

**Sectoral value added and total factor productivity. A dynamic approach system: Venezuelan case**

*José Contreras & Rodolfo Esquivel*

This work proposes a methodology that allows to study the determinants of sectoral value added, and the factors that may influence in total factor productivity. The research concludes that it is essential to put into the national debate the need to improve in an accelerated way, the productivity of the Venezuelan economy. It is absolutely imperative that the review of the institutional frameworks in aspects such as personal insecurity, corruption, government effectiveness, customs, inefficiency and the coordination capacity in the search of the complementarity and the infrastructure as a synonym of productivity, economic development, integration, improving the quality of life, equity and social inclusion.

**Key words:** Economic growth, total factor productivity, determinants of value added, stock of capital.

**Macroeconomic stabilization programs: lessons and alternatives for Venezuela**

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The main purpose of the study is to illustrate different experiences in countries that have experienced stabilization programs and the implementation of these programs in Venezuela in the late twentieth century in order to shed lessons to correct macroeconomic imbalances facing this country today. The methodology used in preparing the study is descriptive. A conceptual framework has been developed in order to explain the types of stabilization programs available: orthodox, heterodox and income policy. The importance of reducing high inflation expectations among the different economic agents is confirmed. Macroeconomic stabilization programs in Venezuela have failed due to its inability to increase domestic production, to expand the export basket and reduce the external vulnerability of the national economy.

**Keywords:** Inflation, economic stabilization programs, economic policy.

**Community participation in Venezuelan social policy: 1999-2012***Carlos Aponte Blank*

This paper analyzes the significance of community participation in the social policy during Hugo Chavez's terms of office. Such participation was particularly relevant in the housing and habitat sector, but was also present—if comparatively less forcefully—in other social sub-sectors, such as education, health and food, as well as in the so called “missions”. The paper considers the myths linked to the idea of participatory democracy and offers a critical view on the paradoxically centralist community participation model, largely promoted by Chavism (especially in 2006-2012) and leaning towards a subordinate and homogeneous, rather than autonomous and diverse, notion of participation. This is a bibliographical and documentary study based mainly on a systematic and selective review of several researches on participation.

**Key words:** Social policy; participation; democracy; Venezuela; Hugo Chávez.

**Decision making and organizational collective action in context of power games***Ricardo Marcano Vera*

This paper work is intended to do a literature review and conceptual on different currents associated with decision making, such as the theory of rationality, both instrumental and limited, and the theory of collective action. The subject of irrationality is also introduced in decision-making, from the paradigm of behavioral economics, assuming the conception of libertarian paternalism. The intention with this tour is to try to find out how decisions are made in organizations, the uncertainty arising, power games and identify emerging processes stakeholder participation in organized and collective actions. One conclusion is that the decision is not necessarily a rational process, can be irrational. Also, the game of power in partly explains the dynamics and the operability of decision-making.

**Keywords:** Decision making, collective action, organization, power, rationality, uncertainty.

**A view of networking as a change promoter***Migdalia C. Perozo Bracho*

Networking as a Change Promoter explores certain communication aspects that become instruments to show the increasing power of the social and academic networks and its intervention on the societies and the knowledge management. The objective was to analyze networking in terms of the impact on different areas and modes, as well as the debate on the digitalization and interaction processes. Methodologically speaking, it is the documentary type, based on experiential issues and using the criteria of expert analysts in international cooperation programs. The conclusions demonstrate the importance of the investigation upon the awareness about which the proper way is, as well as the benefits of using networking as a multiplying and transforming instrument.

**Keywords:** Power, social networks, academic networks, intervention, promotion, change.

**Some perspectives and models of comprehension disability***Alexander Albarran*

Different scientific fields have been attributed themselves the authority to establish models of understanding disability, this has hindered interdisciplinary work in this material.

Therefore, this research work establishes the general characteristics of some of the models and historical perspectives to determine the similarities and differences in their characteristics and practical implications.

In this regard, it proposes to recognize the existence of four groups of models of understanding disability: traditionalists, scientific, social or constructivists and emerging, where each has fulfilled a historical-social function in the course of time.

**Keywords:** Disability, social capital, inter-relationships, support system, social myth.

**Masculine homosexuality and social work in Venezuela***Jennifer García*

This article presents the results of a research that appeared the following aims: to characterize the experience of the Venezuelan homosexual and to contribute recommendations for the social workers and other professionals who attend this population. The qualitative methodology was used. Conclusion: the homosexuality must be studied and attended from the family and the culture.

**Key words:** Masculine homosexuality, social work, popular Venezuelan family.