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“Multimedia Technologies in Museum Education for People with Visual Impairments”

Dr. Antonia Tzanavara,
Adjunct Lecturer, Hellenic Open University
Email: toniatzan@hotmail.com

Abstract

The role, aim and identity of the museum in the 21st century are in transformation. Museums today strive to attract all groups of visitors, to meet their needs and expectations for an autonomous museum tour and an enjoyable experience in an inclusive and accessible environment. Many museums in this context of cultural democratization have set up initiatives to create digital devices and implement innovative applications for people with visual disabilities. Accessing museums has always been difficult for blind or partially sighted visitors, not to mention enjoying the works of Art. By introducing assistive new technology devices, museums provide special education services for visually impaired visitors, ensuring a pleasant stay in a barrier-free environment, where disabled people could feel welcome and coequal to any other “healthy” visitor.

Drawing, mainly, on the multimedia technologies in museum education for people with visual impairments, this paper presents several digital projects and applications, such as iMAP (Interpreting Visual Art for the Visually Impaired), HOMERE (Haptic audio Multimodality to Explore and Recognize the Environment), Be My Eyes and TapTapSee, Touching the Prado and Out Loud - Andy Warhol Museum, devices and apps that enhance and enrich museum education experience for blind or partially sighted visitors.

Keywords: Inclusivity, Accessibility, Visually impaired, Museum Education, Multimedia Technologies,

New World Order: Compromise Between Global and Regional Powers

Prof. Alexander Tomov

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

E-mail: tommovv.a@gmail.com

Abstract

The modern world is at the beginning of epochal changes. After the bipolar world (1950-1991), an attempt was made to create a single liberal world(1998-2015). This attempt turned out to be unrealistic, and today the world has entered the first phase of the so-called "multipolar world". In my books, I have been proving the inevitability of such an event for several decades now. By introducing a coefficient of global influence (GI index), I believe that the world is divided into global, regional powers and satellites. This will be a complex and controversial process that will probably last several decades. It would be a gross mistake to divide the world economy into closed blocs and destroy the Walltrade Organization system by giving priority to military blocs. There is another, much smarter scenario to give a green light to the widespread of new technologies and the associated new type of finance.

GDP in the context of Sustainable Development

Katarina Gajdosova¹

¹University of the People, Faculty of Business Administration, USA

Email: katarina.gajdosova@uopeople.edu

Abstract

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has traditionally been used to measure economic activity and growth. It also became a universal measurement of the quality of life. However, more than 40 years ago, the discussion arose on whether the growth measurement used is obsolete and not only does not include all the aspects of well-being but also promotes unsustainable activities. Primarily, the concern about the degradation of the environment, also valued as the ecosystem assets or natural capital, or the social costs and benefits, have been gaining high interest. In response to the limitations of the GDP, several economic metrics have been developed to convey economic performance in a way that reflects and supports sustainable development. This paper provides a chronological overview of such concepts, from the oldest Net Economic Welfare (NEW) to the newest Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP). Generally, these metrics could be divided into three categories; 1) adjusting GDP, 2) replacing GDP, and 3) supplementing GDP. The methodology is developing from a simplistic deduction and addition of certain activities from the GDP (or GNP) to more sophisticated methods using complex modeling systems to summarize the value of ecosystem services. However, if any of these new measures should be successful, it would need to achieve all the advantages of the GDP measurement, such as its simplicity, objectivity, and universality. On the other hand, the GDP could continue to be an effective measurement of economic growth when applied in conjunction with the sustainability concept of a circular economy.

Keywords: GDP, Net Economic Welfare (NEW), Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP), sustainable development, natural capital, circular economy.

Organizational culture as the motivator of service sector employees during the COVID – 19 pandemic

