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ABSTRACTS

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Cultural practices and forms of communication: Building a common world and conditions of coexistence

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Though the industrialisation of culture and the development of mass communication have helped to displace borders, interchange actors and confuse functions, the connection between the concepts of culture and communication does not solely belong to historical or technical circumstances. To this end, this study attempts to open up a theoretical dimension to demonstrate that issues of practices and forms of communication possess a political dimension in the broadest sense of the word. The text is structured into two parts; the first tackles the issues and problems of interculturality from the standpoint of the emergence of this concept in the social and cultural reality of the late 20th century. The second part attempts to circumscribe the theoretical and political space, enabling the author to link cultural phenomena and communication processes in the evolution of French society over the past 30 years.

Key words: Cultural mediation, cultural action, political power, collectivity, interculturality

Communication of diversity: *Déráp*age and regulation

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A process focused on communication in its social dimensions cannot, in any event, ignore the place that is occupied by the imaginary, in the same way that a reflection on identity cannot conceal the focus of difference. This article is an attempt to reflect on debates over the issue of diversity and on the imperatives that impose themselves in the face of possible errors of “wild differentiation” or of exacerbated claims for identity. The piece attempts to determine which mechanisms are required to regulate the different types of lack of communication that

are manifested in the name of difference or diversity, and what the strong points and limits of democratic discourse are, as well as the types of mediation in managing differences. This is unquestionably a major challenge that politics is currently facing, as well as a dual paradox: that of the identity dialectic, and of uniformity and diversity.

Key words: Communication, diversity, difference, democracy, association

Understanding hybridisation: Towards a study of spaces of intercultural communication

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Intercultural communication is closely linked with the construction and functioning of cultural identity; thus, one way of analysing processes of intercultural communication is to adopt the idea of spaces of intercultural communication; places where cultures come together, intermingle and affect localising/globalising identities in several ways. These intercultural communication spaces, constructed and practiced (and which, therefore, refer to intercultural entities of thought, discourse or even ideologies that are created and communicated), may be concrete in the sense of geographically defined places, though they may also be of a non-geographic nature. The fundamental idea that can be found in the interval and the liminality that are included in the concepts of intercultural communication spaces is that of hybridisation. This study focuses on the nature of these spaces, and on the learning and hybridisation processes that take place within them.

Key words: Hybridisation, local, global, spaces, cultural identity, interculturality

Cosmopolitics and the dialogical self

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Introduction: Cosmopolitics is increasingly becoming an alternative to the interminable battles over identity. I conceive it as a contemporary and critical form of cosmopolitanism. This article claims that this alternative will only be viable to the extent that we conceive individuals as partial persons. The model of the dialogical self opens up a new path in this field.

Method: The ethnographic interviews with Muslims and Christians of different generations enable us to better understand the notions of “personhood” that they adopt. In the other parts of the article, different notions of “person” are contrasted in the context of the new problem of cosmopolitics, in urban environments.

Results: After a brief summary of the intuitions derived from the field interviews, the author carries out an analytical examination of the viable notions of “person” in the current problematic situation of urbanites. The traditional (religious-based) notion of “upright person” can be distinguished from the notion of “partial persons” that is underlying in the perspective of the dialogical self. In the final part of the work, the author sketches out the educational and social benefits of the concept of the “partial person”, linked to the procedures of dialogical self theory, in the context of possible cosmopolitical perspectives.

Conclusion: The qualitative study of the perception of the person as an “upright” or “partial” person paves the way toward an appreciation of the dialogical self approach, particularly in the context of an increasingly urbanised human condition. Against this background, the author re-discusses (with some modified formats) cosmopolitics as a possible way of entry into global society.

Key words: *Cosmopolitics, cultural diversity, dialogical self, intercultural learning, citizenship*

The dialectic between interior and exterior in the public space

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This article examines the links between social space and processes of mediatisation and globalisation. The virtualisation of the public space is examined critically as a form of emptying or the disappearance of said space, within the logic of a technological and ideological totalisation of social life that makes it increasingly difficult to reconstruct alternative theories and practices capable of reorienting the dominant cultural dynamic. The author speaks of isolation, connections and spectrality, based on the video clip “Murphy’s Law” by Arianna Puello. Through this video clip, the author attempts to examine general issues on culture and invisible borders.

Key words: *Public, private, culture, communication, interior, exterior, globalisation*

Training to interact interculturally on perceptions and identities: Implementing multimodal analysis in a cultural approach to discourse

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The impact of communication on society via computers (computer-mediated communication, or CMC) is still evolving, and our understanding of its social, psychological, political and economic implications is far from complete. Online communication systems structure interaction in accordance with new forms of relating that affect the different social organisations that have emerged through the use of these systems. The situation is even more complex if we consider how the different actors that participate in a negotiation process – often with different motivations and diverging interests – will react to this new environment. The aim of this article is to carry out an analysis of intragroupal processes in a scenario of virtual diplomacy in order to better understand the influence of regulations on groups. To this end, we observe an intercultural group to understand how – even in such a specific case as that of CMC – people construct the world with language instead of merely describing it as it is.

