



“Transreading the case-studies. The tension between mainstream and alternative development: discourse, strategies and policy”. A transversal reading of all case studies

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Case studies

1. **Brussels:** a case of disarticulated socio-economic development. *From growth machine politics to post-politics* (Oosterlynck S. and Swyngedouw E.)
2. **Chicago** *out of place* (J. Peck and N. Theodore)
3. **HK/Pearl River Delta Case Study** (Hong Kong team and Sum Ngai-Lin)
4. **Newcastle/Northern Way.** Case Study (Stuart Cameron & Sara Gonzalez)
5. The changing development path of **Rome:** lights and shadows of a socio-economic model (P.De Muro, S.Monni, P.Tridico)
6. **MEZZOGIORNO/REGGIO CALABRIA** (Martinelli and Martinelli, Fera and Barilla)
7. **Vienna** case (Novy, Lengauer, Coimbra de Souza)
8. **London between global narcissism and national responsibility** (D. Ancien and F. Moulaert)

Main focus

- Development vs discourses of Development
- Dis-embedded Governance (no conflicts) vs Power Relation
- Enlighten politics vs Democratisation
- Agencies, Institutions and Culture in the process of development

Mainstream vs alternatives: theory

- What is development about?

Mainstream economics theoretically points out a simple and linear view of development: that is the growth of GDP through capital, labor and technology accumulation. The income dimension affects the process of economic growth. Development will come later as a process of distribution.

Development is perceived as “*development of productive forces*”: accumulation, industrialisation, economic growth, structural change, modernisation, technological advance, progress, increase in personal incomes.

Alternative views of Development

- *Development of the social individual.* Also Marx used this concept in *The Communist Manifesto* and in *The Capital* vol. I: “all men must be assured the free development of their natural capacities”. It is strongly related to concepts like: emancipation, liberation, empowerment.
- In other words Development as enlarging people capabilities.
- Hence, “...development is strongly linked to working as a creative process of living and producing” (Novy et al., 2006, Demologos TSP-6).

Mainstream vs alternatives: empirics

- Empirically, successfully stories *à la* Porter neglect uneven development, social exclusions, failure of trickle-down effects, unskilled exclusion, unemployment, inequalities, lack of capabilities and opportunities for people, lack of empowerment, gender discrimination etc.

Demologos empirical critical views – relevant categories of analysis

Demologos Case Studies (CS) investigate what are the correct and relevant categories of socio-economic development, in order to capture current political and economic situation.

Relevant categories and political economy realism

- Discourse analysis of successful stories
- Wider views of socio-economic development
- Human development approach –living condition of people – relevant indicators of such conditions
- The role of the state
- Politics
- Scalar analysis, geography and history
- Institutions
- Agency, power relations

Case studies: *Alternative stories*

- Looking beyond discourses strategies and charismatic leaders
- Realism and not Discourses
- Critical point of views:
 1. evidences of social exclusion,
 2. poverty,
 3. unemployment,
 4. exploitation,
 5. housing problem.

Emblematic moments

- Demologos case studies pointed out which were the emblematic moments in the stories. This helped to understand that socio-economic development is not about automatic mechanisms but a product of social interaction among social forces and institutional agents.

Periodisation

Periodisation was an useful tool and method of analysis for all case studies, not only because it helped to structure the papers but most importantly because it helped to characterize ruptures and continuities in the stories.

A Regulation approach

- Case studies tell stories which cross throughout fordism and post-fordism periods. A Regulation approach, used in most of the cases, allowed to point out periods of **instability of accumulation**, weak mode of **regulation** during the different periods, **hegemonic blocs**, **international regimes**, etc.

Common themes

- Shift from national keynesism to regional endogenous growth and local competitiveness theories (from Lucas 1988 to Porter 1990)
- Metropolitan transformation
- Flexible mode of accumulation
- City-region cases

Lead themes in most of the case studies:

- Discourses of competitiveness
- New Governance and KBE
- Democratisation and social exclusion
- Financialisation
- Authoritarianism

Scalar Analysis

- Global analysis → LOCAL EFFECTS
- National politics → REGIONAL RESPONSES
- National dis-integration → INTER-REGIONAL INTEGRATION
- National policies → LOCAL WELFARE
- International agents → LOCAL INTERMEDIARIES
- National accumulation → POLITICAL FEDERALISM
- Globalisation → GLOBAL CITY

TENSIONS between Imaginaries, Power and Politics

City leaders interpret political coalitions which later became power blocks within a neo-liberal hegemony. Examples:

- Veltroni (Rome)
- Daley (Chicago)
- Falcomatà (Reggio Calabria)
- Ken Livingston (London)

Etc. etc

Power analysis hegemonic blocks and dis-embedded governance

- Most of case studies examine how political coalitions became power blocks of a neo-liberal hegemony, often with democratisation and forms of enlighten politics which substitutes authoritarianism.
- However, in these cases, very often governance is dis-embedded from conflicting social relations and it is a mere action of creating consensus around “stakeholder” interests (Brussels, Rome , Vienna, Reggio Calabria etc).

Little of imaginaries, a lot of contradictions

- Most of CS pointed out contradictions between policy and discourses
- Many CS underlined contradictions within hegemony blocs (left strategies within a neo-liberal hegemony)
- Some CS highlighted struggles, conflicts and rises of social movements (Brussels, Rome)

Summarizing Conclusion from CS (1)

1. Unstable forms of growth have been restored, though in material terms the crises remain unresolved and development did not come for all the men and the women. Power asymmetries along with forms of uneven development are dominant everywhere in the CS
2. CS stressed the role of discourses and institutional analysis to exploit contradictions of liberal hegemony
3. CS focused on the need of Politicizing development/growth and underlined that conflicts and contradictions emanating from economic and social relations lie at the heart of socio-economic change
4. Scalar analysis was a *means* to better underline uneven development and power asymmetries

Summarizing Conclusion from CS (2)

5. However, development is not at all a matter of choices between decentralization/centralization governments
6. Socio-economic development need better and comprehensive indicators with respect to what EU, OECD, IMF deliver
7. Many CS underlined the contradictions between growth and environmental sustainability
8. Need of improving integration between ecological and socio-economic development issues, at empirical and theoretical levels