Članci u inozemnim časopisima


The article studies the integrative social capacities of media events, as hypothesized by Daniel Dayan and Elihu Katz, to understand the transformation of media events in the network era. Media events have become increasingly deterritorialized and performed within cultures of spatial reach across different mediated centres that transcend national borders. In the global and network age media events are performed not only as integrative, but also as disruptive and conflictive. A case study follows closely the dynamic by which the audience of English Wikipedia editors reacts to global media reports, and reorganizes information to create new event spheres based on specific internal community norms and values. Due to a conflictive event, or a disaster marathon, it was difficult for the community to integrate the available information and it experienced a series of failed performances. The event was filled with anxiety, distrust and disagreements over its nature and outcome. Nonetheless, with the affordances of networked technologies and globally dispersed community of editors, Wikipedia performed the role of an online host community of the event by creating and renegotiating a new definition and meaning of the event.


The economic crisis has significantly challenged national welfare states and has often led to retrenchment. The question arises how countries have reacted to the crisis in the area of family policy – not directly connected to rising unemployment and also not as demanding for state spending as for example the pension system. This article analyzes family policy reforms during the crisis in three small European welfare states – Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. Focusing on the ‘rationale’ behind the reforms, it aims to explore how family policy was affected by the crisis and whether the crisis gave rise to new policy pathways and ideas in
the area. The exploratory case studies of reforms conducted in the three countries between 2009 and 2013 show that everywhere the pre-crisis policy pathways were also continued in the period of crisis. The reforms were framed by diverse paradigms related to national-specific contexts along with newly emerged austerity arguments. The Czech Republic shows a continued focus on a neo-liberal paradigm, utilizing the crisis to introduce further residual measures, i.e. mostly negative re-familializing reforms, mixed with de-familializing policies based on the workfare paradigm. Strong crisis-related discourse in Slovenia was accompanied by diverse austerity measures, which strengthened the social dimension of family policy and weakened a de-familialistic effect of the pre-crisis reforms. Austria, much less affected by the crisis, continues to combine social investment and ‘freedom of choice’ paradigms, introducing an ambivalent amalgam of positive familialistic and de-familialistic family policy reforms.


The relation between masturbation and sexual desire has not been systematically studied. The present study assessed the association between masturbation and pornography use and the predictors and correlates of frequent masturbation (several times a week or more often) among coupled heterosexual men who reported decreased sexual desire. Analyses were carried out on a subset of 596 men with decreased sexual desire (mean age = 40.2 years) who were recruited as part of a large online study on male sexual health in 3 European countries. A majority of the participants (67%) reported masturbating at least once a week. Among men who masturbated frequently, 70% used pornography at least once a week. A multivariate assessment showed that sexual boredom, frequent pornography use, and low relationship intimacy significantly increased the odds of reporting frequent masturbation among coupled men with decreased sexual desire. These findings point to a pattern of pornography-related masturbation that can be dissociated from partnered sexual desire and can fulfill diverse purposes. Clinical implications include the importance of exploring specific patterns of masturbation and pornography use in the evaluation of coupled men with decreased sexual desire.


Although research has shown a connection between minority stressors and internalizing mental health problems, the role of minority stress has mainly been neglected in the assessment of sexual problems among non-heterosexual men. Using online samples of heterosexual (n = 933) and non-heterosexual participants (n = 561) aged 18 to 50 years, this study aimed to comparatively assess sexual difficulties and problems and explore the role of minority stress in non-heterosexual men’s sexual problems. Although the age-adjusted odds of reporting rapid ejaculation, delayed ejaculation, and sex-related anxiousness significantly differed between the two groups, the overall prevalence of sexual difficulties and the associated levels of distress did not significantly differ between the samples. In multivariate assessment, anxiety and depression significantly increased the odds of reporting distressing sexual difficulties among both heterosexual and non-heterosexual participants. In the non-heterosexual sample, positive body image significantly decreased the odds of experiencing
sexual problems. Pointing to a role of minority stress, highest levels of victimization related to sexual orientation increased the risk of sexual problems. This association was partially mediated by negative emotions. Our findings offer some support for a recent call to include sexual orientation among the social determinants of health recognized by the World Health Organization.

