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User Perceptions of Social Networking Sites During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Romania

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Abstract

Today, social media and social networking sites represent active platforms for the dissemination of information, important channels of communication among global individuals, and useful tools for the establishment of any relationship. Along with individuals, companies use social networks as an informal method to efficiently communicate with their consumers/suppliers, collect data about their activity, and deliver personalized content. The interest towards the influence of social networks on human behavior is shared by both researchers from the academic field, as well as by managers from different companies in their pursuit to boost their competitive advantage or their market shares. Therefore, the current study aims to analyze user perceptions regarding a wide variety of concepts associated with the use of social networking sites, such as fear of missing out (FoMO), social networking fatigue, information & communication overload, ubiquitous connectivity & peer communication, and privacy concerns. To ensure a more comprehensive interpretation of the research subject, the authors also analyzed the desire of users to continue using social networking sites, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results intend to offer an overview of user perceptions regarding the concepts listed above and to provide a better understanding of how users perceive social networks interaction in their daily life.

Keywords: Social Media, Social Networking Sites, User Perceptions, COVID-19 Pandemic.

Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor as a Violation of Albanian Criminal Code

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Abstract

Forcing a minor to commit a criminal offense is considered a crime in the Republic of Albania and is punishable. Regardless of whether or not the instigator participated in the criminal act, this crime figure is referred to as formal and does not necessarily require consequence under current laws. The future of Albania, as well as of any country, is closely related to the life development that every young person experience from his first steps until reaching adulthood. From a subjective standpoint, such a negative impact on a juvenile, such as incitement to commit a criminal action, may lead to a tendency to adult criminality, making the study of this topic and future court judgment essential. According to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, the incitement of juveniles to crime occurs at two different points. The first expresses the punishment that will be imposed on the instigator in committing this criminal offense, and the second expresses the minimum age limit for who will be considered the juvenile instigated in committing this crime. The Criminal Code defines incitement of juveniles to crime shortly, leaving room for interpretation and leaving doubt as to whether the sentence or age limit set is fair.

When we compare the psychological and legal aspects of this criminal offense, the question of whether the punishment determined by the legislator is proportionate to the danger of the criminal offense arises. The main focus will be on Article 129 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, which will be examined separately due to the age limit of "under 14 years old."

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Criminal Code, Crime, Instigaton.

Use of Simulation for Phase Transitions Testing

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Abstract

In this paper we used programming environment of program code *Mathematica* for the development of efficient Monte Carlo (MC) simulations of Lenz-Ising model for the purposes of computer aided lecturing in the field of phase transitions and critical phenomena. We found motivation for this work in the fact that the best results in lecturing are achieved by the experiment and direct activity of students. Since the phase transitions and critical phenomena encompass very complex areas of physics, any help is very welcome. These simulations last for a few seconds and are therefore very suitable for both instructional and independent work. Another usage of performed simulations may be in the introductory parts in the field of computational physics or MC simulations.

Keywords: Monte Carlo simulation, 2D Ising model, phase transitions, education, demonstration.

Truth or dare: Enriching the educational process of an university management course through a classroom business simulation game

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Abstract

In the literature that focuses on developing and implementation of games in an educational context and pedagogical use of simulation and role play as teaching techniques, the debate on higher education as a staging area is still underrepresented. Moreover, one of the many limitations of previous research is the prevalence of contextual-oriented considerations within the pedagogical process (i.e., terminological barriers due to learning in a second language, transition paradigm school/college to university, non computer based simulation games) and the lack of studies dealing with an in-depth presentation of developed business games through mentioning the descriptors and implemented game elements. We address this issues in our empirical studies that are based on: (1) semantic analysis of four decades of games in higher education literature, and (2) content analysis of three focus groups with the game players (i.e., the participant students), overlapped with the augmentation of content through the use of natural language processing, thus determining the participant's feelings and emotions. Our results underline the relevance of a more nuanced consideration of games as tools for knowledge transfer and skill acquisition in a higher education context, at least in the field of business and management subjects, designed for first semester undergraduate students.

