

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 in addition to the joint weaknesses and inconsistencies of the two streams of thinking. Both localisation and degrowth share similar values and also at a practical level, they are proponents of a similar policy and on-the-ground solutions. However, both also share unclear points. Definitions are not yet settled and the position (or opposition) vis a vis mainstream economics varies. 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, 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 dealing with the diplomatic protection. By analysing the annual reports of a Special Reporter of the International Law Commission on this topic and the final results embodied in the Draft Articles, there is no doubt that its authors intend to adopt a multilateral treaty of 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 granting 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, the states used to decline to grant the 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 the successful adoption of such a legally binding instrument due to missing interest of states in enlarging the protection to the 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 those goals confronted with the current criminal justice system in the Czech Republic. Thus, the two main points of this study represent the meaning and the purpose of the punishment imposed [upon...?] and the extent of satisfaction [to whom...?] awarded in the Czech criminal proceedings. The Czech legislation on criminal law and the Czech criminal justice system itself are compared to the legislations and systems of countries that attempted to incorporate the Restorative Justice framework in a more wider and open manner than the Czech one has done. 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 origin. This 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 a phenomenon which is prevalent in all societies. It has specific impacts not only on unemployed people, but also for their families. The research is concerned with families affected by unemployment, especially families with unemployed women. The aim of this qualitative research is [to produce a?] description of components of the marital relationship which are more affected by unemployment than others and to identify the coping strategies used by these families. Semi-structured interviews and methods of family assessment (Family Crisis Oriented Personal Evaluation Scales, Family Hardiness Index, Family Environment Scale) were used to investigate the experiences of 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 fewer problems in coping with their situation than families that might be classified as dysfunctional.

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. Afterwards, 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 improvements in a user's experience. With the online questionnaire we discovered how blind users become familiar with the Morse code and Braille.

6) Jana Zelinkova

Theory of mind deals with the ability to understand the 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 suggested significant increase in neuronal activity congruently observed mainly in right and left temporo-parietal junction, superior temporal sulcus and medial prefrontal cortex. The aim of this study is to use spots from the national traffic educational campaign to the research of this ability.

Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data were acquired in fifteen healthy 18-25 year old male volunteer drivers. During fMRI scanning, a series of twelve 30 seconds long videos representing various types of traffic situations were presented to participants. Half of clips from the campaign with a catastrophic end were presented together with six control videos without a dramatic ending. The

General linear model implemented in SPM5 software was used for analysis. We obtained the statistical parametric map depicting differences between two conditions.

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

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