- Neumann, Martin, Srbljinović, Armano, Schatten, Markus, „Trust me, I know what I'm doing!“ Competence Fields as a Means of Establishing Political Leadership, European Quarterly of Political Attitudes and Mentalities, 3(2), 2014, str. 18-33

Competence fields are conceptualised as an alternative to the median-voter approach to the relationship between political leaders and constituencies. The notion of competence fields assumes that prospective political leaders need be regarded as competent in order to convince constituencies of their leadership abilities. It is argued that competence is a constructivist concept – political actors invoke claims of competence, backed by more or less strong, contextually dependent reasons in speech acts, by means of which they attempt to convince the audience of their leadership abilities. It is also argued that the construction of competence becomes particularly problematic in times of crisis, when pressures from the social context onto the prospective leaders make their claims of competence generally less convincing. Leaders are then expected to resort to all sorts of rhetorical devices and draw public attention to those competence fields in which minimal costs are to be incurred in order to establish themselves as competent in front of the constituencies. An example of an agent-based model of ethnicity as one such competence field is provided. It is argued that competence fields can be further investigated by a combination of traditional social-scientific methods and various methods and techniques from the fields of information retrieval and computer modelling, which can be particularly helpful in providing empirical evidence of competence fields.


This article builds a theoretical model for comparative analysis of media culture based on the notion of genre, and applies it to a comparative analysis of television as a cultural form in socialist and post-socialist Croatia. The paper explores how the shares and generic composition of programme modes of information, entertainment and fiction change in time, and how the contribution of different genres to programme flow and modes varies with the changes of political, economic and technological context. Longitudinal trends in television flows are comparatively evaluated in relation to trends in genre developments in Europe and their relationship to the changes in the cultural role of television. The results show a decrease in the information and an increase in the fiction mode between socialism and democracy, with
some similarities of the Croatian and western television culture in relation to genre and mode composition and flow, albeit with a belated introduction of neo television genres. Notwithstanding the limited freedom of expression and ideological content, which necessarily influenced socialist media culture, television as a cultural form in Croatia developed in concert with the global programme flows. The article is based on original content analysis of television schedules where the unit of analysis is a television programme listing. The analogue television universe is represented by longitudinal data for 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, and 2009. The stratified systematic sample (N=3934) for each chosen year consists of two constructed weeks from a universe of all listed programmes broadcast on all free to air television channels with a national reach license. Štulhofer, A. (2014). Reflections from the periphery: A commentary on Irvine. Sexualities 17: 681-685. http://sex.sagepub.com/content/17/5-6/681.extract


Introduction. Although sexuality is a central feature that distinguishes nonheterosexual men from heterosexual men, little is known about how sexual orientation influences male sexual function and sexual problems. This presents a challenge for adequate healthcare for gay and bisexual men.

Aim. The aim of this article is to provide an overview of the literature on the prevalence and correlates of sexual health disturbances among heterosexual and nonheterosexual men.

Methods. PubMed and PsycINFO databases were searched for relevant studies published in English. Reference sections of selected papers were checked for additional studies of interest.

Main Outcome Measures. Main outcomes were comparative findings of the prevalence and correlates of sexual health disturbances in heterosexual and nonheterosexual men.

Results. In total, we found nine studies of interest, five of which used a comparative design. Evidence regarding sexual orientation as a risk factor for male sexual difficulties is mixed, with more recent studies reporting nonsignificant associations. Heterogeneity of sampling strategies and indicators used to assess sexual orientation and sexual function in the studies, as well as the use of relatively small subsamples of nonheterosexual participants, preclude any conclusions about a comparative prevalence of male sexual disturbances. Several studies suggested that rapid ejaculation might be more prevalent among heterosexual than nonheterosexual men. However, a single study that controlled for frequency and patterns of male sexual activity failed to corroborate this finding. Two studies reported similar correlates of sexual dysfunction and sexual problems between heterosexual and nonheterosexual men (e.g., age and depression/anxiety symptoms), but also some sexual orientation-specific correlates (e.g., body image). Finally, significant but weak associations between minority stressors and sexual health disturbances among nonheterosexual men were reported in two studies.