Keywords: game, simulation game, higher education, management teaching.

Self-organization in the social plane as the basis of the parallel system

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Abstract

The legal/constitutional reality of '89, through which not only a political reality was being tried to be changed, but also an ethnic and social one, produced more and more aggravating circumstances, which naturally made life difficult and, in many cases, even made it impossible.

While the efforts of any form for submission and degradation did not cease, on the other hand as a result of such a state other new efforts were produced which were in the function of preserving the being and survival.

Facing this reality was undoubtedly becoming more difficult, and thus also making it impossible for life to develop in normal circumstances, at the moment when the tendency appeared to implement a policy of submission, a total of 90 percent of Albanians employed in the state economy - about 115,000 people lost their jobs. So, it was this abnormality that disrupted the normal institutional order, and also produced successive challenges to the extent of deepening the social crisis in the country.

The escalation of the situation on various levels, imposed first and foremost self-organization on the social level, as a single opportunity to cope with the aggravated situation. The situation that the Kosovar society was facing and this interaction itself, speaks openly that during this period of 90-99, we encounter these forms of self-organization of Albanians, is with Solidarity and Philanthropy.

Keywords: solidarity, philanthropy, legal/constitutional reality, political disobedience

A Study of Attitudes toward Feminism and Gender Equality in Thailand (Based on Generation X-Y-Z)

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Abstract

From the study of historians, it was recorded that gender inequality had already been entrenched in middle eastern societies by the second century BCE. Society was indoctrinated with patriarchy for a long period and some groups of people used to propose the equal rights amendment but the amendment failed to gain widespread support in the 1920s. Therefore, that made many people especially LGBTQ+ people and women experience discrimination. However, nowadays, gender equality has become a significant component of society and people are more likely aware of it such as the wage gap, marriage equality, and civil union. Several groups of people are supporting the call for gender equality in societies such as Feminists. Many people misunderstand that feminism only focuses on girls and women. In fact, feminism has always been about supporting gender equality and justice. Although some people's values have changed, it is well known that society is made up of different age groups. Thus, instilled attitudes or notions may influence people of different ages to have different gender-based values which cause an argument between them. According to the argument and problems that this misunderstanding may lead to, this article intends to investigate Thai people's attitudes toward feminism among generations x, y, and z to see what they think of feminism and trend for the next generations.

Keywords: Feminism, Feminist, Gender equality, Gender-based value, Generation, Right

The Impact of the Ongoing Development of the Digital Technology on the Enforcement of Judgements in Civil Proceedings

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Abstract

The ongoing development of the digitalisation and smart technology economy has also inevitably impacted the enforcement of judgements in civil proceedings. The global evolution of the Internet over the past 30 years has created a new type of assets, digital assets, and digital asset recovery should become a standard practice for bailiffs in the near future. Digital property includes not only bitcoins or other cryptocurrencies, but also online or investment accounts (e.g. PayPal, Revolut), e-mail addresses, social networks (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) accounts, internet domains. All of this can have not only personal, but also economic value.

The International Union of Judicial Officers (UIJH) is initiating the creation of a Global Code for the Enforcement of Digital Assets, which aims to accelerate the development of practical recovery tools covering various types of digital property.

The idea of this Proposal is to address new and relatively unexplored issues arising from the transformation of legal institutes in the digital age, it is important to present newly developed concepts of the enforcement of judgements to the community of legal theorists and practicing bailiffs (and to the general public) and to initiate further research in this field.

The main objective in this Proposal is to examine the problems encountered in digital asset recovery and to propose modern concepts for regulating the process of the enforcement of judgements.

Taking into account the absence of extensive research into the transformation of the process of enforcement of judgements in the digital age, a contemporary legal science is challenged with a crucial objective to scientifically evaluate this new and constantly evolving legal phenomenon, get familiar with it, set the guidelines for its application, develop appropriate traditions.

