

GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

Special Issue on Sustainable Development, Social Ecology and the Quality of Democracy (Part 2)

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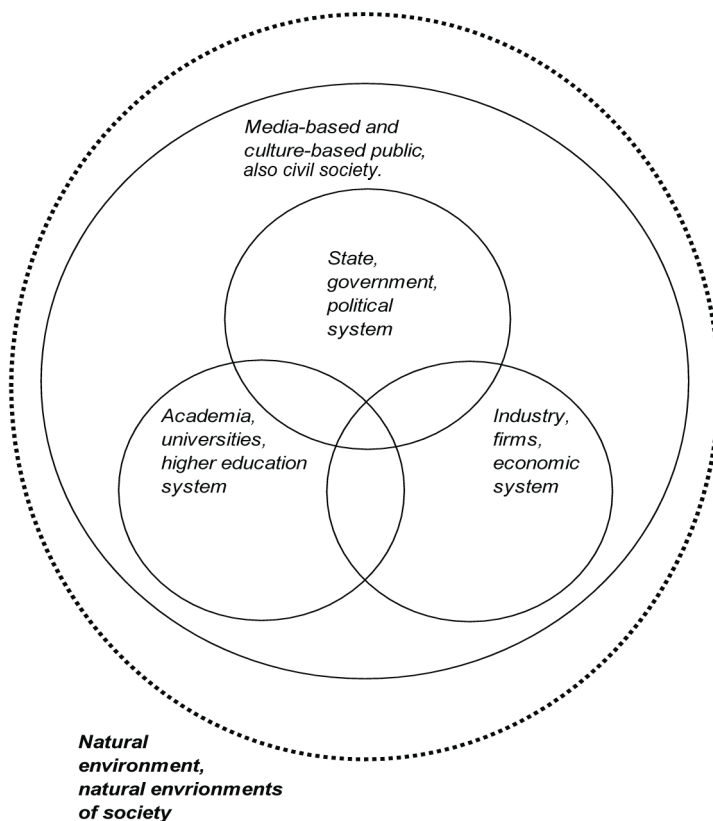
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Is sustainable development a route to high-quality democracy? Does the quality of a democracy manifest itself in patterns of sustainable development? Broader conceptualizations or definitions of democracy that do not limit democracy to the political system and are interested in integrating the political system, society and the economy in the one or other configuration, but in context of a democracy, potentially reflect aspects of sustainable development. Between so-called maximum definitions of democracy and approaches of sustainable development, therefore, manifold theoretical windows of congruence open up. Should a conceptualization of a democracy or of the quality of a democracy be designed so comprehensive as to reflect the (natural) environments that embed society, then such a framing would not only be compatible with a sustainable development framework in general, but would also incorporate features

of “social ecology”. A (theoretical) concept of the quality of democracy (perhaps knowledge-based, implying knowledge democracies of a high quality) that links together the political system, society, the economy and environment allows the application of social ecology in a framework of sustainable development.

For a further discussion and further analysis we want to refer to the five-helix model of the “Quintuple Helix” innovation system, where the environment or the natural environments represent a fifth helix (see Figure 1). The Triple Helix focuses on “university-industry-government relations”. The Quadruple Helix innovation system frames the Triple Helix in context of a “media-based and culture-based public” and “civil society”. The Quintuple Helix innovation system finally embeds the Quadruple Helix (and Triple Helix) in context of the environment or the natural environments of society and the economy.

Figure 1. *The five-helix model of the quintuple helix innovation system*



Source: Author's own conceptualization based on Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff (2000, p. 111) and on Carayannis and Campbell (2009, p. 207, 2010, p. 62)

Submitted articles to this special issue came from a broader disciplinary spectrum and were often inter-disciplinary or trans-disciplinary in content. Articles with a conceptual design that cross-connected theory with an empirical analysis that is application-oriented, problem-solving and innovation-emphasizing, were being encouraged. The authors engaged in formulating and developing challenging, far-reaching and future-sensitive propositions (perhaps paradigms) that depict a broad picture. In empirical terms, the focus frequently was on

democracies or clusters of democracies from every world region, possibly comparing different world regions. Articles, ideally and often, were in a position of influencing, challenging and provoking the discourses on topics in relation to this special issue.

In the following we provide a brief summary of the articles in this special issue:

In the first article, the authors David F. J. Campbell, Elias G. Carayannis, Thorsten D. Barth, and George S. Campbell focus on the following key research question: "How

can democracy and the quality of democracy be measured globally and empirically?" The article contrasts different approaches to the measurement of democracy, with a focus on three macro-models of democracy measurement as well as the democratic indices (indicators) that they apply specifically: Freedom House, Democracy Index and Democracy Ranking. The Democracy Ranking serves here as a test case or bench mark, to demonstrate, what the practical implications and consequences of the underlying model of the Democracy Ranking are for the concrete ranking of democracies, which focuses conceptually (and theoretically) on the quality of democracy, and when empirical indicators are being used as an input for the model. The Democracy Ranking 2010 can and should be understood and should be interpreted as a proposition for a ranking of democracies in reference to their quality of democracy, and this in a world-wide approach of and for global comparison.

With many different models of democracies, one is bound to question: "How democratic are democracies?" and "How much freedom and equality does a liberal democracy need?" These questions are addressed in the article "Freedom, Equality and the Quality of Democracy" by Thorsten D. Barth by introducing the new concept of Democratic Life. The countries analyzed are the United States, Australia, Sweden and Germany in comparison between 1995 and 2008. The results of the Democratic Life concept are presented and a comparison is drawn as to whether the target of sustainable development is possible.

