The paper deals with the concept of smart specialisation in technology-follower countries, using the example of Croatia. Developed countries, especially in the European Union, have growing interest in smart specialisation as a new policy measure and as a way of overcoming uncoordinated focus on supporting the same technological, research and production areas that does not pay-off investments and efforts. Although smart specialisation suits the socio-economic circumstances of developed countries due to their mature co-evolutionary process between technologies, institutions and business activities, it has a potentially significant role in less developed countries, too. Smart specialisation appears to be a useful tool for less developed countries as an alternative to the current bundle of mainly horizontal policy measures that are usually not only disconnected but also stand in mutual competition. The latter sometimes creates rivalry among the public institutions and programmes and leads to a lack of synergy and efficiency of the public policies, undecided and hesitant development strategies and thus a low impact on fostering technological transformation and economic growth.


Previous research on exposure to different types of pornography has primarily relied on analyses of millions of search terms and histories or on user exposure patterns within a given time period rather than the self-reported frequency of consumption. Further, previous research...
has almost exclusively relied on theoretical or ad hoc overarching categorizations of different types of pornography, when investigating patterns of pornography exposure, rather than latent structure analyses of these exposure patterns. In contrast, using a large sample of 18- to 40-year-old heterosexual and nonheterosexual Croatian men and women, this study investigated the self-reported frequency of using 27 different types of pornography and statistically explored their latent structures. The results showed substantial differences in consumption patterns across gender and sexual orientation. However, latent structure analyses of the 27 different types of pornography assessed suggested that although several categories of consumption were gender and sexual orientation specific, common categories across the different types of pornography could be established. Based on this finding, a five-item scale was proposed to indicate the use of nonmainstream (paraphilic) pornographic content, as this type of pornography has often been targeted in previous research. To the best of our knowledge, no similar measurement tool has been proposed before.


In 2012, a culture war over a comprehensive sexuality education module, included in the first ever school-based health education (HE) program, erupted in Croatia. Both the opponents of the program and the supporters claimed to represent the opinion of the majority of parents. This study aimed to assess parents’ support for the program and to explore the association between familiarity with and support for health and sexuality education. All analyses were based on the data from two national probability-based samples of parents (n = 1949 and n = 919) surveyed as a part of the HE program evaluation study carried out in the period between May 2013 and May 2014. At the end of the period under observation, a large majority of participants (78.6 %) supported the program. A significant association between familiarity with and support for the program was observed only after more (detailed) information about HE became publicly available. Form teachers that parents trusted seemed to facilitate parents’ familiarity with the program. Considering the controversial character of sexuality education, timely and systematic efforts directed at providing parents with comprehensive information about the program may be crucial for its successful implementation.


This article focuses on the implications of understanding ‘Europeanization’ as a complex, dynamic and troubled translation process. It discusses post-communist welfare in the context of variegated forms of austerity capitalism in the EU. In particular, the complex relationships between modalities of welfare, the uneven development of neo-liberalisms and the multi-scalar restructuring of welfare assemblages, are discussed in the context of the reframing of relationships between the economic, the political and the social in a period of deep crisis and austerity. Post-communist Europe cannot be conceived as a flattened map or a singular regime type. Rather, diverse and often contradictory restructurings operate in different places at different times, and political agency continues to matter. Comparing and contrasting the changing relationships between neo-liberalism, authoritarian populism and ethnicized nationalism in Hungary and Croatia provides a more nuanced understanding of the variable geometries of transnational translations.
The purpose of this study is to determine the levels of satisfaction with various life domains that constitute objective conditions of the quality of island life, and which influence the perception of islanders' personal well-being among the inhabitants of three small islands (Zlarin, Kaprije and Žirje) in Croatia. The obtained results are based on a resident survey (N=141). A quality of life assessment was carried out by recognizing the specificity of an island's surface area and its population (small communities, mostly elderly people), as well as by evaluating choices that respondents perceive to be important for their well-being. Based on applied multivariate analyses, the research suggests that life satisfaction, besides a significant correlation with material status (income), is also greatly affected by the extent of preserved social values, common to the rural communities to which the observed islands belong, such as the closeness of personal relationships (level of acceptance in the local community, solidarity) and the social order maintained through informal control (which provides a sense of security). Both islanders who have never lived off their island, as well as returnees and in-migrants, positively value the way of life in island communities.