The originality of this Proposal lies in its interdisciplinary nature, which is still in the process of being defined as a subject of law, including the effects of digitisation and smart technologies on the enforcement of judgements in civil proceedings and the transformation of these proceedings.

The research objectives selected by the author of this Proposal are essentially original due to the fact that they encompass enforcement of judgments based on examination of the subject of directing enforcement to analysis of digital assets, covering various types of digital property, and developing legal frameworks for the digital economy and digital asset recovery, while the formulation of scientific tasks, the chosen methodology and the research plan form a creative approach to solving complex problems.

The impact of personality traits, aggression and religiosity on swearing

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Abstract

This study aimed to analyze, the relation between personality traits, religiosity, aggression and swearing. In order to investigate the link between the aforementioned variables, 230 participants (39.1% men, $M_{age} = 21.26$) completed several questionnaires: the HEXACO Personality Inventory (HEXACO-PI-R-100, Ashton & Lee, 2015), The Religious Commitment Inventory-10 (RCI-10) (Worthington et al., 2003), The Brief Agression Questionnaire: BPAQ-SF-12 (Webster et al., 2014) and the Attitude Toward Swearing Scale (Mokbel & Wright, 2016). They also reported the general frequency of swearing. The results show a strong negative correlation between that attitude towards swearing Agreeableness, Honesty-Humility, and Altruism, and also a moderate correlation with eXtraversion. There was no significant correlation between that attitude towards swearing and Emotionality, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience. Frequency of swearing showed a similar pattern of results, in the sense that we found a strong negative correlation with agreeableness and conscientiousness and a not-significant correlation with Emotionality, eXtraversion, Openness to Experience, and Altruism. One of the more interesting results showed a strong positive correlation between the frequency of swearing and Honesty-Humility. Religiosity also correlated negatively with both attitude towards swearing and frequency of swearing. Moreover, all forms of aggression, hostility and anger correlated positively with attitude towards swearing. Finally, several regression models were tested to highlight how the variables investigated predict both the frequency and attitude towards swearing.

Keywords: swearing, religiosity, HEXACO, aggression, honesty-humility

Dance practices of forming ethnic identity in the Arvanites of Evros, Greece. The "construction" and "reconstruction" of the Syrtos dance

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Abstract

In Greece, the area of Evros is characterized by cultural pluralism, as it is inhabited by various ethnic groups, one of which is the Arvanites, an Albanian-speaking group of Orthodox Christian denominations. Due to their allophone, the Arvanites rapidly acculturated. The junta, which prevailed in Greece from 1967-1974, also contributed to this event, and which "invented" a dance repertoire, similar for all ethnic groups in the region. The aim of this research is to study the "construction" of the ethnic identity of the Arvanites. In particular, this study attempts, through the recording and analysis of the dance Syrtos, one of the main dance of the repertoire of all Greece, to study the changes that underwent the identity of the Arvanites of Greece during a century. The data collection was carried out with the ethnographic method, while the comparative method was used for their processing. The recording of the Syrtos dance was based on the Laban notation system. Finally, for the interpretation of the data, the identity control theory was used, under the analytical terms of acculturation. From the data analysis, was found that the Syrtos dance presented various changes in all three components of its three-dimensional existence, depending on the historical-social-political context. As follows, the identity of the Arvanites followed these stages and was reshaped many times. Reaching the present, the Arvanites try to retribalize, showing others their "Arvanitika" songs and dances. In this way, they invented a new dance tradition, which is unknown to the locals, who consider the invented dance repertoire of the junta "their own".

Keywords: Dance invention, Arvanites, ethnography, acculturation, identity.

This research is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund-ESF) through the Operational Programme «Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning» in the context of the project “Reinforcement of Postdoctoral Researchers – 2nd Cycle” (MIS-5033021)”, implemented by the State Scholarship Foundation (IKY).



