

Preface

The articles included in this issue of *Interações* are papers that propose empirically oriented reviews, based on both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The first two articles have, moreover, the specificity of combining the two types of methodology.

The volume opens with an exploratory article by Varvara Lalioti on the responsiveness of the labour market to apprenticeships in Greece. In a context in which the academic and political discussion on the impact of apprenticeships on the labour market is gaining importance, particularly in the countries most affected by the recent economic and financial crisis, Varvara Lalioti's research is of particular interest, drawing attention to the weaknesses that apprenticeship programs may present. The main objective of the author is to assess the extent to which Greek apprenticeship programs can be seen as an alternative to the traditional academic pathway, opening up greater possibilities for young people to enter the labour market. Varvara Lalioti concludes that although the Greek apprenticeship system reveals some potential, several problems prevent it from being a viable alternative to academic education and to successful integration into the labour market. The author concludes his article advocating the need for a policy that directs apprenticeship to a perspective more labour market-oriented.

In the article “Pension Policy Dimension to Ghanaian Workers Housing Needs Provision”, Delali Dovie, Isabella R. Ayimey and Phebiemary Adodo-Samani analyze the capacity of the pension system in Ghana to meet the housing needs and expectations of its working population. This is a very important issue in countries that combine growing population aging with weak or even non-existent formal support infrastructures for older generations. The authors articulate this issue with other critical issues of governance in developing countries and note that their observations can be extrapolated to other sub-Saharan African countries with similar characteristics.

João Pedro Batista and Marlene Pereira intend to investigate the «capacity of the electorate to understand, recognize and self-position in the various political

fields related to the left-right political scale. Through the launch of a questionnaire survey to the Vila Real constituency, the authors sought to understand the political ideology of the respondents and to analyze how they perceive and self-position themselves in the left-right dyad. The starting point that moves them is to understand if «the electorate is self-positioned (...) when asked about their ideological self-perception, according to their party identity and electoral decision». The authors, through the application of a left-right political scale already used by other researchers in different sociopolitical contexts, reached results consonant with the academic literature on the subject. Thus, João Pedro Batista and Marlene Pereira verify that the self-positioning of the respondents is strongly influenced by their political-partisan position, which indicates difficulties in understanding the left-right dyad. At a time when several studies question, in theoretical terms, the relevance of the left-right dichotomy, the article is of particular interest in that it shows that it continues to be valid «not only in guidance but also in political language for all involved in a civilized and political world».

Gabriel Ferrerinho's article focuses on the circulation of goods from the download of torrents and departs from the discussions of Marcel Mauss's works on the notion of gift, to understand the relation between this concept and the form of peer-to-peer sharing, made possible by the operation of the torrents. Set in the triple relation of giving, receiving and returning, the download by torrent shows, according to Gabriel Ferrerinho, that in a world in which the capitalist system is the hegemonic form of production, exchange and distribution, there remain sociabilities in which the exchanges in the form of gift coexist with the utilitarian character of the transactions. In his work, Gabriel Ferrerinho questions the relationship between the process of sharing made possible by the download of torrents and the notion of solidarity. Is it necessary, the author asks himself, to find an altruistically pure motivation to maintain the notion of gift linked to the idea of solidarity, or is it that the motivation of the users is driven mainly by selfish interests?

Francisco Xavier Freire Rodrigues and Allan Kardec Pinto Acosta Benitez study the mediating role of *várzea* football (the term used in Brazil for football practiced in the districts, villages and favelas fields, and which has no structure) in the São Gonçalo Beira Rio Community, in Cuiabá, in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil. The authors used life histories as a method and the conducting of semi-structured interviews as data collection technique. Having as concern the analysis of the relationships and conflicts and contradictions between football teams in the community studied, their

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work seeks to show the role of *várzea* football in the mediation of local differences and how it modifies space and relations between groups and individuals.

In the essay that closes the volume, Deepak Gupta, Kanthi Ariyaratne, Abdul Cader Refai and Shyamali Rathnayake highlight the challenges in the communication that are placed in the context of the fight against tuberculosis in Sri Lanka. After emphasizing that the fight against tuberculosis has been a concern of the Government of Sri Lanka, the authors point out that the different incidence rates are related to the socio-economic vulnerability of the population and with gender. The challenges in communicating in health are then confronted with various theoretical and conceptual frameworks. The authors argue that the process of determining the conceptual and communication approach to be taken in the fight against tuberculosis should be a strategic and systematic effort. The conception of health communication programs takes as its starting point both the “felt needs” at the level of the social system, as well as the “action needs”. The authors conclude their essay by presenting a synopsis of the technical recommendations for communication in health based on three pillars: advocacy, communication and social mobilization.

Inês Amaral
Maria João Barata
Vasco Almeida