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(Eds.)

Contemporary Perspectives on Justice

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Editorial

Contemporary Perspectives on Justice

Wenzel Matiaske & Sérgio Costa & Hauke Brunkhorst

Justice is a fundamental category in the social field as well as in social sciences. However, public and also scientific debates take place in narrow thematic boundaries. On the one hand, this debate is still held within the limiting concept of the nation-state, yet it is focused in the distinguished discourses of social sciences' sub-disciplines. Even though this thematic narrowing may be justified – e.g. because distribution problems are linked to specific regulations of the nation-states and because the disciplinary focusing of the discourse leads to more conceptual clarity and promotes the gain of specific empirical knowledge – they do not prove to be adequate to contemporary problems of justice.

From today's viewpoint, the limitation to the nation-state was, in general, certainly no appropriate frame to address justice. But in a world society that has been promoted by globalisation processes, also the base of the traditional paradigm of development policy was shattered, prolonging the idea of the welfare state with respect to redistribution in the European post-war era along the north-south axis. The successes and failures of global economy have introduced new players to the game and limited the manoeuvring room of the former team captains in terms of an emphatic distribution policy. At the same time, new social inequalities arise in rich and in poor economies, which are not restricted to the material dimension alone. It is no longer solely about poverty and wealth or development and underdevelopment, but also about crossing ethnical, cultural and social barriers of participation.

At the same time this constellation is a challenge for the disciplines of social sciences. The complexity of the problems should promote cooperation - or at least a discussion - that crosses disciplinary boundaries. The often requested interdisciplinarity, however, does not come about because there is a need, but rather requires occasions. The "New Perspectives on Justice" conference, of which contributions and other articles are compiled in this volume, therefore addresses authors rooted in (social-) philosophy, sociology, political science and economics.

In his article "Two Dimensions of Global Justice", *Bernd Ladwig* elicits the problem of narrowness when focusing on the nation state in the debate on justice against the background of the challenge of a universal egalitarianism, whereas *Hauke Brunkhorst* puts the myth of the state up for discussion. *Gerhard Hauck* poses the question, to which extent the fragile link between redistribution and recognition can endure in a global economy. From the systems theory perspective

on the topic of justice, *Thore Prien* reconstructs the discourse of the Frankfurt School.

Regina Kreide elucidates the connection between Global Governance and Human Rights. Justice from the perspective of different welfare state regimes is the subject of *Christian Bender's* contribution. *Barbara Fritz* discusses the problem with a view to economic inclusion and exclusion in Latin-American states. The legal aspects of exploitation in globalised modernity are put up for discussion by *Susan Marks*. *Jana Rieckmann*, *Ali Sungur* and *Sophie Wulk* elicit in their contribution on FRONTEX the question of integration in the context of the European Union. *Anne Reichold* illustrates justice and gender relations in the family from the viewpoint of social philosophy.

Kurt April, *Amanda April* and *Eddie Blass* discuss the concept of diversity in the European context and distinguish their perspective from the hegemonic Anglo-American discourse. *Peter Imbusch* refers back to the elites with regard to corporate social responsibility and corporate citizenship in the context of globalisation. In her contribution, *Christine Gröneweg* highlights the discussion around corporate social responsibility and points out connections to Christian social ethics, which are anchored in the German tradition of business economics in particular. *Wenzel Matiaske* outlines the classical positions of social exchange theory in sociology and links them with contemporary institutional economics.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the authors for their contributions, the conference delegates for exciting discussions and the DAAD as well as the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Science, Economic Affairs and Transport for their support.

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