

The turbulent global convergence game Introduction

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Abstract

This special issue is a very prestigious outcome of the research, debating, policy agenda setting following up the 8th World Complexity Science Academy (WCSA) conference held at the huge venue of the European Parliament Office in Rome. As a think-and-do-tank, WCSA aims to facilitate the worldwide sharing of high added-value knowledge and the free circulation of intellectual and strategic capitals at a global scale, thereby facilitating transnational and supranational win/win policies.

Keywords: Hypercitizenship, Social System, Networking, Policymaking, Policymodel

Riassunto. *La grande convergenza globale e le sue turbolenze*

Questo numero speciale è tra i più prestigiosi risultati di ricerca raggiunti da WCSA in termini di ricerca scientifica e di policy a seguito dell'VIII conferenza tenutasi presso la sede italiana in Roma del Parlamento Europeo. L'obiettivo è incrementare tutte quelle azioni di think-and-do-tank, in grado di supportare la conoscenza in tutto il mondo e la diffusione di lavori scientifici strategici su scala globale, facilitando in tal modo, le politiche win/win transnazionali e sovranazionali.

Parole chiave: ipercittadinanza, sistemi sociali, networking, policymaking, policymodel

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WCSA is also an organizational systemic hub of a network of world-class complexity system scholars, professionals, entrepreneurs, investors, policy modelers and policymakers for the diffusion of the “Complex System Approach” inspired by Niklas Luhmann’s systemic constructivism for addressing the main global challenges in terms of world-order policy-modeling and policy-making.

The multidimensional political sciences based on a system and process vision of the world order is the key domain of WCSA research and policy shaped by a complex system

approach with its interdisciplinary paradigm and applied tools.

The complex systemic vision also supported by dynamic multi-dimensional processes provides new evolutionary changes and challenges for the human species is a key pillar of WCSA vision. Its policy core is the evolution of citizenship on an interconnected planet, specifically in the shape of Hypercitizenship with its four (4) dimensions: 1) cosmopolitan, 2) scientific, 3) entrepreneurial 4) societal.

That is why, WCSA a world-class think tank is more and more attracting and at the same is attracted by scholars, investors, entrepreneurs, policy modelers, and policymakers basically sharing these key features shaping Hypercitizenship and letting WCSA be also a Hypercitizen community.

1) The concept of cosmopolitan vision is a key contribution by Beck (2006), who states that:

Cosmopolitanism [...] is a vital theme of European civilization and European consciousness and beyond that of global experience [...] What do we mean then by the cosmopolitan outlook? Global sense, a sense of boundarylessness. An everyday, historically, alert, reflexive awareness of ambivalence in a milieu of burying differentiation and cultural contradictions (Beck, 2006, p. 2).

The cosmopolitan outlook can be described as follows:

First, the principle of experience of crisis in world society. The awareness of interdependence and the resulting civilizational community of fate induce by global risks and crises which overcomes the boundaries between internal and external, us and them, the national and the international.

Second, the principle of recognition of cosmopolitan differences and the resulting cosmopolitan conflict character and the (limited) curiosity concerning differences of culture and identity.

Third, the principle of cosmopolitan empathy and of perspective taking and the virtual interchangeability of situations (as both an opportunity and a threat).

Fourth the principle of the impossibility of living in a world society without borders and

there consulting compulsion to redraw old boundaries and rebuild old walls.

Fifth the *mélange* principle: the principle that local, national, ethnic, religious and cosmopolitan cultures and traditions interpenetrate, interconnect and intermingle- cosmopolitanism without provincialism is empty, provincialism without cosmopolitanism is blind (Beck, 2006, p. 7).

2) Science intensive, knowledge-based policy modeling, and procedural decision making. This concept refers to Nowotny's key contribution of scientific citizenship which features the knowledge based society; she affirms:

A knowledge based society also increase its production of epistemic things, various kinds of abstract objects, and technical artifacts that are subject to the same rules. The democratization of scientific expertise is also merely the expansion of principles of governance that have served the Western liberal democracies well. Today, science and technology are no longer viewed with awe but are part of everyday life. Mediated by the educational system and qualifications and certificates people acquire, they determine people's chances of upward social mobility, their working world, and the course of their biographies. It is thus logical to extend the concept of citizenship to science and technology. «Scientific citizenship» comprises right and duties and asks about both the functions that expanded concept of citizenship could fulfill in social integration and also the duties that arise from it for citizens as well as for political institutions and administrations" (2008, p. 23).

3) Entrepreneurial self-constructing, wide horizon spirit. This key concept is inspired by the volume *The Entrepreneurial Society* (Audretsch, 2007). The entrepreneurial mentality and vision are synonym of proactivity, wide horizon strategy, relentless evolution (Laszlo, 2008), continuity in goal attainment, clear goal setting, high speed in changing methods, tools and tactics if required to reach to fixed goal and so on. The entrepreneurial attitude and vision imply "lifelong" learning, evolutionary citizens who are always ready to distinguish shifts and shocks are mostly in their own emotional self-control and when the shock is coming (shaped as the Schumpeterian winds of creative destruction as shown in Pitasi and Ferone, 2008) they are already aware of how to act strategically and consistently. They do not cross and not wish to cross their lifetime as Broch's Sleepwalkers (2011).

