



## Call for Papers

# Journal of Sociocybernetics

## Thematic Issue on »Liquid Democracy«

The Journal of Sociocybernetics (ISSN 1607-86667) is a peer reviewed, electronic journal published biannually - Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter - by the Research Committee on Sociocybernetics (RC 51) of the International Sociological Association (ISA). One of the next Issues of the JoS will be concerned with the question to what extent the so-called »digital revolution« may shift the predominant concepts of democracy.

Referring to the present transition-process of our societal relations of communication ten years ago André Gorz argued that the use of this term »knowledge society« would only make sense if one were able to demonstrate that relevant radical changes in society somehow related to changes in the handling of *knowledge* in society. Such a demonstration concentrated on the area of *democracy* will be the object of one of the next issues of the *Journal of Sociocybernetics*. We want to focus the question if new media, especially so-called »social media«, may overcome the traditional dichotomy between parliamentary representative democratic tradition and grassroots oriented plebiscitary democratic elements. This issue has been primarily debated under the term of »Liquid Democracy«. It stands for the idea to make democracy more liquid, more transparent and more flexible. People should have the opportunity to participate in political affairs complementary to delegating the powers of the sovereignty to a body of human elected from time to time for four or five years. People should have the possibility to campaign effectively and collaboratively for the issues they are concerned about. Our questions are: Which social, political and technological concepts for such a liquid democracy exist? Which discourses in different areas and scientific disciplines occur? Which experiences and evaluations are available?

Because Sociocybernetics emphasises the complexity of systemic interrelation and asks for solutions which are adequate to the reciprocal effects of all relevant factors, the subject of »Liquid Democracy« is an adequate topic for the *Journal of Sociocybernetics*.

We welcome proposals for contributions

- with reference to theoretical or empirical research,
- of different scientific disciplines
- dealing with one or more of the questions described above and
- focussing the complex interrelationship between different aspects of political participation and political power,
- inclusive the consideration of feed-back processes of »Liquid Democracy« to the political system in whole.

Scholars who intend to publish a paper should send it to the editor Michael Paetau:  
( [michael.paetau@sociocybernetics.eu](mailto:michael.paetau@sociocybernetics.eu) ) until December 31, 2011.

To learn more on the Journal of Sociocybernetics please have a look on our website:  
<http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics/Journal/index.html>