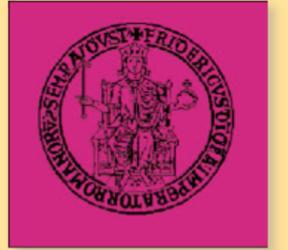




UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES FEDERICO II

DEPARTMENT OF THEORIES AND METHODS OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES



ELECTORAL PREFERENCES: ESPRESSION OF SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OR OPPRESSION ? THE CONTROL OF THE VOTE IN ITALY

AGOSTINO CARBONE, GENDER STUDIES PHD STUDENT
INCOPARDE LAB

AGOSTINO.CARBONE@UNINA.IT, WWW.INCOPARDE.UNINA.IT

Keywords: Democracy, Power, Sense of Community, Social Influence, Grounded Theory Method

INTRODUCTION

Usually, we consider well-being a matter of individual health. This work, instead, consider the well-being as a positive state of affairs in individuals, relationships, organizations, communities, and the natural environment, brought about by the simultaneous and balanced satisfaction of material and psychological needs; and by the behavioral manifestation of material and psychological justice in these five ecological domains (Prilleltensky, 2008).

This work will consider the role of politic and power that affecting the well-being of the citizens at different levels. To understand the relationship between the individual and the collective life of the people, In particular, we have chosen to explain the vote, or to study how the population formula and give their political choices and to vote. In fact, although the vote is by definition an individual, so it is to participate in the political world, to categorize not only as individuals but as communities.

REsearch of political behavior usually use several factors to explain the formation of political preferences of voters:

-Long-term factors, identifier with the party, the voter's social position, his value system.

-Short-term factors, the perception and evaluation of performance of the incumbent government, the image of the party, the themes of the electoral contest, the election campaign.

Most attention is given to the nature of cognitive and emotional dynamics that govern the decision of the voters as individuals. This study starts from wondering how social factors determine political choices.

PURPOSE

The aim of this study, is to explore the conditions that influence the vote of Youth in small and middle-size municipalities in the South of Italy, in the This project arose noting that, in these realities, the electoral preferences are not the direct result of individual dispositions, motives and values of voters (Caprara, 2009), but they are choices influenced by many community processes (family, relatives, friends), and local mafia, that as oppression factors, literary, control the election results.

THE STUDY

The research involved 30 young people (15 males and 15 females) ranging in age from 18 to 34 years , who are residents of small and medium-sized countries of Campania.

These participants, were recruited through the use of a theoretical sampling.

The instrument chosen for data collection was the narrative interview. The themes explored were: sense of belonging, , local attachment and identity, electoral making decision process, satisfaction for the electoral preference expressed during the past election, social trust.

The interviews were audiotaped, transcribed and analyzed using the Grounded Theory Method, (Glaser & Strauss, 1967). using the coding procedures of the GTM, composed of different progressive phases conceptually increasingly high (Charmaz, 2005).

IN VIVO CODES

- Is a family matter, if the candidate that wins votes, will be better for all of us
- They promised my father that they would help me to get a job.
- We do not want to disregard any politicians
- Before the election we meet into family to decide who to vote
- They said that if theyf they had won would have paved the way
- 50 euros, this is the price for a vote.
- I do not care to vote, so it is useless, it is always the same.

RESULTS

The situation outlined highlights a problem that seems to be both widespread and unspoken: a coercive influence the vote and a fine-grained control.

In contrast to the research in this field so far theorized, social factors, not just membership in social groups, or the difference between classes, gender, and culture of belonging, are the major predictors of the outcome of elections. That is, in contexts with a high sense of belonging, a detailed knowledge of citizens, but at the same time a low sense of community and a low level of social capital, enables individuals and groups with greater power within the community handle the question marks. In contexts such as high presence of organized crime in South Italy, this is the last to benefit from these control mechanisms, in which the citizen is alienated.

Promises, money and threats, these are the means used, clear tones that pass by "suggesting" how to vote, to build real obligations.

Is in this context that the power of the vote is stripped of its essence, the collective life, politics, management of welfare issues are experienced by voters as a foreign, to stay away from as much as possible. It is the learned helplessness to reign, which expropriated the citizens from all possibility of dealing with the social sphere.

"...the vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice..."

Lyndon B. Johnson, August 6, 1965

References:

- Banyard L. & Miller, K. (1998). The powerful potential of qualitative research for community psychology. *American Journal of Community Psychology* ,26, 485-505.
- Caprara G.V. & Vecchione M. (2009). Alle radici della partecipazione politica: il ruolo di tratti, valori e convinzioni di efficacia. *Rivista di Psicologia di Comunità* 1,15-26
- Charmaz, K. (2006). *Constructing Grounded Theory: A practical guide through Qualitative Analysis*.
- Corbin, J. & Strauss, A. (2008). *Basics of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory* (3 ed.). London: Sage.
- Francescato, D. (2008). Le fuori casta potranno salvare l'Italia? Potenzialità e problematiche della rappresentazione femminile in politica. *Rivista di Psicologia di Comunità* 1,27-44.
- Prilleltensky, I. (2008). The role of power in Wellness, oppression, and liberation: the promise of psychopolitical validity. *Journal of Community Psychology* 2, 116-136.