

ABSTRACTS

Sectoral Innovation biotechnology system in Mexico: Analysis and Characterization of its main components

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Abstract

Based on the concept of Sectoral Innovation System (SIS), the structure of the biotechnology sector in Mexico is analyzed through the central constituent agents and their interactions. The main objective is to analyze the different interrelations and dynamics in the process of developing various types of skills in the biotechnology sector. In addition to examining the institutional framework that shapes the governance of the system.

The results of this research support the conclusion that Mexico is still in the process of shaping policies to science, technology and innovation (STI) in biotechnology and coordination problems persist among the various levels of governance. However, the country has characteristics conducive to the development of a capacity-prone system. The main conclusions are based on information available in national databases and a series of interviews has made during the last five years with various agents that belong to the system; including those responsible for STI policy nationally, entrepreneurs, researchers, intermediaries, personal in charge of technology transfer offices and chambers are included.

KEYWORDS: BIOTECHNOLOGY – INNOVATION SYSTEMS – SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNOLOGIC AND INNOVATION CAPABILITIES

The Youtube(r) universe: on knowledge, representations and attention flows

Agostina Dolcemáscolo

Abstract

The YouTube universe has expanded its limits beyond the screen with the emergence of the YouTubers. In this context –and also as a part of transformations that have been brought about by the expansion and development of digital technologies, which are named here as cognitive or informational capitalism– the aim of this paper is to scrutinize YouTuber’s role as a foremost actor within YouTube’s business model. In order to do so, we use the notion of intersubjective grounded knowledge to critically examine both the way YouTubers present themselves and the way they are represented by their followers. To achieve that, we analyze empirical material collected from Club Media Fest, the Youtubers’ festival that took place in Argentina in October, 2015. This paper attempts thus to provide a more accurate characterization of the YouTuber phenomenon from two different dimensions: an *objective dimension* (which accounts for the way YouTube works as a site and for what Youtubers do) and, more importantly, a *subjective dimension*, that takes into account the non-producers-users’ point of view (that is, those who are part of the YouTube Community and experience YouTubers as part of their everyday life).

KEYWORDS: YOUTUBERS – COGNITIVE OR INFORMATIONAL CAPITALISM –
INTERSUBJECTIVE KNOWLEDGE – REPRESENTATIONS

Biological Citizenship: The Science and Politics of Chernobyl-Exposed Populations

Adriana Petryna

Abstract

In the transition out of socialism to market capitalism, bodies, populations, and categories of citizenship have been reordered. The rational-technical management of groups affected by the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine is a window into this contested process. Chernobyl exemplifies a moment when

scientific knowability collapsed and new maps and categories of entitlement emerged. Older models of welfare rely on precise definitions situating citizens and their attributes on a cross-mesh of known categories upon which claims rights are based. Here one observes how ambiguities related to categorizing suffering created a political field in which a state, forms of citizenship, and informal economies.

KEYWORDS: CITIZENSHIP – BIOMEDICINE – CHERNOBYL – SOCIAL WELFARE

Between biosociability and biolegitimity: sociability, treatment and activism in an association of people living with HIV-AIDS

Juan José Gregoric

Abstract

In this article we analyze the associative ways and political activism of people living with HIV-AIDS in Buenos Aires suburbs, focusing on the subjectivities created in the illness and treatment experience. Firstly, we state that people with HIV-AIDS mutual aid groups' allow a new sociability that generates identification and differentiation among themselves. In these groups ways of controlling individual behaviour emerge together with adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ARVT) imperatives adopting medical categories. Secondly, we argue that body disruption gives rise to a permanent self observation shaped by and expressed through biomedical definitions and technologies, while it undermines the premises of adherence to treatment. Finally, we believe that embodied suffering validates new demands that should be understood in terms of biosociality and biolegitimity.

KEYWORDS: HIV-AIDS – ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT – BIOSOCIALITY – BIOLEGITIMITY

Biopolitics of a hereditary “syphilis” at the Sertão Nordestino: resistance to modernity?

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Abstract

This article analyses the social construction of a genetic disease in the Sertão Nordestino (Brazilian North-eastern hinterland) under the

theoretical perspective of Social Studies of Sciences focused in the processes of biomedicalization, biopolitics and necropolitics. A disease traditionally well known as syphilis was diagnosed as SPOAN Syndrome by a group of researchers that had a crucial role in introducing the scientific knowledge in this community. However, resistance was found among patients, family and also among the public authorities, each group with different reasons. In order to understand those resistances, the methodology adopted was a literature review of materials that analyses the transformation of health field, ethnography of laboratory in the Centro de Estudo do Genoma Humano da Universidade de São Paulo (CEGH-USP), interview with scientists and grad students, and collection of material about rare genetic diseases with high number of patients. The conclusion of the research points out that to understand a disease that has two names it is necessary to understand their cultural context, biopolitics applied and sociability raised due to the disease, and, second, to substitute the traditional narratives by the scientific discourse in a place that resists science itself, it can be an alert that we are imposing a world view that could not be as good as we believe to Serrinha dos Pintos town.

KEYWORDS: RARE GENETIC DISEASE – BIOPOLITICS – BIOMEDICINE –
NECROPOLITICS

Dark matter in Actor-Network Theory context

Facundo Rodríguez

Abstract

The aim of this work is to use some categories of Actor-Network Theory (ANT) developed by Bruno Latour in the book *Reassembling the Social – An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory* to analyze a current controversy that occurs in the area of cosmology: the dark matter existence and its characteristics. The central idea of this article is to try to decipher which type of agent is the dark matter and open the discussion about this topic from a sociological perspective.

KEYWORDS: ACTOR-NETWORK THEORY – SCIENCE – ASTRONOMY – DARK MATTER