



Migration History Seminar

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Wednesday, 24 March 2021

**From Industrial to Digital Citizenship: Social Rights in
Cyberspace**

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Federico Tomasello, Foscari University of Venice

**Discussants: Jean-Thomas Arrighi and Ola Söderstrom, University
of Neuchâtel, and Ilia Antenucci, Western Sidney University**

17:30 – 19:00 h

This seminar will be held online on WEBEX: <https://unine.webex.com/meet/robin.stunzi>,
and live-streamed on the nccr – on the move YouTube channel

The Migration History Series is co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel
and the nccr – on the move.

Abstract

Growing inequalities represent a major issue associated with the current technological revolution. The article investigates this issue from the point of view of citizenship rights by focusing on the long crisis of European social welfare. It proposes an analytical framework that juxtaposes citizenship as a system of equality and technological changes as driving forces of inequality. The first part addresses the connection between the Industrial Revolution and the genesis of social rights. It describes the latter as a legal ‘machine’ designed to offset the social imbalances produced by the spread of industrial technologies. The second part reframes the notion of ‘industrial citizenship’ to designate the web of social rights characterizing mature industrial societies based on industrial labor and on the ‘citizen-worker’ as the quintessential subject of social rights. The third part assesses the impact of the Digital Revolution on this model of citizenship to investigate how welfare guarantees could be rethought in a post-industrial and digital era. It focuses on universal basic income and on the way in which it could be enforced in cyberspace as a new emerging dimension of citizenship rights.

About the Speaker

Federico Tomasello is Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, and Visiting Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute. He holds a PhD in History of Political Thought and an Italian qualification as Associate Professor in History of Political Thought and Political Philosophy. His research focuses on the relationship between citizenship and labor as well as on urban and political violence. He has had research, teaching and visiting positions at the Universities of Bologna, Florence, Padua, Venice, European University Institute, Scuola Normale Superiore, Berlin Social Science Centre, Université Paris.

Selected Publications

- Federico Tomasello (2020). *Violenza e Politica. Dopo il Novecento*. Bologna: Il Mulino.
- Federico Tomasello (2020). *L’ordine della città. Violenza e spazio urbano*. Rome: Manifestolibri.
- Federico Tomasello (2018). *La questione francese. Marx e la critica della politica*. Milan: Mimesis.
- Federico Tomasello (2018). *L’inizio del lavoro. Teoria politica e questione sociale nella Francia di prima metà Ottocento*, Rome: Carocci.
- Daniela Chironi, Lorenzo Cini, Eliska Drapalowa, Federico Tomasello, eds. (2017). Refocusing the Analysis of Mobilizations. Capitalism in Social Movement Research. Special issue of *Anthropological Theory*, 17(4), 429–452.
- Federico Tomasello (2017). L’utopia come politica dell’emancipazione. Miguel Abensour, Jacques Rancière e le eredità del socialismo utopico. *Scienza & Politica*, 18(56), 57-86.
- Federico Tomasello (2017). Urban Riots and Paper Riots: Elements for a Critical Discourse Analysis. In: Cecile Sandten, Claudia Gualtieri, Roberto Pedretti, Eike Kronshage (eds.), *Crisis, Risks and New Regionalisms in Europe: Emergency Diasporas and Borderlands*. Trier, WVT 8, 75-90.

About the Series

The Migration History Series is co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move. For any further information regarding the series, please send an email to jean-thomas.arrighi@unine.ch.