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Towards Democratically Sustainable Expertise?

Daniel Agacinski

Expertise plays an essential role today and has done so in French political decision-making for more than half a century, whether in the fields of health, employment, transport or elsewhere. Yet this is highly contested by a growing section of public opinion, as we have been able to see in France in connection with subjects like vaccination or, more recently, during the debates that stoked the *gilets jaunes* crisis, attesting to a real distrust toward the elites in charge of public policy. How did we reach this point and what might that mistrust lead to if it lasts or worsens?

Daniel Agacinski, who, in his role with France Stratégie, has made a range of contributions to present thinking on the French attitude to experts, outlines the development of this relation to expertise, and also the sociological and historical forces driving it. He calls for a reshaping of the way experts operate, to bring that into line with democracy: we have to “take on board the public lack of trust” and see our way, in response to it, to expanding the circle of experts by bringing in (even non-expert) citizens to make public action as democratic as it can be.

Whistleblowers: an Opportunity for Capitalism?

Patrice Cailleba

In France, the law of 9 December 2016 on transparency, defeating corruption and modernizing economic life (the so-called “Sapin II” law) established a juridical framework designed to protect whistleblowers and lay down rules for reporting the facts they reveal. This represents a real advance in the way employees’ relations to their firm’s hierarchy are governed, enabling the general interest to be taken into account. Yet the decision to “blow the whistle” is still not an easy one, even in this new juridical context.

After reviewing the history of the emergence of whistleblowers and outlining the

framework recently established in France, Patrice Cailleba stresses the legal obligations of companies in this regard. He shows how whistleblowers face being torn between faithfulness to their own values, loyalty to their employer and a sense of the general interest. However, he also demonstrates how much it is in organizations’ own interests to encourage whistleblowing – particularly at the managerial level. By facilitating such a work of “ethical vigilance” within their organizations, companies, government departments and the like may be said to be contributing to increasing trust in the capitalist system (a trust currently eroded, if not indeed lost).

Organized Crime and Legal Markets

Elisa Operti

Given its clandestine character, it is difficult to have precise, recent data on the economic significance of organized crime. The latest official data from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime are from 2009; at that point it was estimated that the cumulative total of criminal dealing represented more than 3% of global GDP. Ten years later, given the explosion of online betting in particular, and with other strands of cyber-criminality adding to more classical crime, it is highly likely that this percentage has increased. And, though it is clearly essential to combat this unlawful trade, we should also note that it occupies a place within the legal economy. While it receives little media attention, that place is nonetheless tangible.

This is demonstrated here by Elisa Operti who has studied the role and impact of organized crime in the financing of classical economic activities and entrepreneurship. Her research, which she outlines here, actually indicates that organized crime may provide important support for traditional economic actors and certain regions, particularly in periods of crisis. This – perhaps unrecognized – aspect has to be taken into account by the actors combatting criminality, so that their fight can be adapted to the institutional and socio-political context in which it takes place.

The Dynamics of the Middle Classes: Decline in the Global North, Advance in the South

Julien Damon

In France the spectre of downward social mobility regularly makes the headlines. Whether it actually corresponds to reality or merely reflects a legitimate fear, according to the National Statistical Institute (INSEE) the sense of living less well than the previous generation was of concern to one French person in four in 2015. And amongst those most worried by these questions were those belonging to the so-called middle classes, who felt they were falling down the social ladder. How much truth is there in this impression? Is the middle class losing ground in France and, more generally, in the developed world? And what is the situation worldwide? What statistical data do we have on the subject?

Drawing on recent OECD studies, Julien Damon offers a global-level analysis of the dynamics of the middle classes, showing that they are tending to contract in the developed countries but expand in the emerging nations. Most importantly, he emphasizes that being “middle class” doesn’t represent the same economic reality in all parts of the world. In a context of increased polarization in employment and a higher cost of living, the Western middle classes, for example, find themselves increasingly under strain and there are major social and political dangers in such a situation.

Is French Society Fragmenting? On Jérôme Fourquet’s *L’Archipel français*

Olivier Galland

In the last issue of *Futuribles* (431, July-August 2019), Pierre Bréchon presented the first lessons for France from the latest European Values Study (EVS) and stressed the substantial gap that exists between the pessimistic – even alarmist – language of those commenting on surveys on social cohesion, and actual long-term trends in French values. Olivier Galland, also drawing on the results of this latest wave of EVS findings, now arrives at the same conclusion with regard to the argument advanced by Jérôme Fourquet in his latest book, which finds a growing division of French society into various identity-based communities.

Galland examines the three main arguments advanced by Fourquet in support of his the-

sis that France is becoming an “archipel-ago”: the move away from Catholicism, the “secession of the elites” and the cultural defection of the working classes. Citing the statistical evidence, he demonstrates that on these various points, things are not quite so simple and that the long-term trends do not corroborate these arguments. Here again, we must beware of reaching over-hasty conclusions that lead us to set social classes too starkly against each other. We must also take account of the convergences on values that exist across the whole of French society.

Strategic Foresight in the European Parliament

Danièle Réchard-Spence

Following the May 2019 elections, the European Parliament begins a new term of office and a number of European institutions will subsequently see a change of leadership (Central Bank, Commission, Council, Parliament etc.). This may be the opportunity for the European Union to acquire new political momentum. If that is the case, will European policies match up to the major future challenges that are looming? More generally, how are long-term issues factored in by the European institutions?