The contribution by Marc Bühlmann, titled "Beauty and the Beast?", investigates the interrelation between globalization and the quality of established democracies. The main aim of the article is to test the rival hypotheses of the impact of globalization on democracy. It is argued that democracies cannot face important challenges any more and that globalization leads to democratic crises. On the other hand, globalization is seen as the redeemer of democracy. A new instrument, the Democracy Barometer, is

introduced to measure the quality of democracy in 30 established democratic regimes between 1995 and 2005, to show the impact of economic globalization on the quality of democracy.

Gerhard Schlattl's article "The Quality of Democracy-Concept vs. the Quintuple Helix" focuses on the virtues of minimalist vs. maximalist democracy conceptions, addressing the recently introduced Quintuple Helix, followed by a conceptual discussion of one practical operationalization, notably the "Democracy Ranking". Written against the backdrop of the current trend in scientific academic research on democratic quality, namely the broadening of the conceptualizations on democracy, the key research question of this article is: "Should the Quality of Democracy be equated with the Quality of Society?". By incorporating a more concise model on political democracy, notably the Quality-of-Democracy Concept (QD-Concept), the primary aim of the article is highlighting the need to avoid the fallacy of a conceptual overstretch in the framework of assessing the quality of democracy. Democracy conceptualizations should more clearly be differentiated from broader conceptualizations on quality of society.

The joint contribution "Sustainability Governance in Democracies", by Doris Wydra and Helga Pülzl, questions the linkage of democracy with sustainable development and argues that democracy does not necessarily have to be a prerequisite for sustainable development. Different models of democratic systems, sustainable development indicator systems and human rights systems are analyzed. An attempt to integrate these systems to generate an ideal-type model is undertaken and a democratic sustainable development system in accordance with human rights has been developed as a result.

The last piece is a research note titled "Pakistan: A Struggle with Democracy", by Suhaib Ahmed and Saleha Zahra Khwaja, which presents the country's turbulent political landscape and the recent restoration of parliamentary democracy. Pakistan is a country that has been ruled by military dictators most of the

time with short democratic intervals. The aim of this research note is to draw the current picture of the democratic system in Pakistan and questions whether or not democracy can flourish in one of the most geo-politically volatile nations.

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ENDNOTES

¹ See: Campbell, David F. J. (2008). The Basic Concept for the Democracy Ranking of the Quality of Democracy. Vienna: Democracy Ranking (http://www.democracyranking.org/downloads/basic_concept_democracy_ranking_2008_A4.pdf).

² For example, the ongoing Democracy Ranking civil society project of the Quality of Democracy interprets and defines environmental sustainability as a specific dimension for democracy measurement. See: <http://www.democracyranking.org>.

³ See: Etzkowitz, Henry / Loet Leydesdorff (2000). The Dynamics of Innovation: from National Systems and “Mode 2” to a Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government Relations. *Research Policy* 29, 109-123.

⁴ See: Carayannis, Elias G. / David F. J. Campbell (2010). Triple Helix, Quadruple Helix and Quintuple Helix and How Do Knowledge, Innovation and the Environment Relate To Each Other? A Proposed Framework for a Trans-disciplinary Analysis of Sustainable Development and Social Ecology. *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development* 1 (1), 41-69. See also: Carayannis, Elias G. / David F. J. Campbell (2009). “Mode 3” and “Quadruple Helix”: Toward a 21st Century Fractal Innovation Ecosystem. *International Journal of Technology Management* 46 (3/4), 201-234.

David F. J. Campbell is a Research Fellow (Senior Scientist) at the Institute of Science Communication and Higher Education Research (WIHO), Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies (iff), Alpen-Adria-University of ; Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Vienna; and Quality Enhancement Manager and Quality Researcher at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Campbell lead-authored Epistemic Governance in Higher Education: Quality Enhancement of Universities for Development (Springer, 2013) and Democracy Ranking (Edition 2012): The Quality of Democracy in the World (Books on Demand, 2012); co-authored Mode 3 Knowledge Production in Quadruple Helix Innovation Systems: 21st-Century Democracy, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship for Development (Springer, 2012); co-edited Encyclopedia of Creativity, Invention, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Springer, 2013), Knowledge Creation, Diffusion, and Use in Innovation Networks and Knowledge Clusters (Praeger, 2006) and Demokratiequalität in Österreich: Zustand und Entwicklungsperspektiven (Leske + Budrich, 2002) ("Democracy Quality in Austria"). His articles on knowledge, innovation, knowledge economy and democracy, knowledge democracy and quality of democracy have been published in several international journals. David Campbell is Academic Director of the global Democracy Ranking of the quality of democracy

Elias G. Carayannis is a Full Professor of Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, as well as co-Founder and co-Director of the Global and Entrepreneurial Finance Research Institute (GEFRI) and Director of Research on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, European Union Research Center, (EURC) at the School of Business of the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Dr. Carayannis' teaching and research activities focus on the areas of strategic Government- University-Industry R&D partnerships, technology road-mapping, technology transfer and commercialization, international science and technology policy, technological entrepreneurship and regional economic development. Dr. Carayannis has several publications in both academic and practitioner journals, including IEEE Transactions in Engineering Management, Research Policy, Journal of R&D Management, Journal of Engineering and Technology Management, International Journal of Technology Management, Technovation, Journal of Technology Transfer, Engineering Management Journal, Journal of Growth and Change, Review of Regional Studies, International Journal of Global Energy Issues, International Journal of Environment and Pollution, Le Progres Technique, and Focus on Change Management. He has also published sixteen books to date on science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship with CRC Press, Praeger/Greenwood, Palgrave/MacMillan and Edward Elgar, and has several more projects under contract. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Edward Elgar Book Series on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; the Springer Book Series on Innovation, Technology, and Knowledge Management; the Springer Journal of the Knowledge Economy; the Springer Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and the IGI International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development; and Associate Editor of the International Journal of Innovation and Regional Development.

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