

## **ABSTRACTS**

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### Direct Democracy: Theoretical inquiry of the effects in economy. Proposals for Greece.

*Nikitas Ganas, Nikolaos Kyriazis*

The aim of the present study is to demarcate the issues relative to the procedures of citizens' participation in political decisions in Greece and their impact to economic life. Moreover, questions that could be set for future referenda as well as their potential consequences are outlined. After the analysis of the dimensions of democracy (mostly its direct form), the ancient Athenian democracy and direct democracy elements in the modern world -with special attention to the countries of Switzerland, Germany and the USA- the possibility of adopting stronger direct democracy processes affecting the economic performance in Greece is examined. Some indicative questions about possible referenda are also suggested. The conclusions drawn focus upon the necessity of the adoption of bottom up direct democracy procedures calling for fiscal reforms and the creation of attractive entrepreneurial environment, in order to reduce tax-evasion, increase government revenue, stimulate labor market and increase development.

*Keywords: Direct Democracy, Economic outcomes, Athenian Democracy, Public Initiative.*

### Mobbing among civil servants in their workplace

*Evaggelia Zigraka- Maria Platsidou*

Mobbing has been extensively studied in the international literature but not so much in Greece, especially concerning civil servants. Therefore, the main goal of this survey was to assess (a) the frequency and the conditions of mobbing of Greek civil servants as well as the demographic and job parameters that are related to it, and (b) the ways that civil servants respond to mobbing and how satisfied they felt with their response when they experienced mobbing in their workplace. A sample of 160 civil servants has been tested by the questionnaire "Survey Questionnaire English". According to the results, more than half of the participants (53,8%) reported they experienced mobbing at their workplace at a relatively high frequency. None of the demographic factors of the "victims" (sex, age, education, marital status, working experience, working position) seemed to be related significantly with the appearance of mobbing. Participants reacted to mobbing with different ways, most of them felt rather satisfied from their response and experienced emotional disorders in medium to low frequency as a result of mobbing. By now widely-accepted politicization of the Curriculum renders crucial those curricular debates and academic views that make the political dimension of education stand out. Based on this given and

following Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe's approach, the present article analyses a new hegemonic discourse embodied in the text of Elena Ioannidou Language policy in Greek Cypriot education: tensions between national and pedagogical values, which endorses the 2010 Cyprus Curriculum. The analysis shows that the text under consideration (a) perceives the Greek national identity of Greek-Cypriots as "externally imposed", (b) incriminates the Greek national identity for negative attitudes toward diversity and (c) promotes a rejection of the Hellenic identity in Cyprus that leaves no space for a healthy [non chauvinistic] self-identification.

Keywords: *mobbing, civil servants*

### Qualitative Inquiry of the Causes of homelessness for homeless people of working age in Athens

*Nikos Kourachanis*

Using semi-structured interviews, this article delves into the causes of homelessness for homeless people of working age in Athens. The extensive literature review of the main factors contributing to the emergence of homelessness is followed by the presentation of the methodology utilized, the research findings and conclusions. The empirical part shows how structural and institutional factors account for homelessness. This is largely due to the adverse effects of the crisis, the austerity policies implemented, the deterioration of extreme forms of poverty and social exclusion, as well as the institutional restructuring (transformation) of social policy (changes in social policy institutions).

Keywords: *Homelessness, Social Exclusion, Crisis, Greece*

### Child deaths in Papadiamantis' Skiathos novels: cultural context and social practices

*Mary Margaroni, Katerina Voulgari*

This study discusses the theme of child death in Papadiamantis' Skiathos novels. Using the method of content analysis, we examine issues concerning: a. child death caused by illness or accidental incidents and the associated practices in traditional medicine and folk religion, b. the anthropological approach to death as a ritual and a marginal transition stage between the excruciating present and the liberating Hereafter, as well as to various death rituals and to the role of women throughout the death process in the hard social conditions of Greek provinces at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Keywords: *Papadiamantis' Skiathos novels, child death, traditional medicine, folk religion*

## Social Capital: an Attempt of Conceptual Delimitation of the Term.

*Andreas Tsounis, Pavlos Sarafis*

Social capital is a multidimensional term. Being the synthesis of different social features such as social cohesion, participation in community networks, mutual trust and reciprocity, it consists an attractive concept that may contribute to the understanding and interpreting of behavior, affecting health, economic and social development indicators. Since it is a relatively new term in the field of social sciences, the researchers do not share a common approach for its theoretical conceptualization. In the current study an attempt is made for the conceptual delimitation of the term social capital. The multiple theoretical approaches on the one side highlight and confirm the importance of the individual and collective dimension of the term and on the other side it sheds light to a series of issues concerning its' measurement. The careful study of the similarities and differences of the multiple and often conflicting approaches may contribute to the shaping of a unified mode of use and interpretation of the concept on the part of the researchers.

*Keywords: Social capital, social networks, social research.*

## The Development of Research Thought in organizing Scientific Dissertations: A Guide for Humanities and the Social Sciences.

*Georgios Damaskinidis*

This article explores the research thought as the first step in writing research proposals for conducting research in humanities and social sciences. The literature review indicates a lack of mechanisms for developing this thought, similarly to research proposals, in general. Trying to fill this gap, I give the concept of research thought and describe how its role is defined in scientific planning. I propose the development of the research thought in two main stages followed by a transition phase from its informal nature to the scientific language of research proposals. I also suggest the addition of sub-stages and presentation of feedback-oriented examples of research thoughts. Lastly, I present an indicative constructive feedback of a doctoral research thought.

*Keywords: Constructive feedback, research proposal, research thought, scientific planning*