Drawing on her experience, Danièle Réchard-Spence, who heads the unit charged with identifying and analysing the major current developmental trends for the European Parliament, shows us what strategic foresight consists in within that institution and how it feeds into the parliament’s work. Though it is never easy to assess the true influence of foresight studies on parliamentary decisions and action, it remains very instructive to understand how those studies are produced and disseminated among our representatives in the European Parliament, which is what this article by Danièle Réchard-Spence seeks to do.

Five Major Areas of Work for the 21st Century: On the Deliberations of the International Panel on Social Progress

**Marc Fleurbaey
and Marie-Laure Salles-Djelic**

Five years ago, we saw the formation, under the chairmanship of Amartya Sen, of the International Panel on Social Progress (IPSP), a collective of 300 social science researchers from around the world. The aim

was to develop multi-disciplinary, non-partisan solutions in response to the major issues our societies currently face. Marc Fleurbaey and Marie-Laure Salles-Djelic, who are members of this collective and have actively participated in the publication of its first deliberations and recommendations, take the opportunity offered by this 'forum' article to present the perspectives for 21st century social progress identified by the IPSP.

They describe what seem to them to be the most promising institutional reforms to meet current challenges, targeting five major areas of work: 1) moving beyond the ideologies of the 20th century; 2) reforming the market economy to subordinate it to human needs; 3) transforming businesses to make them vehicles of progress, rather than of value-extraction and exploitation; 4) reforming the state to take it beyond its protective function and place it in the service of individual emancipation; and 5) reforming political life to enhance democracy. To make good on these tasks, they identify a number of actors capable of driving social progress.

The European Union, Peace and Democracy

Jean-François Drevet

In May 2019, Europeans, voting to decide which national representatives to send to the European Parliament, turned out in distinctly larger numbers than for previous elections. The turnout was eight points higher than in 2014, taking it up to almost 51%. It is difficult to say precisely what prompted this level of participation, but as Jean-François Drevet shows here, it seems fair to assume that European citizens are beginning to grasp the space of freedom the European Union represents and are keen to commit to it more.

In many ways, the EU does indeed offer genuine guarantees of peace and democracy. The Celtic nations have been able to see this as Brexit has unfolded, the European Union offering them greater scope for development than the United Kingdom. As a general rule, democracy and the rule of law are preconditions for joining the EU. Once they are members, states are expected to continue to conform to these conditions, with European institutions striving to ensure this as best they can. Lastly, though it still has some way to go in terms of common defence and security, the EU has nonetheless managed to maintain peace within its frontiers, while respecting the sovereignty of the peoples that make it up. In view of – even the recent – past of the Old Continent, this is significant and is perhaps beginning to bear fruit. ■

Futuribles is a bimonthly independent transdisciplinary policy oriented journal (6 issues a year), also available in electronic form on the *Futuribles* website.

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FUTURS DE VILLES

LA FABRIQUE DES USAGES DE LA VILLE DE DEMAIN

Formation • 3 et 4 octobre 2019
Futuribles International • Paris

Intervenants

Animé par **Morgan Poulizac**, professeur d'urbanisme à Sciences Po Paris et HEC, directeur d'études à Plein sens. Avec la participation de :
Philippe Gasser, ingénieur en transports et urbaniste, directeur associé, CITEC Genève.
Laurent Ouvrard, directeur de projets, Oasiis.
Sophie Rosso, directrice générale des opérations, Quartus.
Éric Singler, directeur général, BVA, en charge de la BVA Nudge Unit.
Flore Trautmann, urbaniste et sociologue, directrice associée du bureau d'études Le Sens de la ville.

Objectifs pédagogiques et compétences visées

Après une décennie marquée par le double paradigme de la métropole et de la ville intelligente, un nouveau modèle de ville émerge par signaux faibles et tendances de fond. L'ambition de cette formation est de partager, au contact de praticiens et chercheurs sur la ville, les visions et les chemins qui s'ouvrent sur ce nouveau modèle urbain, à la fois quotidien et systémique, *high tech* et *low tech*. À travers des exposés théoriques, des exemples concrets et la convocation d'expériences internationales, la formation apporte les clefs d'une mutation à venir.

Programme

- Introduction générale : d'un monde à l'autre, quels sont les facteurs de transformation des villes ?
- Deux tendances démographiques lourdes et leur impact sur la ville
- Session 1. Futur des mobilités : quelles directions ?
Des mobilités sur mesure et sans couture ? ■ La ville à pied, un modèle « révolutionnaire » ?
- Session 2. Pratiques de ville, comment l'urbanisme peut changer les comportements individuels
Les *nudges* ou l'avènement des sciences comportementales pour concevoir la ville ■ Le développement durable au défi de sa banalisation
- Session 3. Une nouvelle infrastructure sociale pour la ville de demain
Une ville par les usages, nouvelles lunettes de l'urbanisme ■ Vers une ville réellement productive : le retour des usines en ville ?

Prix

Les frais de participation sont de 1380 euros HT (1656 euros TTC, TVA à 20 % incluse)*. Ils incluent la participation à l'ensemble de la formation, les déjeuners et le dossier remis aux participants. Futuribles International est un organisme de formation agréé référencé dans DataDock.

Renseignements complémentaires

Programme détaillé consultable à l'adresse <https://www.futuribles.com/fr/formation/> ou envoyé sur demande auprès de Corinne Roëls, Futuribles International - 47, rue de Babylone - FR-75007 Paris • Tél. + 33 (0)1 53 63 37 71 • Fax + 33 (0)1 42 22 65 54
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*Remise de 10 % en cas d'inscription multiple dès la deuxième participation, dispense de frais pour les membres partenaires de Futuribles International (valable pour une personne par formation dans la limite des places disponibles).