

Manuel Castells

University Professor and Wallis Annenberg Chair of Communication Technology and Society at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Professor at the Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona; Director of Research in the Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge; Professor Emeritus of Sociology and of City and Regional Planning at the University of California at Berkeley

2013 Balzan Prize for Sociology

For his wide-ranging and imaginative thinking through of the implications of the great technological changes of our time: the digital revolution and the profound social and political challenges brought about by the emerging technologies of communication and information processing associated with computing, microelectronics and the internet. And for having proposed a general theory of the new global information society that has arisen out of these technologies.

Institutions Administering Research Funds:

University of Cambridge
University of Southern California
Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee: Dominique Schnapper

The Cultural and Social Dimensions of the Economic Crisis 2008-2014. Financial Cultures, Human Suffering, and Social Protests

This Project will integrate the results of three sub-projects conducted by young researchers during three years in three different institutions under the supervision of Professor Castells and professors in these institutions.

Sub-Project 1: Financial Cultures in the US Financial Crisis of 2008-2014. From Wall Street to Silicon Valley

University of Southern California, Annenberg School of Communication Research Group on Financial Cultures

The Research Group on Financial Cultures, led by research fellow Lana Swartz under the supervision of Professors Manuel Castells and Sarah Banet-Weiser at the Univer-

sity of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, will study the interconnection of what is often thought of as 'cultural' or 'financial'. In particular, the objective of the research group is to produce an empirical analysis of the ethical, political, social and technological forms that anticipated and partly induced the 2008 global financial crisis as well as those that emerged in its aftermath. The research will be divided into two sub-projects: Wall Street Financial Cultures and New Economic Cultures emerging in the technology world in entrepreneurial Silicon Valley, such as Bitcoin.

Sub-Project 2: The Cultural and Social Dimensions of the 2008-2014 Economic Crisis: Human and Social Costs of the Crisis. Proposal for a Comparative Study of Greece, Italy and the UK

Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge

This project, supervised by Professors Manuel Castells and John Thompson (Department of Sociology) will explore the ways in which individuals and groups in different parts of Europe live through and experience the economic crisis, how it affects them and how they respond to it, both at the level of feelings, emotions and forms of suffering, and in terms of practices and types of collective action. A bottom-up approach will be adopted in a close, ethnographic study of the daily lives of ordinary individuals in carefully selected regions of Europe, with the aim of developing the concepts we need to understand these feelings, emotions, forms of suffering and practices. It will examine the ways that these responses may feed into types of collective action, including protest movements and other kinds of political mobilization.

Sub-Project 3: The Cultural and Social Dimensions of the Economic Crisis, 2008-2014: From Human Suffering to Social Protests. A Comparative Study of Networked Social Movements in Spain and the US (2011-2014)

Research Group on Communication and Civil Society, Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona

This project is concerned with the dynamics of the current global wave of mobilizations that are shaped by and are shaping social transformations. It aims to conduct an in-depth, double level analysis of two selected networked movements, *15M* in Spain and *Occupy Wall Street* in the US, with an eye towards comparing the two different experiences in terms of their particular qualities as well as in the context of their

dynamics and evolution from an international perspective. The study, supervised by Professor Manuel Castells and Dr. Mireia Fernandez-Ardevol, will use innovative quantitative methodology by examining thousands of tweets and messages in other social networks, and identifying emotional patterns as sources of social mobilization. The study will also qualitatively analyze the interaction between networked social movements and the political system, studying elections and the new political actors emerging from the movements.

The overall project will lead to several publications by young researchers, as well as to a volume integrating the findings of the three sub-projects, also co-authored by young researchers.

Researchers:

John Thompson, Deputy Supervisor

Dr. Eirini Avramopoulou

Dr. Silvia Pasquetti