

# Regional Science Dialogues for Peace and Sustainable Development



Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal & Virtual Event  
26-30 August 2024

## Special Session Proposal

### Culture Based Development: Cultural Narratives for Polarization versus Peace

Annie Tubadji

[a.k.tubadji@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:a.k.tubadji@swansea.ac.uk)

Swansea University

#### Abstract

The Culture Based Development (CBD) paradigm studies culture as a source of bias in socio-economic choice, especially so in the choices regarding relational attitudes and cooperation. According to Culture Based Development, the local cultural capital (and its related set of attitudes) is the fundament for the derived package of relational attitudes termed social capital (see Tubadji et al. 2022).

The current special session will provide comparative regional analysis for the impact of cultural capital accumulation and the local cultural entropy dynamics for the evolution of local social capital and its consequences: polarization as opposed to cohesion, peace and cooperation between the agents living in that space. Social capital, the level of peace and cooperation it creates, is then clearly a major factor for local development (see for example Muringani, Fitjar & Rodriguez-Pose 2021).

CBD theoretically postulates that social capital changes are triggered by cultural narratives. Cultural narratives are information sets that offset certain initial conditions for the attitudes and establish new levels of cultural valuation in choice for those who have been exposed to the narratives. Depending on the level of social capital, cultural narratives are differently likely to be embraced or rejected by the agents in a locality.

Methodologically, CBD suggests that the sensitivity to exposure and the exact initial conditions created by the exposure to a cultural narrative can be precisely diagnosed and predicted through linguistic and sentiment analysis of the key words that describe this narrative.

Thus, quantifying and testing the CBD theoretical conjecture that through moderating sensitivity to the cultural narratives, local cultural capital affects dynamically and stochastically the level of cooperation or opposition and polarization in a locality can be empirically tested. These empirical tests can serve as supportive evidence to inform policy making interventions that can create peace and cooperation through cultural narratives. The here proposed special session will show case a selection of CBD analysis of this type.

#### References

- Muringani, J., Fitjar, R. D., & Rodríguez-Pose, A. (2021). Social capital and economic growth in the regions of Europe. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 53(6), 1412-1434.
- Tubadji, A., Gheasi, M., Crociata, A., & Odoardi, I. (2022). Cultural capital and income inequality across Italian regions. *Regional Studies*, 56(3), 459-475.

List of interested presenters:

1. Annie Tubadji – title: “Cultural Narratives, Religiosity and Cooperation for Peace across Space – A Game Theoretical Approach & Empirical Test for Israel and the Arab World” – [atubadji@hotmail.com](mailto:atubadji@hotmail.com)
2. Sameera Almaliki – title “Cultural Narratives within a religion, Sunni & Shia and the Empowerment of Women on the Saudi Arabian Labour Market” (co-authored with Annie Tubadji) - [sameeraalmaliki2022@gmail.com](mailto:sameeraalmaliki2022@gmail.com)
3. Yashi Jain – title “Contexts of Local Eco Narratives and the Circular Economy Evolution in the UK” - [yashi.jain92@gmail.com](mailto:yashi.jain92@gmail.com)
4. Maryam Alsalem-Alomair – title “Cultural Narratives of Fear, Precarious Driving Patterns and Insurance Prices across Space” - [2156212@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:2156212@swansea.ac.uk)