

Chapter 9

On an Automatic Stabilizer Towards the Autopoietic Social Justice

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ABSTRACT

The chapter aims to design and qualitatively (especially logically) examine an automatic stabilizer which could confer to the social justice (particularly in its distributive action) the property of auto-poieticity. Some conceptual pairs are questioned regarding the vocation of social justice to become and work as an auto-poietic process within the society, such as discretionary vs. automatic, human nature vs. human condition, external goal vs. internal goal, survival vs. freedom. A basic body of the chapter is focused on the issue of automatization way of applying the principles of social justice – mainly the principle of difference. In fact, the auto-poieticity of social justice follows to be performed by a so-called regulon which automatically ensures the principle of difference working. The automatic stabilizer of an auto-poietic social justice will consist just in discretionarily integrating the mentioned regulon in the normative framework of the society in case.

INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly, the society must be driven by politics. Social visions and dynamic adjustments on social trajectory are elaborated and implemented by politicians. However, precisely through this, two adverse effects could emerge: a) *ends-based autonomizing* – that is, dangerous utopias proposed to be objectified within society); b) *means-based autonomizing* – that is, dangerous corruption affecting political class. There are certain domains of social inter-actions in which must govern some distance between political decision and civil purposes, in order to avoid or, at least, substantially mitigating the capturing of civil

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society goals by politicians. Generally, this end is obtained by designing and implementing automatic institutional devices which creates or adjust norms and institutions automatically, based on algorithms democratically agreed.

This chapter aims to examine the possibility to introduce an automatic device that autopoietically can adjust the state of social justice inside society. Our proposal will address implementation of an automatic autopoietic institutional device to operationalize the principle of social justice (Rawls, 1999), named the *principle of difference*.

The chapter is focused on four main objectives: 1) finding a criterion to evaluate the achieving of the principle of difference as driver to objectify social justice within a free and democratic society; 2) designing an institutional device able to structurally integrate the criterion of objectifying social justice through the principle of difference; 3) endowing the institutional device with automatic functional properties; 4) arguing that the automatic institutional device confers to social justice process an autopoietic character.

The methodology used is principally based on logical analysis, but also, when appropriate, a critical positioning of authors is provided. The proposal aimed at to confer to social justice the structural property of autopoieticity, is of logical nature, more exactly, it represents a logical model of an autopoietic social justice.

The general organization of the chapter is as follows:

1. Examining the psychological and logical mechanisms by which the individual get her/his positioning on the social scale of economic inequality;
2. Clarifying the relationships between internal and external goals, knowing that autopoieticity requires the fully internalized operations of replicability (i.e. operational closing against environment);
3. Logical defining (based on sufficient predicates) of the autopoieticity (as property);
4. Proving that social justice (in its distributional species) is autopoietic;
5. Proposing a mechanism – called: *social justice automatic stabilizer* – aimed at to autopoietically objectify the principle of difference.

The chapter topic can be of interest especially for researchers in the social justice matter, but also for public policy decision-makers, because, as argued below, the autopoieticity of the (distributive) social justice allows to implement an automatic stabilizer for social justice functioning in economic inequality handling, so to operationalize a strong nudge for the free and democratic functioning of society.

BACKGROUND

Social justice is, generally, an institutional meta-device aimed at to provide the rightness inside a free and democratic society. Rightness achieving involves two components: a) the *merit-based* rightness – merit-based distribution of the economic/social product to individuals; b) the *deserved-based* rightness – redistribution of the economic/social product to individuals, anchored to their general quality of human beings. The first component is provided by the commutative social justice, while the second one is provided by the distributive social justice. Both kinds of rightness objectifying can lead to social inequalities. Although, specialty literature speaks about other two species of social justice – procedural justice, and restorative justice (Sabbagh & Schmitt, 2016) – we think the last two species are logically

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