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Students' Perceptions of Online Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Approach

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Abstract

The current study aimed to conduct a psychosocial analysis of the transition from face-to-face, traditional courses to online teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic. The sample include 209 undergraduate and postgraduate students who were invited to fill five main tasks, i.e., free association task, open questions about the advantages and disadvantages of online learning, suggestions for improving online learning, and sharing a personal experience lived during this period. Results from free association task showed the most frequently themes associated with online learning referred to psychological problems (stress, decreased motivation, isolation/loneliness, negative emotions), positive (comfort, avoiding traffic, saving resources) and negative aspects of online learning (lower quality of education, additional academic tasks, boredom/monotony, etc.). Comfort, accessibility, and saving time are the main advantages of online learning while social (lack of social interactions, lack of face-to-face communication) and psychological problems (stress, anxiety, decreased motivation_ are its main disadvantages. The personal experiences shared by our respondents allowed for the distinction of two types of learners; the first type is adapted to online learning which is perceived as a new opportunity for personal challenge while the second type is struggling to adapt to online learning experiencing higher levels of anxiety and shyness. Based on these findings, practical recommendations for universities and researchers are discussed.

Keywords: student perceptions, e-learning, online, Covid-19 pandemic, qualitative study

Organization Theory and New Disruptive Technologies

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Abstract:

Theorist of organization must seriously consider the impact of new technologies on organizational theorizing and the relationship between organizational design, structure and performance. Organizations are not consensual. Different goals reflect different people's particular interests and needs, goals that might conflict with one another. The fascinating proposition of blockchain technology lies in the ability of an algorithm to determine consensus across a decentralized network without resorting to an external authority for decision and enforcement. When AI is combined with smart contracts and distributed ledger technology (DLT), it becomes possible to develop an organization without management or employees, completely constructed using code. The result is a decentralized autonomous organization (DAO), in which AI agents act completely autonomously and with intentionality. This paper considering DAO as a complex mechanism that operate autonomously, automatically conform to compliance and radically change decision-making within organizations. The rapid advancements of new disruptive technologies has compelled us to take these initial steps in examining how our organizational theories may be challenged and changed by these technological developments. This paper proves that previous approaches to organizational theory, especially managerialism as a prevailing approach, are not functional and do not co-opt with current organizational practices based on new decentralized disruptive technologies.

Keywords: organization theory, management, blockchain, smart contract, DAO, artificial intelligence.

Educational gardens

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Abstract

People, especially children and adolescents depend on electronic devices and the Internet. Genuine contact with nature is lost. With the climate crisis, the Covid - 19 pandemic and the challenges posed by social change, awareness of the importance of more harmonious coexistence of man and nature is returning.

Research shows that children are very distant from natural phenomena. The so-called "new ignorance", the absence of direct physical and sensory contact, is spreading.

The thesis aims to shed light on the role of gardens in education. We look at educational gardens from the point of view of pedagogy; we define the importance of experiential learning. Children get acquainted with all the senses with new knowledge in the gardens.

Garden is a concept of different performances. We display the educational types of gardens: botanical gardens, arboretums, school gardens, and private educational gardens.

Educational gardens at various levels of education, from kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and beyond, are essential in growing children's and adolescents' personality and emotional competencies and personality traits. Knowledge about gardens is no longer passed from generation to generation. Research on the involvement of pupils and students in gardens confirms good connections between motivation and their achievements in various fields. They also confirm the impact on creativity and critical thinking. With the chapter on the interdisciplinarity of garden pedagogy, we show some practical ways to achieve goals in individual subjects.

Educational gardens are a great help in overcoming the distance of young people from the processes in nature. Experiential learning in gardens reduces the distance from natural processes. All the research results confirmed our hypothesis that gardens are an excellent educational tool. The active participation of children and adolescents in gardens increases their mental, emotional, social and physical growth.

By increasing the involvement of educational gardens in learning processes, it is possible to influence the motivation of young people and block the path of "new ignorance".

