

Abstracts

Basque Language in Spain and France: Towards the Inclusion of Ethnolinguistic Activists?

by Jean-Baptiste Harguindéguy (University of Sevilla Pabro de Olavide) and Christophe Roux (University of Montpellier I)

The paper aims to compare how Basque ethnolinguistic movements emerged throughout the Basque Country, and how these movements have been progressively swallowed up by representative institutions according to a convergent process. In Spain, the defence of the Basque language is made by powerful regional governments which collaborate with a dense network of nationalist activists since the 1980s, while in France the ethnolinguistic movement is mainly composed of civil associations that are currently being included into a more general language policy ruled by local political authorities.

Keywords: Basque Country, France, Spain, Ethnonationalism, Institution-building, Transnationalisation

A Comparative Analysis of the Transnational Dimensions of the Scottish and Welsh Nationalist Movements

by Yu-Wen Chen (University of Konstanz)

The paper explores if classical social movement theories can be applied to explain the increasing presence of transnational activism in contemporary politics. I examine the empirical evidences of the Scottish and Welsh national movements, and find that although both movements have created certain transnational linkages, they remain issued-based and ephemeral. Transnational actions are taken mostly in reaction to the structural changes of political opportunities in domestic politics. Political opportunities arising from the Europeanization process have in their modest

form influenced the beliefs and preferences of Scottish and Welsh actors, leading them to establish various degrees and types of collective actions beyond the British arena. The frames and mobilising structures used for transnational actions can still mostly find their roots back in domestic politics.

Keywords: Nationalist Movements, Transnational Activism, Europeanization, Political Opportunities, Frames, Mobilising Structures

When the ethnoterritorial cleavage falls asleep: the "disjointed connection" of the regionalist actors in Brittany and Sardinia

by Carlo Pala (University of Cagliari)

The attention of contemporary political science on ethnoterritorial conflicts seems to be limited to the analysis of the most conflictual cases. However, several current centre-periphery conflicts are lacking of a clear political expression. The aim of this paper is to help explaining what happens when does not appear a persistent politization of ethnoregional conflicts, using Sardinia and Brittany as case studies. In these regions ethnoregionalist mobilizations are stronger in the cultural and socio-economic realms, but still weak in the political one. The paper main hypotheses is that the main cause of this weak politization and of the delay in the self-government claims is to be found in the lack of strategic coordination, a "disjointed connection", among the various ethnoregionalist actors engaged in four specific dimensions of the mobilization (historical, cultural, socio-economic and political).

Keywords: Underground Ethnoregionalism; Sardinia, Brittany; Disjointed Connection of Regionalist Actors; Underpolitization of Ethnoterritorial Conflicts.

Fatah and the institutionalisation process: the long road of the Sixth Conference

by Paolo Napolitano (University of Torino)

The Fatah movement, the backbone of Palestinian national movement, faces a period of deep transformation. In the aftermath of Arafat's death and with the decline of peace process, the movement has known a period of internal debate since 2005, in order to reshape the political space influenced by the emergence of Islamist challenge. This reform process follows two main directions: the internal reorganization and the political program. These topics constitute the base for the convening of the movement's Sixth Conference, that could be read as the key factor for the transformation of Palestinian political system within an uncertain institutional framework, that of Palestinian National Authority. This work analyzes under which conditions Fatah movement is driving its transformation towards the institu-

tionalization from a typical national liberation movement to a political party. Considering that the national aims have not been achieved yet, the Palestinian political landscape is shifting from a situation of one ruling party to a pluralistic de-facto situation, undoubtedly not the rule in the Arab world.

Keywords: Al-Fatah, Palestine, National Liberation Movements, Institutionalisation, Ethnonationalist Conflicts, Peace Processes

A “Project-based” Union Representation. Precariousness, Union Strategies and Collective Action in Europe

by Anna Curcio (University of Messina)

Labour transformations and increasing precariousness are giving a new shape to contemporary labour struggles. A widespread "intellectualization" of labour emerges following the new forms and contents of the contemporary production (these are languages, relational and communicative aptitude, knowledge, affect, and so). The function of representatives is thus incorporated into the practices and strategies of the living labour challenging the traditional distinction between workers and union delegates. Nowadays precarious workers' struggles are oriented on specific goals and projects, and the relationship with union delegates follows this pattern. In this sense it is possible to talk about the rise of a «project-based» union representation that reflects the contingent relationship between precarious workers and unions. Inquiring three different kind of precarious workers' struggles around Europe (the Italian Rete Nazionale Ricercatori Precari in 2004, and two Social Unionism experiences: the “Justice for Cleaners” campaign in London in 2005 and a pilot project among the security service workers in Hamburg in 2006), this essay considers the combination of union strategies and collective action that emerges from the contemporary precarious workers' struggles. Ultimately it reflects on precarious workers' practices and strategies and what, if any, is their contribution to redrawing the new forms of organization of contemporary labour.

Keywords: Precariousness, Labour Struggles, Collective Action, Social Unionism, “Project-based” Union Representation, Labour Transformations