Nina Đurica¹, Slavica Dabetić¹, Maja Đurica¹,

¹Belgrade Business and Arts Academy of Applied Studies, Serbia

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: maja.djurica@bpa.edu.rs*

Abstract

Organizational culture consists of a unique system of values, beliefs, procedures and ways of behaving, which employees have developed and adopted through shared experience and action. Employees become familiar with the basic postulates of organizational culture independently through performing their work duties or interacting with other colleagues, including both superiors and subordinates. The adopted organizational culture is enriched over time under the influence of values that are transmitted from the top to the lower management. Organizational culture has an extremely strong influence on creating a pleasant organizational climate, and thus on strengthening the motivation of employees to give their maximum in performing work duties and achieving the desired goals and objectives, as well as on fostering a sense of belonging to the organization they are employed in. The creation of a strong and healthy organizational culture is influenced by the business environment, team environment, organizational values, organizational structure and processes, salary and incentives, provided infrastructure, the use of technical and innovative methods in the execution of work tasks, training and career development programs, business models, tradition and customs of the organization, corporate brochures, symbols, slogans and events (seminars, conferences, workshops, celebrations, etc.) and others. The goal of this research is to identify the key dimensions of organizational culture that have influenced the motivation and satisfaction of employees during the Covid pandemic, which are accountable for their performance, that is, for consumer satisfaction in the service sector.

Keywords: organizational culture, employees, motivation, satisfaction, consumers, COVID-19

The role of mixed coalition in the Smart Robotics Standardization. A case study analysis

Maria Cristina LONGO ¹

¹*Associate Professor of Business Economics and Management, University of Catania, Italy*

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: mclongo@unict.it*

Abstract

This paper aims to analyze how mixed coalitions of firms work to foster the smart robotics standardization. We explore the multi-mode standardization strategies, with a focus on the market-based and committee-based combination, that is when firms, industry, and committees jointly contribute to developing a technology with the potential to become a standard. We hypothesize that the composition of coalitions, governance, and coordination mechanisms are relevant when firms compete for the standardization of next generation technologies, characterized by an exponential evolution of technical requirements, divergence between local and international regulations, legislative gaps and absence of previous experiences to use as a benchmark. We carry out a qualitative analysis based on the experience of a leading Japanese company operating in the Smart Robotics sector. Technology standardization is characterized by international collaborative models, where several actors, including companies, lead users and technical committees are involved in defining technology standards. Results show that three level of interaction, such as strategic, political and system harmonization, occur in the market-based and committee-based multi-mode standardization. This implies the importance for a firm to enter into a large coalition to avoid market-battles and build a large installed bases of clients. This research contributes to shed light on the role of sector committees in the standardization process of the next generation technologies and suggests defining refined coordination mechanism and governance systems able to effectively manage the international collaborative models directly involved in technological standardization.

Keywords: Multi-Mode Standardization, Coalitions, Coordination Mechanism, Smart Robotics .

The possibility of determining the relative maturity level of public procurement organisations in Hungary

Katalin Erdei-Derschner

*Department of NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE
Faculty of Doctoral School of Public Administration Science, Hungary
Email: erdei.derschner@gmail.com*

Abstract

This study aims to expose the degree of the relative maturity level of procurement organizations, related to procurement performance within Hungarian companies, with special focus on the public sector. The evaluation makes an experiment to identify whether public procurement maturity levels vary between the three evaluated sectors (SMEs, Corporate and Public Administration), and identify the main differences. The research design is composed of secondary and primary elements and uses both quantitative and qualitative methods, i.e. a mixed methodology. Data are collected by the internet-based tool and analysed via SPSS. The aim of the questionnaire, containing 17 questions (mainly Likert scale), was to identify the indicators through which public procurement practitioners in Hungary see the most feasible way to measure the performance of public procurement. Relevant findings shows that all three-sectors procurement maturity level is measurable on the same way. The study found that from the 107 organizations, based on the use evaluation criteria, none of the organizations falls under high performing mature level. However, majority of organizations are in the middle level followed by developing levels of maturity. Based on a comparison of the current maturity levels of domestic procurement organisations by sector, based on literature review, and related to organisational effectiveness, the maturity level of the public sector differs only partially from the maturity level of private sector (SMEs and large corporates). This study also aims to provide a potential high level general framework, which can be used by organizations, regulators, and policymakers, to evaluate their maturity level

Keywords: Maturity, Public Procurement, Performance, Effectiveness, Efficiency

Seamanship terminology in Georgian material and cultural dialectological vocabulary

Nargiz Akhvlediani¹, Diana Akhvlediani², Tsiala Narakidze³, Teona Dzneladze⁴

¹ Chief Researcher of the Department of Folklore, Dialectology and Emigrant Literature Research of the Niko Berdzenishvili Institute of Batumi State University, Ph.D., Doctor of Philological Sciences, Georgia

² Faculty of Exact Sciences and Education. Assistant Professor at Batumi State University, Ph.D., doctor of Philological Sciences, Georgia

