

The role of regional systems of Human Rights in contemporary societies – psycho-politics, bio-politics and identity economics in the process of creation of eco-consciousness

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Human Rights, as an ideal, immaterial and abstract, and as a living force, mobilising and driving social change, fuelling disciplinary and geographical border crossing and fostering horizon expansion, is object of contestation. Its dark side connects to white supremacy patriarchy domination that perpetuates the North-South divide, exclusion and inequality, within nations, between nations, and across the globe, following a fractal theory and a chaos theory pattern of alienation, denial and self-reinforcement. Its illuminating side connects to the power of the basis, of real life populations, of bio-politics, and to the reversion of oppressive psycho-politics through effective life experiences of superation, of transformation, of discovery and of bewilderment that lie at the core of co-creation of new social realities. It is critical to acknowledge this double faced reality of Human Rights, the two faces of the coin, the critical dialectic perspective that acknowledges the simultaneously active and mutually reinforcing polarity of the opposing forces of destruction, self-destruction, the destruction of the ecosystems and of the conditions that enable life on planet Earth, as opposed to the birth pains or the growth pains of breaking of the shell and the changing of the skin that comes with life, life as it is lived, by real life individuals, communities and populations, century after century. This interpretation, position and hypothesis takes into account the construction of eco-consciousness as the process through which individuals and communities become actively engaged in the promotion of regenerative modes of production and consumption. Regenerative cultures go far beyond sustainability concerns in terms of ecological living styles. Individuation processes, the self-image and the individual and collective processes of construction of identity, all have a role to play in the creation of eco-consciousness. Psycho-politics, bio-politics and identity economics, are therefore key elements to be acknowledged as they bring insightful perspectives upon the challenges and paradoxes of present times. The role of regional systems of Human Rights is an aggregating force that enables synergic alignment that takes into account both local differences and also global ideals and the fight for common good on a global scale.

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