Key words: Multimodal, language, circuits, positionality, complexity, intercultural communication

The role of cultural diplomacy in international relations

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Cultural diplomacy, as a cornerstone of public diplomacy, plays an important role in today's international relations, which are characterised by so-called culture shocks, and it should represent a decisive tool not only for transmitting culture and national values, but also for listening to what the cultures from the rest the world are saying to us. The main role of cultural diplomacy is to promote transnational dialogue between cultures and nations, especially between the West and the Muslim world. Cultural diplomacy, just like other new

dimensions in diplomacy, is not exclusively controlled by nation-states, given that at present they are not the only actors on the international stage, since other non-state actors (civil society, NGOs, universities, academics, etc.) are playing an important role in this field. The aim of this article is to analyse the role of culture in modern diplomacy and its impact on relations between peoples and nations. It also attempts to focus on the positive aspects of the influence of culture on contemporary international relations.

Key words: Cultural diplomacy, soft power, representation, communication and negotiation

North/south relations: Representations of the other in the construction of transnational networks

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In the modern-day process of cultural recomposition, cinema occupies an important position through the meeting spaces created by the North to help cinema in the South to develop. The increase in aid funding by the “countries of the North”, which explains the relative good health of cinema from the “South”, illustrates well the necessary internationalisation of networks, a factor that enables these films to be viewed abroad. Cinema is understood in this way, as a vector of identity and as a social and intercultural connection. As films circulate, and filmmakers and producers meet one another, an embryo of community is constituted; “a generator of exchanges in all senses and of all kinds”. Thus we are witnessing the emergence of new categories: that of the “South”, which conserves traces of an asymmetrical “geopolitics”, and that of independence, which refers to a more international “community” (and which even goes beyond national geographical limits) of resistance to the “dominant” cinema. What is happening is that an intercultural connection is being created that mixes up the old centre/periphery relations. These spaces of exchange, while they enable, in effect, cinematographic production to develop in certain countries, represent repertoires administrated by the “centre”. The discourse on the “Other” reveals a tormented cartography of world geopolitical relations.

Key words: Construction, cinema, directory, North/South, Latin American-ness, intercultural relations

Technological, mediatic and cultural hybridisation: Cultural mediations in the context of globalisation

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We live in a context of borders that are dissolving in many senses, of the convergence and hybridisation of technologies, mass media and cultures. The context is the resizing of practical time, of movements and links between the local and the global. In these times of interculturality, communication plays a very important role; not so much in its technological media dimension, but particularly in the dynamics of cultural mediations that are dividing off from mediatised relations. This article aims to reflect on the transformations in present-day communication processes, marked by strong movements of hybridisation, as well as examining how to consider interculturality in the context of cultural mediations, based on dialogue between Latin American and French authors. Also, using media material, the article presents illustrations of the Brazilian cultural scene, which is marked by a long history of hybridisation that is filled with intercultural dynamics.

Key words: Technology, communication, complexity, fluidity, cyberculture, plurality

On the viability of democracy: Lessons from postwar Iraq

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The aim of this article is to reflect on the viability of democratisation processes in countries lacking in any previous history of political systems based on political pluralism and citizen representation. Iraq's most recent history represents a paradigmatic example of the factors that explain the success or failure of processes of establishing and consolidating democracy in the world. The article analyses certain factors of the country's social, political and economic structure which not only help to explain the development of events during

Western occupation, they also demonstrate that the democratisation of Iraq was, and continues to be, an unfeasible objective for the short and medium-term future.

Key words: Transition, democracy, Iraq, citizenship, society

Russian gas and european energy security: Interdependence following the crisis with Georgia and the Ukraine

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At the present time, gas represents one of the main energy raw materials that are used for producing electricity and other private uses. The dual political conflict between the Ukraine and the Russian Federation (winter 2005 and Christmas 2008 and 2009) has highlighted the EU's position of structural weaknesses both in terms of the supply of its raw materials and as regards possible alternatives to Russia as an energy supplier. The European countries worst hit by Russian-Ukrainian tensions have been those with the greatest dependence on Russian gas. This crisis scenario has led governments to promote a common European energy policy with the aim of, in the future, being in a stronger position than Europe's current one when negotiating with both Russia and all the other suppliers of energy sources. The article attempts to develop and analyse what has happened since 2005 between the two crises (also with particular references to the recent conflicts between Georgia and Russia in August 2008). The authors begin by analysing the main theoretical framework with respect to interdependence. They then go on to analyse the events, identifying and delimiting the movements of the actors so as to be able to understand both the present situation and the foreseeable consequences of same. In the last part, the authors attempt to analyse the different theoretical frameworks delimited at the beginning of the research by comparing them with the events that have taken place.

Key words: Energy security, gas, interdependence, Russia, European Union