES aims to improve the entry rates and to reduce error occurrences. We also discuss various design combinations that may yield to a user's experience improvement. With the online questionnaire we found out how are the blind users familiar with Morse code and Braille.

6) Jana Zelinkova

Theory of mind deals with the ability to understand mental states of other people. In the last decade, many studies have been conducted to determine how the human brain mediates these processes. Up to now published studies have suggested significant increase in neuronal activity, which has been congruently observed mainly in the right and left temporo-parietal junctions, superior temporal sulcus and medial prefrontal cortex. The aim of this study is to use spots from national traffic educational campaign to the research of this ability.

Functional magnetic resonance imaging data were acquired in fifteen healthy 18-25 year old male volunteer drivers. During fMRI scanning, a series of twelve 30 second long videos representing various types of traffic situations were presented to participants. Half of the clips from the campaign had catastrophic endings and they were presented together with six control videos without dramatic endings. The general linear model implemented in SPM5 software was used for analysis. We obtained the statistical parametric map depicting differences between two conditions.

A significant increase in neuronal activity was observed mainly in both-sided superior temporal sulci without asymmetry. These brain areas were activated more strongly whilst watching videos from the campaign in contrast to the control clips. The next differences were observed in the left supramarginal gyrus, cerebellum and midbrain.

STS is often mentioned in connection with theory of mind and social perception. In a parallel way, STS activation might also be related to emotional processes and situation evaluation.