This article addresses clientelism as a complex structure impacting on social welfare in the context of transition, war, new nation-state building and authoritarian populist political settlements. The paper explores the development of clientelistic welfare in Croatia through an examination of captured and categorical distributional effects, the dominance of nationality over territorial-based citizenship claims, and the politicisation of the nature and scale of governance. The privileging of the rights of war veterans and of those of Croatian ethnicity particularly from neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina constitute dominant clientelistic practices largely resistant to change. The capacity of the European Union (EU) accession process to counter clientelistic aspects of welfare has proved to be extremely limited. Although the accession process impacted on and reconfigured economic, political and social arrangements, this was not a radical ‘break’ with the social and political circumstances, particularly in the 1990s, which had produced and consolidated these clientelistic welfare arrangements. Indeed, after the gaining of EU membership on 1 July 2013, with the translation of EU-led austerity politics, ideas of social citizenship may be unravelling once more in Croatia.

Several Member States of the European Union in Southeastern Europe have experienced increased pressure on their asylum systems after they joined the Union. The latest member of the European Union, Croatia, has received lower numbers of asylum-seekers than most other countries in Southeastern Europe. This article explores migrants assessments of the benefits of arriving, staying, and leaving the country and indicates the push and pull factors that generate
asylum migration through the region. It is maintained that Croatia is not preferred as a transit or as a destination country by asylum-seekers. It is argued that migrants end up in Croatia due to circumstances beyond their control and become reluctant asylum-seekers who feel trapped in the country and aspire to leave. However, the tension between aspirations to continue the journey and restricted opportunities to translate this into practice seems to be the central element of the migration–asylum nexus. The analysis is based on qualitative interviews with asylum-seekers in Croatia with the aim of exploring their migration trajectories, assessments, and aspirations. The article contributes to debates on asylum-seekers in Croatia by including the migrant perspective, which has been missing in studies on asylum migration in the region. It is also relevant for general debates about asylum migration in the periphery of the European asylum system.

**Članci u regionalnim časopisima**

  

Avoiding a whole-scale collapse of the civilisation-supporting ecosystems within this century will require a change in the social metabolism, as well as expectations, aspirations, behaviours and attitudes of the majority of the global population, especially in the Global North. In absence of the technological innovation to allow maintenance and expansion of the current energy utilisation by the global society, but without the collapse-inducing byproducts, the societies will require a transformation along the lines of a degrowth scenario. The main goal of this paper is to explore to what extent is environmentally motivated degrowth potential present among European populations on the level of attitudes and evaluation of behaviour. In order to do so we use the ISSP research module Environment survey data from 2011, analysing comparative findings for 18 European ‘old’ and ‘new’ democracies. Our findings indicate the prevalence of common awareness of environmental limits to growth among all participating European national populations, but a different potential to apply them in a degrowth scenario between ‘richer’ and ‘poorer’ states, as well as between younger and older European degrowthers.

  

The key objective of this article is to examine certain democratization and inclusive potentials of creative economy that are ensuing from an intensive upgrowth and widespread accessibility of information and communication technologies. However, the prospect of accomplishment of these participatory potentials is intimately intertwined with several complexes of social issues. Besides the discussion about particular five sets of such social phenomena (type of education, organizational structure, attributes of socio-cultural milieu, power relations and reconciling the public interest and utilitarian economic logic), in the article the basic types of sceptical views on inclusive potentials of the scrutinized economic system are also briefly disputed. In the concluding section the assignment of social researchers to conduct an attentive inquiry into current socio-economic developments is emphasized.
In the post-Yugoslav space, activist initiatives have developed at the intersection between ‘transition’, war, authoritarian nationalisms, pronounced urban-rural tensions and contested sovereignties in the form of both state fragmentation and new state building. An overwhelming focus on the ‘transition period’ both distorts and obscures the rich and varied dynamics of activist engagement in some of the main urban centres of socialist Yugoslavia. Even in the context of massive international agency presence and an insistence on the rather unproductive concept of ‘civil society’, itself narrowly reduced to the ‘modern’ NGO, Yugoslav anti-war engagement appropriated and expanded the already existing activist networks created as a result of trans-republican (pan-Yugoslav) political co-operation. However, these emergent movements often changed under the pressure to conform to a particular kind of NGO structure in order to survive in a crowded, donor-driven, environment. In this paper, we explore those initiatives, protests, and, indeed, organisations which attempt to both widen the discursive critique of the current condition and escape from the narrow confines of the NGO shape and form. In doing so, we consider the meanings, narratives, and strategies of three broad movements: for public space and the right to the city; for a transformation and de-commodification of higher education; and for LGBT rights. We examine the complex local, regional and global configurations and contestations of these movements, asking about the extent to which they both break free from existing frames of movement activism as ‘anti-political’ and resist the ‘NGO - civil society’ frame as the only meaningful reference point for their self-identity.