Conclusions. There is a lack of comparative assessment of the relationship between sexual orientation and male sexual difficulties. Based on an analysis of the existing studies' limitations, we conclude with recommendations for future studies.
The article shows the results of the case study of Postira, a village and a municipality on the island of Brač (Croatia) and presents a positive example of sustainable community development on islands in the post-transition social context. Based on the theory of sustainable local community development and its four pillars (economic, ecological, social and cultural), we analyse both the secondary data and the primary data collected from semi-structured interviews with the key actors of local development. The study shows that economic, ecological, social and cultural domains are connected in Postira which allows for sustainable development of the place. By examining various aspects of sustainable development in Postira, we present the general framework of sustainable island development. It is based on integral development of the local community on sustainability principles, it defines key processes and guidelines and can be applied to rural and island areas, taking into account the specificities of each community.

Urban planning, renewal and their actors are always closely connected with the sociopolitical changes and therefore the transitional post-socialist Croatia provides an interesting context for the analysis of spatial changes. This paper is a comparative study of urban transformations in Croatia (the City of Zagreb) in three important time periods: (a) socialism in the 1970s and the 1980s, (b) period during and immediately after the Homeland War and the beginning of transition from 1990 to 2000 and (c) period since 2000 and the acceleration of processes which started in the previous period. These periods of time have been chosen because of major changes in the socio-political system and consequently in spatial planning and management. Also in each of them we can observe the changing power of different types of actors and the appearance of new actors. The main aspects of urban planning are determined as well as the power of various urban actors throughout each period. Since 1990 and especially since 2000 urban planning has been given little attention in Zagreb resulting in the disappearance of system or method and thus in sporadic, random building.


http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13691457.2014.919088
In last five decades Bahá’í Faith had increasing and major change in its leadership, organization, demographic base, and distribution. Bahá’í Faith is now a distinctive and independent religious movement and perceive it self as a new world religion. According to Britannica Book of the Year and World Christian Encyclopedia Bahá’í Faith is the second most widely spread religion in the world, after Christianity. This article deals with the development of Bahá’í religion in general, seeing it from the perspective of NRM’s and specifically the development of Bahá’í religion in Central and Eastern Europe.

Religion in the modern (post)-industrial societies is still a significant social fact that in many ways connects everyday social, political and economic activities. Area of South-east Europe (SEE), or more precisely countries like Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Romania, from the perspective of sciences that are exploring religion/religiosity are heuristically abundant. Source of misconceptions and misunderstandings of the “religious factor” in SEE largely stems from a lack of understanding of the fact that by no means is South-east Europe a homogeneous space. Exploration of these countries constantly refers to a fact that no convergence concerning religion can be observed for all of the mentioned countries, particularly if taken into account the fact that among those countries are those with high level of secularisation, for instance Slovenia, or those with high level of religiosity, for instance Croatia or Romania. Two research goals are set in this paper. The first one refers to the overall religious landscape in SEE countries. In this section the distribution of various elements of personal religiosity, on aggregate level, is presented for the purpose of understanding religious profile of SEE countries. Since religiosity is a multidimensional construct, several measurements of religiosity are chosen: indicator of religious self-assessment, indicator of belonging to a religious community, frequency of attendance at religious services as an indicator of religious practice, indicators of religious beliefs (traditional and alternative), indicator of importance of God in one’s own life, and indicator of religion as a source of comfort and strength. Beside insight into religiosity, religion’s role is explored from the perspective of social expectations. Since religion can be enrolled in various fields in public sphere, for the purpose of the analysis of religion’s role in SEE, three main dimensions of public sphere have been operationalized: general social role of religion, socio-cultural role of religion and socio-political role.
One of the main goals of the contemporary concept of integral sustainability is to accomplish self-sustainability of local communities and the area in which those communities abide. This includes environment protection but also a sustainable usage of renewable resources and local community’s quality of life. This paper will give an overview of the possibilities to achieve integral sustainability of local communities in Lika-Senj County in Croatia and Una-Sana County in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which could be done through an inter-border project named Geoscientific Educative Centre. An integration of economy and employment of the local people in an inter-border area is the project’s basic object, whereas the emphasis is on fostering development when it comes to agriculture and tourism. This could be done by valorisation of the scientific research of Dinaric region, with the emphasis on sustainable development of the protected areas. The sustainability of the protected areas has the crucial role due to natural sights which are placed in the area that is the object of this project; these are Cave Park Grabovača in Croatia and Una National Park in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Education of the local people, their mutual cooperation and cohesion, so as the cooperation of the main institutions are very important for the local community’s sustainable development. Thus, by making efforts in cooperation and social cohesion, the project will make a contribution when it comes to strengthening the social capital, one of the basis in the implementation of the concept of sustainable development. Carrying out this project in future and building an infrastructure within Geoscientific Educative Centre will emphasize an importance of historical and cultural heritage and the natural beauties and sights throughout achievements of the modern technology. The main hypothesis within this work is the following: local communities which live near the protected areas must be ensured with the basic preconditions for their own sustainable development and sustainability of the natural environment. One of those preconditions are educative centres which will serve as a link between the local community, institutions and the economic sector, whereas the overall goal will be the raise of the life quality of the local people and the protection of the natural environment.


