

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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معرفة العدالة في الأنثروبوسين
KNOWING JUSTICE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

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RC24-403.2

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Powering Communication and Societal Engagement with Climate Research and Policies in Insular Territories

The discourses that condition knowledge, research and public policies concerning climate change are based on assumptions that work as starting points for analysis, debates and consensus to be carried out, yet they also emphasise controversies that contribute to opening *black boxes* (Latour, 1987, 1992, 2005) regarding the phenomenon, and which emerge from perceptions and conceptions that are occasionally divergent and incompatible. In fact, the different discourses highlight differentiated knowledge/power relationships and conflicting interests emanating from science, politics, economics, environmental NGOs..., often culminating in disparate and extreme positions, which generate confusion and instability. They are, therefore, a stimulus to public apathy and immobility, instead of fostering active and committed citizenship and the impulse to action.

Even though the relevance of participatory citizenship is cited by supranational, national and regional actors, and it is acknowledged that the involvement of all stakeholders is crucial in addressing socio-environmental challenges and promote the success of climate policies, resistance from knowledge- institutionalized powers endure, even when they refer to the need for change.

As concluded within the scope of a case study carried out in the Autonomous Region of Madeira and the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, also at regional level, the construction and dissemination of knowledge about climate change and the policies continue to favor a top-down approach. Lay rationalities and non-formal and territorial constructs have not found echo in scientific communication, nor in the mass media, and remain absent in the conception, design and implementation of policies, despite some local articulation initiatives with communities, associations, activist groups, together with economic agents, which hinders successful communicative processes and may balk timely, integrated and effective responses.

RC09-136.1

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Unveiling the EU Digital Policy Pathways: A Compass without True North?

Digital transformation is a widely used concept in policies and academic discourse (Heeks et al., 2023), especially in the EU (European Commission 2021; 2022). Consolidated digital monopolies (Bilić et al., 2021; Rikap, 2021) and public pressure impose the need for protective industrial policy and stronger democratic governance. Geopolitical relations lead to trade conflicts in which the open global Internet and open markets falter in the face of the controlled global flow of technology, data and capital (Bradford, 2023).

The Digital Compass, designed to bolster the European international standing and create a sustainable digital transformation, focuses on creating efficient markets and public administration, better connectivity, improved digital skills and democracy. However, predominantly technocratic solutions often overlook the need for a comprehensive approach to social development. It is crucial to consider power and unequal social relations, rather than just individual skills and freedoms.

In this paper, we analyse (a) the underlying pathways in digital policy (strategies, acts, communications) (N=38) and (b) the regulatory expertise and experience of European Commission digital policy experts gathered through semi-structured interviews (N=10). Combining quantitative and qualitative analysis, we present the main characteristics and relations between explicit and implicit development paradigms (neoliberal, structuralist, sustainable, human development, and public wealth production).

Empirical data shows the lack of a single development direction of the EU digital policy. Relationships between individuals, social groups, public authorities, European institutions, and corporations are evolving. Infrastructures are insufficiently considered a shared resource through the

lens of universal accessibility, non-discrimination, and social welfare. Private and public investments are reshaping the boundaries and responsibilities of actors in complex and unpredictable ways. Targeting too many policy goals creates the risk of missing the policy goals and steering digital transformation in undesirable directions.

RC32-529.11

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Pride, Politics, and Pageantry: Uncovering the on-Line News Coverage of LGBT Issues in the Philippines through LDA Topic Modelling

Recent trends in news consumption foreground the growing importance of on-line news as a primary source of information for many people. In the Philippines, while television and radio remain the primary sources of news, around half of Filipinos now turn to the Internet for their news. Given the media's gatekeeping function in shaping public discourse, it is crucial to uncover how media cover LGBT issues by examining which topics are being focused on and which are left out, and to surface opportunities for LGBTQI movements to engage with media outlets in bringing attention to issues that affect LGBTQI people. In this work, I utilized latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) to model central topics across headlines of LGBT-related on-line news in the Philippines from 2017 to 2022 ($n = 1,314$). News articles were obtained using Google Alerts, a tool that monitors web content. Using various optimisation metrics, 15 topics were obtained. These include topics across three general themes: pride (news about pride celebration and Pride Month), politics (news about LGBT-related pronouncements of key government officials such as the Philippine president and proposed laws on anti-discrimination law and marriage equality), and pageantry (news about cultural events such as drag competitions and beauty contests). News coverage of LGBT-related issues was also observed to peak during events surrounding these themes: pride marches, official government discussions on LGBTQI matters, and cultural events involving LGBTQI folks and allies. The findings reveal opportunities for LGBTQI movements to leverage these social, political, and cultural contexts to engage with news media outlets and address significant gaps in coverage of other issues affecting LGBTQI people, such as health, education, and employment.

RC49-782.3

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Interprofessional Dynamics in Mental Health and Disability Services: The Tuscan Model

Mental health social workers often face challenges in being recognized for their expertise within interprofessional teams, especially in systems dominated by biomedical approaches. This study examines the Tuscan model of disability assessment and care, which prioritizes user participation and empowerment. It aims to analyze power dynamics influencing interactions between SW and other professionals, and how they affect the quality of care and the involvement of service users with disabilities and their families.

The study utilized a qualitative design, involving 150 professionals from 10 multidisciplinary assessment units across Tuscany. Data were collected through focus groups and role-play sessions, which were recorded and analyzed using the theoretical lens of Anti-Oppressive Practice (Burke, Harrison, 2002; Dominelli, 1996). The participants included social workers, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders involved in the care of people with disabilities. The analysis focused on identifying themes related to interprofessional collaboration, power relations, and user participation.

The results revealed that despite the Tuscan model's focus on user empowerment, significant power imbalances persist within interprofessional teams. Social workers often found their roles marginalized, limiting their ability to advocate for user-centered approaches. However, the model's emphasis on participation led to some positive outcomes in terms of user engagement and the promotion of autonomy. Key strengths of the model include its structured approach to multidisciplinary collaboration, but challenges remain in ensuring equal recognition of social work expertise.

The study emphasizes the need to address power imbalances in mental health and disability services for effective participatory care. Social workers should advocate for better recognition within interprofessional teams. Policy revisions are necessary to reinforce the value of social work in mental health and ensure that care models align with empowerment and social justice principles. Future research should focus on strategies to improve interprofessional equity and the long-term impact of participatory models on service outcomes.