

**ROUTES INTO THE
FUTURE**
NEW MAPS FOR THE
SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES



18 > 21 June 2008
* International Colloquium

Teatro Académico Gil Vicente
Auditorium of the Faculty of Law
Auditorium of the University of Coimbra

SESSION VII: Globalization, peace and democracy: Are there possible alternatives to violence?

June 21st , 9:30-11:30

In the current context of neo-liberal globalization and of invasions championed by the U.S. and its allies in the name of democracy, there is a pressing need for the SHS to discuss the relation between peace and democracy. First of all, the SHS should question the meanings which both these terms take on in the different political discourses and social, economic and cultural contexts. Secondly, there is a need for reflection on the relations between the different levels (local, regional, national and global) and the dimensions (cultural, structural, inter-subjective) of violence occurring throughout the world. What conditions are necessary for the processes of peace and social democracy? Lastly, the need arises to reflect critically on the relation between peace and democracy. Assuming that liberal, representative democracy does not suffice for the recognition of the interests of several social groups and for the peaceful management of their conflicts, other forms of democracy, such as “radical democracy” and “participatory democracy” have for some time been put forward and practised in a number of contexts both in the global North and global South. But it is also necessary to enquire as to how these other forms of democracy relate to violence and to peace. What does participatory democracy contribute to the peaceful negotiation of violent conflicts? To what extent is social peace not also necessary for the processes of participatory democracy?

Chantal Mouffe | “Agonistic politics in a multipolar world”

In this paper I will argue that many of the new forms of violence that we are witnessing today are due to the fact that we are living in a world where legitimate channels do not exist to resist the imposition of the neo-liberal model of globalization. This is why conflicts, when they emerge, manifest themselves on the mode of an antagonistic opposition between friend and enemy. To avoid the multiplication of antagonisms it is necessary to create the institutions and the

practices that would permit conflicts to take the form of an agonistic confrontation between legitimate adversaries and this requires the development of a multipolar world.

José Manuel Pureza | 'What use do Peace Studies serve?'

The trajectory of Peace Studies led them from a position as a discourse within the bloc critiquing International Relations to cooptation as a discourse sustaining the new politics of global governance. Indeed, the peace building consensus is a solid ideological pillar of the contemporary hegemony of the liberal peace project in terms of global governance. This project is internally contradictory. On the one hand, it is clearly shaped by a naturalisation of international administration forms which pick up anew old, colonially-rooted concepts; on the other hand, a refusal by the world system centre in accepting direct responsibility for the results of such international governance comes to the fore (the 'Empire in denial' of which David Chandler writes). To a large extent, United Nations second generation peace operations - and the 'grand strategy' which underlies it, set out in Boutros Ghali's 1990s Agenda for Peace - are the political synthesis of this contradictory project. In that sense, it is proper to ask whether Peace Studies have become a theoretical framework at the service of solving technical problems for a new, global governance framework or whether they still offer enough scope within which they can be redeemed as a strong component of a critical theory for contemporary international relations.

About the Participants

Chair:

Fernando Ruivo is a Professor at the School of Economics and a researcher with the Centre for Social Studies. He is a specialist in the Sociology of the State, Law and Administration, and over the past twenty years, his areas of interest have focused on local government, both in Portugal and from a comparative perspective. He currently coordinates the Coimbra-Bordeaux Integrated Course and the Observatory of Local Government. He is the author of many publications, such as *O Estado Labiríntico* (Porto, Afrontamento, 2000; Prémio Círculo Teixeira Gomes 2001) e *Poder Local e Exclusão Social* (Coimbra, Quarteto, 2000).

Speakers:

Chantal Mouffe is a Professor of Political Theory at the University of Westminster and a researcher at Harvard University, Cornell, at the University of California and at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. Her current areas of interest include right-wing populism in Europe and new models of democracy. Her published work includes, among many other titles, *On the Political*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2005.

José Manuel Pureza is Associate Professor at the School of Economics, Coimbra University, a researcher with the Centre for Social Studies and a specialist in International Law, International Relations and Peace Studies. His areas of interest include prevention and management of armed conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction. He has published, among other titles, *Para uma cultura da paz*. Coimbra: Quarteto, 2001.

Comments:

Manuel Villaverde Cabral is a coordinating researcher at the Institute for Social Sciences. He is a specialist in the sociology of attitudes and political behaviour. His areas of interest and research include philosophy, political theory, the philosophy of the Social Sciences and Sociological Sciences. He authored, among other titles, *Razão, Tempo e Tecnologia. Estudos em homenagem a Hermínio Martins*, Lisboa, Imprensa de Ciências Sociais, 2006.

Cecília MacDowell Santos is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of San Francisco (California) and a researcher at the Centre for Social Studies. Her areas of interest include human rights and globalization, women's rights, memory and justice in Brazil. Among other titles, she has authored *Women's Police Stations: Gender, Violence, and Justice in São Paulo, Brazil*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.