Dissatisfied with the neoliberal agenda for education, high tuition fees, the increasing commodification of higher education and Bologna Process implementation, students at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Rijeka in Croatia “occupied” their faculty for 20 days in 2009, thus joining student movements worldwide inspired by similar grievances. During these 20 days the faculty became their home: they slept on its floors, cooked and ate in its yard, planned and managed various events (lectures, workshops, exhibitions, performances), prepared media releases, organised assemblies and mobilized academic staff. This chapter explores the biographical impact of this experience for a group of students who were interviewed in 2009, on the 20th day of the faculty occupation, and then again four years later, in 2013. Drawing on Bourdieu’s (1977, 1984) concepts of ‘field’ and ‘habitus’ and Turner’s (1969) concept of ‘liminality’, we interpret the protest as a liminal phenomenon characterised by transgression in an otherwise conservative educational field which led to habitus modifications. We have classified the main dimensions of change identified in the interviews as knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, educational and professional trajectories, social networks and personal development. For the interviewed students, the occupation of the faculty building was a period of learning, of “destabilising” and “demystifying” power relations and forging new friendships. They unanimously described their protest experience as transformative.

Understanding the interaction between the political and academic fields as one of mutual interdependency and “reciprocal legitimization”, in the chapter we analyse the ways in which the project of state building reshaped the identity of the academic discipline of philosophy in Croatia during the early 1990s.


The chapter analyses non-territorial or cultural autonomy of national minorities that has been assured primarily through the projects and activities of national minority associations and national minority councils. The chapter argues that the degree of non-territorial autonomy that national minority councils are entitled to exercise is negligible since the vast part of cultural autonomy is exercised by the national minority associations, which are, moreover, financially independent. If national minority councils are to be endowed with non-territorial autonomy competence, they should be given more prominent executive and legislative powers with respect to culture and education.


Between 2000 and 2007 there was a period of extensive expansion in lending to households in Croatia. Due to the deep economic crisis, many households now face problems with the repayment of their significant, barely repayable debt. Among them, the most prominent are those with loans denominated in Swiss francs. The rise in Swiss franc value against the Croatian kuna (HRK), combined with high interest rates, increased the monthly loan payments for these loans by an average of EUR 220 (euros; an average salary in Croatia being EUR 730). In 2011, when the Swiss franc was at its highest value (before the intervention of the Swiss National Bank in September 2011), there were around 100,000 Swiss franc-denominated loans. Most of them – around 75,000 – were long-term housing loans. The Croatian government has refused to address the problem for two years. In the autumn of 2013 it temporarily fixed interest rates for Swiss franc-indexed housing loans to 3.23, which diminished monthly payments to some extent. In August 2011, bank clients with Swiss franc-denominated loans started an NGO called Franc Association that, together with Croatian Alliance for Consumer Protection, filed a lawsuit against the eight largest Croatian banks. The Swiss franc loans crisis triggered a public debate about the consequences of and responsibility for the debt crisis, which is still ongoing. There are two main positions within this debate.

This chapter addresses flexians, new players in the global governance arena, united in their transcendence of traditional roles and responsibilities, institutional constraints, and traditional standards of accountability and means of enforcement. We trace these developments into the world of global social governance and explore how flexians can exploit the spaces created to craft, co-opt, advise, implement, and evaluate emerging global social policies. We discuss the roles of two important figures, Jeffrey Sachs and George Soros. Sachs is in many ways an archetypal flexian whereas Soros is not. More germane to our argument is that their influence touches on a number of key aspects of the new global social governance. A concluding section addresses the problems and possibilities of crafting a new, smarter, ethics and accountability in global social governance, revisiting the idea of checks and balances to try to at least level the playing field between flexians, traditional institutional orders, and the global public.