³ Department of Folklore, Dialectology and Emigrant Literature Research of the Niko Berdzenishvili Institute of Batumi State University, Georgia

⁴ Department of Navigation, Faculty of Navigation of Batumi State Maritime Academy, Georgia

*Corresponding Author: e-mail: nargiz.akhvlediani@bsu.edu.ge

Abstract

Every nation is doing its best to find its place among world's great civilizations. If country has ambition of being considered as a nation of big cultural heritage, it should be known not only with modern achievements, but with its heritage, traditions, customs. It is natural that nations representing ancient civilizations, among which Georgia takes its rightful place, agricultural diversity led to terminological diversity. From this point of view Georgia's ethnoculture, which is created by people from all sides of the country, is extremely diverse. The necessity of recording and description of lost or forgotten words and terminology is dictated by processes of modern globalization and integration.

In this article we will present you several lexical units related to catching of fish and bird with nets, their connection to micro-toponyms, geographical names. For example: "Ojinja" – (name of place, Makhinjauri, Khelvachauri municipality), "Sasirekeli" – (bird trap on the hill, Makhinjauri, Khelvachauri municipality), "qvaomkhazi" – (place for catching the fish in Sarpi, Khelvachauri municipality), "Qvagodzgo" – (place for catching the fish in Sarpi, Khelvachauri municipality), "Qvaospao" – (place for catching the fish in Sarpi, Khelvachauri municipality), "Qvaotsude" – (place for catching the fish in Sarpi, Khelvachauri municipality), etc.

Keywords: linguistics, toponyms, micro-toponyms, terminology, etymology, etiology.

Effective preventive system of non-specific chronic polygenic diseases (multidimensional genetic-mathematical modeling).

Rusudan Karseladze, Prof. MD, PhD, ScD

Tbilisi State University
Email: rusudan.karseladze@tsu.ge

Abstract

One of the paradoxes in medicine: despite the obvious achievements of molecular genetics, cytogenetics, the frequency (prevalence) of most the chronic diseases increases and the prediction is alarming.

The modern challenge is to develop a major algorithm for prevention of disease, based on molecular genetics and epigenetics.

It is known that 91% of all anthropopathology is polygenic or multifactorial, the so-called predisposing diseases, the vast majority of which are chronic non-specific diseases.

Health status and related health behaviors are determined by influences at multiple levels: personal, organizational/institutional; environmental, and policy.

Because significant and dynamic interrelationships exist among these different levels of health determinants, educational and community-based programs are most likely to succeed in improving health and wellness when they address influences at all levels and in a variety of environments/settings.

Now let's look at human epigenetics and make it a bit more personal. We humans have just over 40,000 genes in our body and each of these genes can be expressed or not depending on how tightly it is wound and with which chemicals it is packed. What regulates and orchestrates our DNA packing?

Non-specific chronic diseases - multifactorial, or polygenic, meaning they are likely associated with the effects of multiple genes in combination with lifestyles and environmental factors.

The modern challenge is to develop a major algorithm for disease prevention based on molecular genetics and epigenetics.

Digital natives and e-learning tools in pandemic context: challenges and benefits

Gabriela Guiu^{1*}

¹*College of Communication and Public Relations, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania.*

**gabriela.guiu@comunicare.ro*

Abstract

Due to the pandemic context, multiple new e-learning tools and technologies have emerged, opening the path to new possibilities and challenges. Given the context, my aim was to understand how young educated people have restructured their academic lives and what new ways of interactions they found as a result of the SARS-CoV2 pandemic. I wanted to investigate whether technology (particularly, digital tools such as videoconferencing platforms) becomes an asset or a hindrance to the teaching-learning process. In addition, I explored students' perceptions of the new educational practices as well as the effects of online teaching on learning motivation and the efficiency of academic activities. 15 semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with BA students from Bucharest. The interviews provided invaluable insight into how students were forced to reframe both their social and cooperative educational relationships with peers and their relationships with the content of their learning and the teachers involved in teaching it. Students reported advantages of the new system in terms of easier access to educational activities, increased interactivity of courses and the possibility to pursue a job or other activities of interest in parallel with their academic work. The disadvantages of online education included reduced motivation for learning in the absence of direct contact with peers and teachers, disruptive factors from the environment, technological limitations, and lower quality of teaching due to teachers' difficulty in adapting to new teaching methods.

Keywords: e-learning tools, uses and gratifications, digital natives, online teaching, covid-19 pandemic
