Call for papers: Special issue on "Shared Society: Theory and Practice"

Conflict Resolution Quarterly

We invite proposals for articles for a special issue, to be published towards the end of 2021, on the concept of Shared Societies: Its intellectual foundations, its application in practice, and its implications for policy development. Pieces can address any aspect of the concept, including (but not limited to) the perceptive proposed below. We welcome mostly scholarly papers, but will also include a small number of policy/case studies contributions.

The Shared Societies Concept was floated more than a decade ago by the Club De Madrid (a network of over a 100 former heads of state and heads of government) to mean a society that is not owned by any one group but belong to all, where all individuals and constituent groups hold status as equally contributing participants, free to express their differences while integrating their voices within the broader population. The term was later used by national leaders, received some scholarly attention in various disciplines – at times with different meanings (and at times using different vocabulary to address what is here brought under the wings of this term), and adopted for local action in various countries.

Since it was launched, internal political strife in numerous societies took new forms and locations, including civil wars in the Middle-East, and an influx of immigrants to Europe. The concept requires a further review in light of the challenges to liberal democracy, including the rise of populist leaders – who at times, declare their own societal visions - in many parts of the world. Global tensions over economic inequality have become more evident and even traditional supporters of neo-liberalism accept that the cleavage in society needs to be dealt with. The global health crisis both intensified these challenges, while creating new ones.

All these developments require us to test the utility of the concept: both its promise, as well as its limitations. This, in the context of the dramatic global changes, including, but not limited to, the decline of liberal democracy, and the global health challenge.

The special issue will therefore assess the current state of the conceptual and practical work on building Shared Societies. It will feature articles that will place it within the broader map of peace-building strategies such as co-existence, conflict transformation. It will further investigate how the concept has stood the test of time and its application for tackling economic, political, environmental, social challenges, locally, nationally and globally. and the special issue will
explore possibilities to expand it to new realms, as a holistic approach that both incorporates strategies and informs other disciplines and policy making by bringing its approaches to increase equality, social inclusion, social-cohesion, inter-community dialogue and a sense of partnership among diverse groups in polarized societies.

Objectives of the special issue

1. To introduce an interdisciplinary concept of Shared Societies, and its defining characteristics to the wider academic community; and reflect initial policy and scholarly responses to it.
2. To demonstrate the practical applicability of the concept of Shared Societies, explore how it could be integrated more widely in the field, while examining the challenges to adopting such approaches.
3. To share policy recommendations on ways in which a Shared Societies Perspective can be included in the policy process to facilitate the scaling up of such approaches; and the positive impact on the wellbeing of society as a whole that will result. Here we are interested in all levels: communal, regional, national and translational, including any hybrid formats, such as a Glocal perspective.
4. To examine the nature of resistance within policy and practice to a shift towards a more holistic and participative model of social development; how those resistances are reinforced; and how they can be overcome.
5. To exchange information on innovative approaches to monitoring and evaluation that will allow assessment of progress towards a Shared Society; and to encourage new and innovative methods of assessment.

Requirements:

1. Papers should be up to 8,000 words long (excluding footnotes). Policy/Case studies papers should be up to 5,000 words.
2. Please follow an APA citation style. Please note, that APA requests that the number of footnotes be minimized.
3. Papers should be submitted by March 20, 2021.
4. Please submit the paper through the CRQ ScholarOne account: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/crq

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