4) Social autonomy structuration to a systemic global level. Last key concept is

concerning with the previous and it is a sort of consequence. The knowledge society challenges «dramatically provokes strong public opinion debates and their consequences» easily witness that emotional, incompetent reactions and attitudes simply generate a growing public misunderstanding of science, technology and their socio-economical impacts. That is why scientific citizenship is emerging faster and faster to solve the “incompetence” problem. Scientific citizenship is reconfiguring itself and it is emerging in the shape of societarian citizenship (Donati, 1993), inspired by the autonomous, self-organizing “spirit” and mood of the most competent and skilled knowledge-based elites, educated according to the most self-reflexive, relational, responsible freedom (Pitasi, 2015).

Social and public engagement by not profit organizations is crucial as far as it allows the emergence of new trends, requests and needs if these organizations are cosmopolitan, managed by an entrepreneurial spirit and science intensive to follow the deliberative systemic procedures. When these organizations fail to accomplish or reject this cosmopolitan, science based, entrepreneurial and societarian model, they turn into noisy movement expressing the most emotional moods of the crowds in radical democracy participation fueled by bias and common sense. That is why e-democracy, for example, is becoming more and more procedural and complex. Organizations allowing e-voting have very clear settings and ranks to vote admittance (Pitasi, 2016).

The four key concepts, Cosmopolitanism, scientific citizenship, entrepreneurship, societal autonomy, are the four dimension of a new idea of citizenship, called Hypercitizenship (Pitasi, 2012, 2015, 2016). Hypercitizenship is sketched out by designing a multidimensional and multipolar convergence among different kinds of citizenship above explained. With its four conceptual dimensions, Hypercitizenship, features the strategic attitude of those areas in which capitalism is turning into turbogenetic capitalism. The Hypercitizenship concept is focused on the fact that communication about key challenges of our times is increasingly meaning communication and public understanding of science and technology for governance and policymaking on a global, glocal and cosmopolitan scale. (Pitasi and Ferone, 2019).

This vision has led the whole WCSA activity since it was founded in 2009. The evolution

of WCSA since its origins in 2009 and with its annual conference, WCSA promoted scientific dissemination and the systemic approach to face the global challenges of our time.

The WCSA I Conference, took place in Bologna on December 4th–5th 2010, was entitled *Policy Modelling for key challenges of the 21st century*. Bologna, European Union is also the WCSA headquarter since its very beginning. The aim was to focus on the epistemological, theoretical, methodological, technical, and practical contributions of the systemic approach to face the key global challenges and bifurcations of our times.

In this event, the WCSA medal was inaugurated as an award to whom succeeded in developing and spreading the systemic approach becoming an emblematic figure of a new vision of the world. First WCSA medalist was Ervin Laszlo, also nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize. As evidence of WCSA commitment to promote a systemic vision that can serve as basis for a new political, economic, social, legal and the WCSA Declaration was also drawn up in Bologna. It still contains and summarizes the whole WCSA vision at its roots although a revised version might be shaped and launched for the X Conference., the first great WCSA anniversary.

The attention to the challenges of our time also guided the second Conference held in Palermo (I European Union) on September 26th–27th 2011, this time with a focus on a specific topic: the energy agenda. The II Conference *Complexity Systemic Sciences and Global Energy Agenda* aim was to deal with interdisciplinary perspective rooted in the systemic approach to shape a scientific and policy agenda to face the energy challenges of our times on a global scale. In Palermo the second WCSA Medal for Lifetime Achievement was assigned to Klaus Krippendorff world class scholar whose work of quantitative analysis have laid the methodological basis for the network analysis fundamental for the complex systems studies.

The third and fourth Conferences were designed as sequential steps to create multidimensional networks dealing with complex systems to select between the historical and no longer knowledge in the field and the viable systemic knowledge.

The III Conference *Mapping Systemic Knowledge* (Vienna, November 18th–19th 2012) aim was clearly summarized in its title. The IV Conference *Redesigning Worldwide*

Connections (Tenerife, December 15th–16th 2013) was focused on both the most recent achievements of the theoretical debate on Complexity Theory and Systemic, and the uses of these theories in specific, practical-strategic domains.

Budapest was the location of the fifth Conference: *Inventing the future in an age of contingency*, November 7th–8th 2014 In an age of contingency, the future seems to be a horizon which moves further and further as one tries to get closer. Risk, contingency, catastrophe and unpredictability turn the “future” into an unusual world in everyday semantics and, for example, in political communication. The word “future” often appears linked to the semantics of pessimism and catastrophism. Nevertheless, inventing the future is becoming more and more strategic in an age in which finance is the metaphor for value and wealth construction, and the convergence of Robotics, Informatics, Nanotechnologies and Genetics, or the so-called RING Singularity, is simultaneously turning the human being itself into contingency and infinite possibilities (Heidegger’s *Gegnet*), clarifying once again that the future cannot be predicted but can be invented.

