
Preface

As in the previous issues of the journal, scholars from different research fields participate in this issue that encompasses a variety of critical, theoretical and methodological approaches and registers.

In her article “Social Property Relations and Payment for Environmental Services: a Case Study in a Rural Community in Mexico,” Gabriela de la Mora de la Mora presents a case study centered on the rural community of Chichila, Mexico, which has implemented a local project of payment for environmental services to the neighboring town of Taxco. The author demonstrates that direct control of natural resources helps local people in the community to construct an idea of property and their own concept of environmental services.

Marius Kalanta focuses on coordination that in the Varieties of Capitalism approach is described as ways in which firms and other actors engage in political-economic relations. His article contributes to the analysis of main conditions influencing the establishment of coordination and the achievement of particular coordination equilibriums in political economy.

In her article “Contemporary Hinduism and the Religious Field in Lithuania,” Milda Ališauskienė examines contemporary Hinduism in Lithuania, the issues of its identification and definition, a variety of its forms and public attitudes towards it. According to her, studies and research of “living Hinduisms” in Lithuania are under-developed because these groups distance themselves from the traditional religion and emphasize their aims to disseminate spirituality. Ališauskienė’s research demonstrates that, on the one hand, the majority of communities representing contemporary Hinduism in Lithuania form a spiritual milieu supported by society, because they are not perceived as a threat to Catholicism; and, on the other hand, members of Hinduism groups experience antagonism towards their beliefs and practices from their relatives and friends.

Rūta Ruolytė-Verschoore and Jonas Ruškus analyze the position of disabled students in the Lithuanian higher education institutions. Their research demonstrates that students with disabilities encounter a variety of obstacles: a lack of access to physical and informational environment, a lack of flexibility in study organization process, the absence of special services and academic community’s skeptical attitude towards their study abilities. However, the authors also show that civically engaged disabled students are able to make higher education institutions more hospitable to disabled people and more acceptable of disability.

In her article “Bounded Rationality of an Individual Choice in the Lithuanian Pension System,” Daiva Skučienė evaluates the topic of individual choice in the Lithuanian pension system and the limits of its rationality in public discourse. Although individual choice and personal responsibility are particularly emphasized in the Lithuanian public discourse, the bounded rationality of an individual choice in the Lithuanian pension system is related to the population’s lack of information on the pension system.

Sandra Krutulienė focuses on the definition of quality of life and its relation to other notions of good life such as welfare, well-being and the standard of living. The author argues that in order to clarify the content of these definitions, different aspects affecting the formation of various notions of the quality of life should be analyzed and explicated.

This issue of the journal also includes a review of a recently published academic book in the field of the sociology of religion.

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