This paper presents research on parents’ attitudes about the role and importance of scientific literacy in their children’s lives, conducted in kindergartens in western Croatia between June and September 2013. The research has come from scientific literacy project “Could it be different?! How children research it” which involved pre-school children in different activities aiming at encouraging their curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and self-regulated learning through research. The objectives of the research were to determine whether parents accept the elements of theoretical background of the project (constructivism) and what their attitudes on
science in general were. We used Inglehart’s theory of materialistic and post-materialistic values for the second objective and developed an instrument adapted for our specific topic. The sample included both parents whose children participated in the project as well as parents whose children did not participate, the total number of which was N=105. The research results confirmed the existence of materialistic and post-materialistic type but also revealed a third type which we named entrepreneurial type. The difference between parents with participating and non-participating children appeared in post-materialistic values—parents whose children participated accepted them more than those parents whose children did not participate in the project. Parents whose children participated in the project also accepted all the elements of theoretical background of the project. This evaluation showed that small and well-implemented projects of this type can still make a difference in families and institutions but further research is necessary to confirm this, due to a small sample.

  [URL]

The chapter examines the policy of cultural diversity in Croatia.


The article follows the transition of television in Croatia from socialism to democracy, through changes in generic composition of television programs in the past 50 years.


Brainstorming technique is described, various contexts of its application are presented, and its prerequisites are evaluated. Brainstorming is both a quality management technique and skill, and also a complex phenomenon that entails thorough understanding of social, cognitive, economic, pragmatic, cultural, communicational and other factors that influence its course. In the paper this phenomenon is analysed in the broader framework of dialogue, as a widely known and used, as well as a greatly criticised and much disputed method of breaking hierarchical pattern relationships and reaching creative solutions by walking along the thin line of ‘co-opetition’ where cooperation and competition merge and are combined in a higher synthesis. In the article brainstorming is analysed primarily for researchers and modellers of brainstorming as group work phenomenon.


We start with a brief introduction to complex systems. Then we briefly review the so-called cellular automata, of which the Game of Life is just one fascinating example. After that we shift attention towards a special kind of computational models called agent-based models, that can be seen as natural extensions of cellular automata. We concentrate on social science applications of these models, review their main properties, ways of their development and of analysing their results.

The chapter focuses on religious diversity in Croatia and other post-communist countries. Its main argument is that the notions usually used in the literature, such as “post-communist”, “post-conflict”, “post-secular”, etc. are not of much use and can indeed point to a wrong conclusion on how diversity is governed in a particular country. By examining in particular the public recognition (i.e. a favourable position) of Islam in Croatia and, in contrast, difficulties that a few Protestant communities have in regulating their relations with the state, the chapter seeks to understand numerous social factors which influence the variations of recognition of different religions. It also draws on the concept of “collectivist religions” and shows in which way they can (and cannot) contribute to the recognition of other. Extending the analysis to other post-communist European countries, the chapter finds similarities among them (such as establishment of cooperationist model or existence of two phases of Church-state relations), but also some important differences, or rather great variations in the way they deal with religious diversity. In the concluding part the chapter reflects on a future research agenda on diversity in sociology of religion in general.

Izvještaji o Hrvatskoj