The Budapest Conference accomplished the mission to gathered worldwide scholars to, directly or indirectly, answer this question: How would you utilize the systemic toolkit to design the world in 2030 in its key economical, juridical, sociological and technological aspects?

The VI Conference took place in Amsterdam on 16th–17th October 2015 and was titled *Systemic actions in complex scenarios: Converging interactions among public policies, business strategies and academic research*. The aim was challenging worldwide scholars, professionals, policy makers and businessmen sharing a systemic vision to, directly or indirectly, answer this question: How a systemic vision can be a strategic and applied resource to develop more and more powerful links among Government Policymaking, Academic Research and Investment/Business Strategies?

That is why the call was open to different kinds of systemic proposals as theoretical academic research papers, applied academic research papers and policy models

The purpose was to reach a multitasking and multidimensional audience composed from academics, professionals, managers, entrepreneurs, investors to facilitate the match finding

among strategic research, policy modelling institutional demand and investment/business ideas and plans. WCSA became a landmark not only for academic scholars so much than it concluded, among the others, a bilateral agreement with SFAI, a worldwide businessmen association.

5th and 6th January 2017, WCSA landed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The VII Conference *Governing Turbulence. Risk and Opportunities in the Complexity Age* was interdisciplinary as in the best WCSA style. Its key concept was. In the last decades, globalization has increased greatly for all social actors in terms of opportunities of knowledge, education, communication and financial profits. However, at the same time, the level of uncertainty has rapidly increased, mainly due to the enormous amount of cheap information that is available at any moment.

Frequently, an overload of information leads to risk, and it also makes it difficult to foresee possible consequences of any decision. Therefore, in such conditions many variables should be taken into consideration. It affects all spheres of social life: economic, social and political; as well as every level of decision making, from single individualsto local policy implementation, strategic managements of big organizations both public and private, national or even supranational. Due to the fact that complexity is common to diverse milieus, the best strategy to deal with uncertainty is to share knowledge from different domains beyond the disciplinarian and scientific borders.

These assumptions inspired also the VIII Conference, 13th–15th November 2018, *Turbulent Convergence: Digitalization and supernational lawmaking of the European Union for economic development and social equality in the global player scenario*. The current scenarios are composed of a decreasing number of bigger and bigger Global Players such as the EU, the USA, China, Russia, Brazil and very few others. These global players are already interconnected on a global scale by key phenomena like technological convergence and international treaties: CETA, NAFTA, and MERCOSUR for example. So to speak the link among Canada (NAFTA) with EU (CETA), Mexico (NAFTA member and MERCOSUR observing member) with Brazil (Mercosur full member) already shape a legislative alignment in which free trade, technological standardization and shared human

right and social equality policies tend to match more convergence both in digital and legal terms, and more at the viability level. The emerging key challenge is not how to launch new development, as the leverage of this alignment is already enormous and insofar evolutionary.

With VII and VIII Conferences, the WCSA medal was restyled in two different versions. The medalist for WCSA Distinguished and Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award 2018 were: Abram de Swaan, The Netherlands, (1942) the youngest of Norbert Elias' disciples whose methodology he adopted and developed by linking more and more in a systemic process macro, meso, micro and psycho-social dimensions in investigating global impact topics such as the evolution of welfare state, the management of public health, the evolution of social policies beyond borders and the violations on a global scale of the 1948 UN Declaration on human rights in his masterpiece *The Killing Compartments* (Yale, University Press, 2015) and Paolo De Nardis (1950), since his *L'equivoco sistema* (1988), he provided fundamental contributions in criticism about the rigidity and dogmatic features of system theory (mostly in Parsons) and he opened up the way to a more flexible and complex conception of system focusing on macro and strategic topics such as the world order policy modelling broadly developed by the author in his masterpiece *Sociologia del limite* (1999). At age 69, he is the doyen of the General Theory Italian sociologists as a piece of evidence of his outstanding achievements. The medalist for WCSA Best Junior Scholar 2018 was Natália Brasil Dib from Brazil for her paper *Hypercitizenship and Development* because the paper best understand, highlights and boosts WCSA scientific vision and aims for science based global governance. The Annual conferences are the most important annual event for WCSA but the World Complexity. All the WCSA world conferences are obviously research based and generate further research and academic publishing All the WCSA activities is based on the concept knowledge, sharing skills and the creation of a powerful global network are essential for successful research. Producing valid and viable large-scale knowledge is the key evolutionary scale of our times and WCSA proudly plays the game

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Central European Political Science Review titled *The Turbulent Global Convergence Game*, edited by Irma Johanna Mosquera Valderrama, Emilia Ferone and Giovana Camila Portolese and the book *Turbulent Convergence* edited by Natalia Brasil Dib, Sinan Mihelcic, Maria Mirabelli and published by Cambridge Scholar.

In ten years WCSA played important roles in networking network with ISA (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en>), ESA (<https://www.europeansociology.org/>) IFSR (<http://ifsr.org/>) and by signing bilateral agreements with several organizations worldwide (<http://www.wcsaglobal.org/partnership/>)¹. We have rather members in four continents and we are proudly serving to expand, to improve and provide value added research based policy modeling for more open, proactive, wealthy and peaceful global order.

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