## THE LATEST BOOKS ON GLOBALIZATION (2016-2017)

## Edited by ELIA ZARU

In the last thirty years, the increasing process of globalisation has determined the necessity to rethink our knowledge and epistemological approaches. The emergence of the "global" has committed academic and non-academic thinkers, researchers and analysists to combine different perspectives in order to understand our present and past societies. Global Studies well reflect this overlapping of disciplines, fields of study and research methods. However, as argued by Manfred Steger and Amentahru Wahlrab, the relationship between this "emergent field" and globalisation is not as simple as it might appear. Moreover, globalisation is only one of the "Four Pillars of Global Studies", along with space and time, critical thinking and transdisciplinarity (What is Global Studies? Theory and Practice).

The issue of transdisciplinarity is a key one in Roland Robertson's interventions too. In *Considerations on Global Studies*, Robertson affirms to prefer such an expression due to the condition of "permanent revolution" of global studies and their being in a state of continual flux. While interdisciplinarity often consolidates disciplinarity, transdisciplinarity means to go beyond disciplines, and to consider global studies as an all-inclusive field of study. But how do global studies relate to globalisation? If Steger and Wahlrab answer by considering the former as one of the "Four Pillars" of the latter, Robertson argues that a bridge between the two may well be found via the concept of glocalization, which enables us to synthesise and transcend sameness and difference.

Indeed, as stressed by Eckart Koch (*Globalisierung: Wirtschaft und Politik*) the global sphere is always an "intraone", that is to say we should always keep in mind the intersection between global and local. Otherwise, neither the concept of globalisation, nor the actual ongoing process can be fully understood. Sophie Body-Gendrot's *Public Disorder and* 

ISSN 2283-7949 GLOCALISM: JOURNAL OF CULTURE, POLITICS AND INNOVATION 2017, 1, DOI: 10.12893/gjcpi.2017.1.2 Published online by "Globus et Locus" at www.glocalismjournal.net



2 ELIA ZARU

Globalization shows precisely this interconnection by analysing the notions of order and disorder in global, national and local contexts, and the relationship between local disorder and global unrest. As manifested in the case studies analysed by Body-Gendrot, new technologies play a fundamental role in the intersection between global and local, especially those which allow to share information.

Whether these new processes constitute a "second act" of globalization – as stated by Roland Fitoussi (Mondialisation acte II. Le choc de l'intelligence artificielle) – or not, by helping in the dissemination of local experiences on a global scale they clearly open up new perspectives and possibilities. Some of these alternative experiences are analysed in Manuel Castells' Another Economy is Possible: Culture and Economy in a Time of Crisis. The author examines innovative answers to the financial and economic crisis, capable of innovating the organization of work and life: cooperatives, barter networks, ethical banking, community currencies, shared time banks, solidarity networks, sharing of goods, non-monetary transactions and others, like the creation of cryptographic virtual currencies.

Economy, Castells argues, is a human practice shaped by culture. Thus, the diversity of culture implies the possibility of different economies depending on the values and power relations that define economic institutions. Moreover, human actions and interactions are crucial in the whole process of globalisation. Thus, as stated by Fred Dallmayr and Edward Demen (A World Beyond Global Disorder. The Courage to Hope), even in the "global disorder" we face today, it is possible to find the courage to hope and act for the improvement of the world, and this courage must be located in humanity.

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ELIA ZARU

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