Keywords: gardens, education, experiential learning, motivation, new ignorance

Determinants of the Average Annual Wage in OECD Countries: An Empirical Analysis for the Period 2011 – 2020

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Abstract

In economics, wages do not present just a cost of production or the price of labor. Wages also mean the source of income that will be used to cover total consumption, and consequently, the level of GDP will be affected. This paper analyzes the possible determinants of the average annual salary. The dependent variable will be the average annual wage, while the independent variables will be productivity, inflation rate, unemployment rate and level of education. Researchers over the years have given different conclusions about the relationship between the level of salary and each of the variables mentioned. The study case includes OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries during the study period 2011 - 2020. Through this paper we would like to know if any of the factors taken for the study affect the change in the level of the average annual salary and how significant this impact is.

Keywords: wage, OECD

JEL classification: E24, J31

The prevalence of gingivitis in the child population of the Adjara region, Georgia and the definition of preventive measures

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Abstract

Inflammatory diseases of periodontal tissues are the most pressing problem of the dental service. The problem becomes especially acute when it comes to children and adolescents. In order to study the spread of gingivitis and plan further preventive measures, 482 students of the 12-year-old age group and 459 students of the 15-year-old age group were examined. BOP (Bleeding on prob) bleeding index was used to identify and evaluate the disease. The examination procedure was carried out at six points in the periodontal gap of each tooth. The prevalence of gingivitis at age 12 was 40.04%; 87.05% of patients had a local process (BOP = 10 - 30%), 12.95% had a generalized one (BOP \geq 31%). The prevalence of gingivitis at age 15 was 75,60%, 79,25% of patients had a local process (BOP = 10 - 30%), 20,75% had a generalized one (BOP \geq 31%). High rates of gingivitis prevalence were expressed in both age groups of mountain settlements in comparison with the inhabitants of the valleys (the Black Sea region). The calculation of the hygienic index OHI-S revealed that at 12 years old, the index is high, and averages 2.04. The average hygienic index in the 15-year-old age group was 1.59. Poor hygiene was identified as a risk factor, and early and correct oral hygiene was planned as part of a set of preventive measures.

Keywords: gingivitis, school children, hygiene, epidemiology, Ajara region (Georgia).

Exploring Main Markers of Georgianness - Dynamic Approach to Ethnicity

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Abstract

The paper considers the dynamics of the Georgian identity construction process.

Georgianness gets constructed through contradictions between conservative and traditional value orientations. The clash of ideas is facilitated by the fact that Georgian live at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. Also, it has conflicts with neighboring Russia that also influences Georgians by promoting ideas of orthodox Christianity. The living context of Georgians is a multicultural crossroad of different cultural systems and religions that makes their ethnic-identity construction multilayered. During my presentation, I will discuss representations of main value orientations spread among research subjects. Some of them include liberal-democratic orientations like individualism, feminism, secularization and on the other hand, traditional values like extended familism, male-centeredness and higher value of orthodox Christianity. The presentation is based on a qualitative thematic analysis of in-depth interviews with 28 research subjects. Implications of the dynamic approach to ethnicity and identity studies will be discussed.

Distance Learning in the Times of Covid-19 – Kosovar Teacher’s Perspective

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Abstract

Distance learning is a complex process of teaching and learning, which massively began to be used during the global pandemic COVID-19 throughout the world, which since March has become indispensable in Kosovo as well. These distance classes created a situation that was not stable for the education system in Kosovo and showed major educational challenges but also some benefits that teachers had from this experience.

The purpose of this research is to look in more detail at the challenges and opportunities of distance learning from the perspective of teachers. From a questionnaire distributed to 52 English teachers, data were extracted on the challenges and benefits of distance learning. The final analysis shows that despite the challenges, teachers were satisfied with the distance learning process and address the variety of technological tools, as well as the opportunity to try new teaching methods as main benefits. Meanwhile, the participants see the lack of students' access to technology that prevents them from developing their lessons properly as the major challenge during distance learning in COVID-19.

Keywords: Distance Learning, Challenges, Benefits, COVID-19, Education

JEL Classification: Health, Education, and Welfare