The paper describes the development of the sociology of religion in Croatia. It aims to show how social circumstances shaped the very existence of sociology and the sociology of religion as well as their theoretical and methodological scope. The paper starts with the description of the development of sociology in the period before and after the Second World War, explaining effects of the social context on the development of both sociology and the sociology of religion. The development of the sociology of religion is analyzed in the course of two periods, during Communism and following its collapse. The history presented shows major discontinuities, which had a strong impact on the way sociology and the sociology of religion have been developed, not only in Croatia but in other Eastern European contexts. The paper is critical and affirmative at the same time. It acknowledges the remarkable achievement in the sociology of religion in the period when religion was a politically alien object, while it remains critical of many of its shortcomings.

Knjige objavljene kod inozemnih izdavača


http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/M/bo20225942.html

Responding to the increasing interest in the movement of policies between places, sites and settings, this timely book presents a critical alternative to approaches centred on ideas of policy transfer, dissemination or learning. Written by key people in the field, it argues that treating policy’s movement as an active process of ‘translation’, in which policies are interpreted, inflected and re-worked as they change location, is of critical importance for studying policy. The book provides an exciting and accessible analytical and methodological foundation for examining policy in this way and will be a valuable resource for those studying policy processes at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels. Mixing collectively written chapters with individual case studies of policies and practices, the book provides a powerful and productive introduction to rethinking policy studies through translation. It ends with a commitment to the possibilities of thinking and doing ‘policy otherwise’.
Although demographic change has been a widely discussed topic for decades, its scope, social impact and related policy responses leave us with many unresolved social issues. Demographic change is a reality for all European societies but the ways in which it is taking place differ from country to country. Active ageing both as a concept and policy response to the demographic ageing of populations has been widely debated, researched and utilised, informing both policy and practice, and providing a common narrative framework to ageing. However, there continues to be a lack of clarity around the precise meaning of ‘active ageing’. This book explores the way in which social work is critically engaging with the theme of active ageing, in light of, or maybe as a reaction to, the policy responses witnessed within the context of large-scale and rapid demographic change. This book was originally published as a special issue of the European Journal of Social Work.

**Izvještaji o Hrvatskoj**


In the frame of the Stairway to Excellence project, complex country analysis was performed for the EU MS that joined the EU since 2004, with the objective to assess and corroborate all the qualitative and quantitative data in drawing national/regional FP7 participation patterns, understand the push pull factors for FP7/H2020 participation and the factors affecting the capacity to absorb cohesion policy funds. This report articulates analysis on selected aspects and country-tailored policy suggestions aiming to tackle the weaknesses identified in the analysis. The report complements the complex qualitative/quantitative analysis performed by the IPTS/KfG/S2E team. In order to avoid duplication and cover all the elements required for a sound analysis, the report builds on analytical framework developed by IPTS.

In some religious countries, churches have drafted constitutions, restricted abortion, and controlled education. In others, church influence on public policy is far weaker. Why? Nations under God argues that where religious and national identities have historically fused, churches gain enormous moral authority—and covert institutional access. These powerful churches then shape policy in backrooms and secret meetings instead of through open democratic channels such as political parties or the ballot box. Through an in-depth historical analysis of six Christian democracies that share similar religious profiles yet differ in their policy outcomes—Ireland and Italy, Poland and Croatia, and the United States and Canada—Anna Grzymała-Busse examines how churches influenced education, abortion, divorce, stem cell research, and same-sex marriage. She argues that churches gain the greatest political advantage when they appear to be above politics. Because institutional access is covert, they retain their moral authority and their reputation as defenders of the national interest and the common good. Nations under God shows how powerful church officials in Ireland, Canada, and Poland have directly written legislation, vetoed policies, and vetted high-ranking officials. It demonstrates that religiosity itself is not enough for churches to influence politics—churches in Italy and Croatia, for example, are not as influential as we might think—and that churches allied to political parties, such as in the United States, have less influence than their notoriety suggests.