

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Tomás Undurraga

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EDUCATION

- 2007 – 2012** **University of Cambridge**
Ph.D. in Sociology (Supervisor: Prof. Goran Therborn. Abstract below.)
- 2006 – 2007** **University of Cambridge**
M.Phil. in Modern Society and Global Transformations
- 1996 – 2000** **Universidad Católica de Chile**
B.A. in Sociology
- 1994 - 1995** **Universidad Católica de Chile**
B.A. in Liberal Arts

EMPLOYMENT

- 2012- Present** **Research Associate, Econpublic** www.econpublic.hps.cam.ac.uk
Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge.
- 2003 – 2006** **Associated Lecturer**
Institute of Sociology, Universidad Católica de Chile.
- 2001 – 2006** **Strategic Communications Consultant**
Head of R&D Department, Tironi & Asociados, Chile.
- 2000 – 2001** **Public Policy Research Assistant**
Asesorías para el Desarrollo, Chile.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Economic Sociology, Comparative Political Economy, Latin America, Neoliberalism, Sociology of Communications, Media and the Public Sphere, Sociological Theory.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books and articles in edited volumes

Entre la Ilusión y el Desencanto: Variedades de Capitalismo en Argentina y Chile (1975-2010). Ed. Universidad Diego Portales, Chile (forthcoming 2014).

Rearticulación de grupos económicos y renovación ideológica del empresariado en Chile 1975-2012: la paradoja de la concentración. Chapter in Monsalve Zanatti, Martín (Ed.) 2014 *Grupos Económicos y Mediana Empresa Familiar en América Latina*. Universidad del Pacífico, Lima, Perú. Pp. 11 - 39

Instrucción, Indulgencia, Justificación: Los circuitos culturales del capitalismo chileno. Chapter in Ossandón, José & Eugenio Tironi (Ed) 2013 *Adaptación. La empresa chilena después de Friedman*. Ed. Universidad Diego Portales, Chile. Pp. 135-166

Peer reviewed articles

Transformaciones sociales y fuentes de poder del empresariado chileno (1975-2010). Revista 'Ensayos de Economía', Universidad Nacional de Colombia, No.41, Julio-Diciembre de 2012. Pp. 201-225.

Business, power and ideology: the symbiotic relationship between neoliberalism and the business classes in Argentina and Chile (1975 – 2010). Journal of Latin American Studies (*revise and resubmit*).

Between contestation and naturalization: divergent responses to neoliberalism in Argentina and Chile (1975 – 2010). (*Submitted, under consideration*)

Book review: Milanesio, Workers Go Shopping in Argentina: The Rise of Popular Consumer Culture (2013). Bulletin of Latin American Research (*accepted, forthcoming*).

AWARDS AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

My PhD research was funded by scholarships from the Cambridge Overseas Trust and Conicyt-Chile (a government body). I also received financial support and awards from the Cambridge Political Economy Trust, the Latin American Studies Centre, Darwin College and the Sociology Department at Cambridge. My MPhil studies were funded by the British Council, through which I received the Chevening Scholarship. I was awarded a Postdoctoral Research Associateship at Hughes Hall College Cambridge (2012-2016) and am also a Research Associate at the Instituto de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile. Most recently, I have been a visiting scholar at the Universidad Estadual do Rio do Janeiro and the Institute of International Relations, Fundação Getulio Vargas, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

A five year European Research Council grant funds the post-doctoral research in which I am involved at the History and Philosophy of Science Department in Cambridge.

I have presented my research at universities in the UK, Latin America and North America including Cambridge, Warwick, Manchester, St. Andrews, Santiago, Lima, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Toronto, at conferences of scholarly organisations such as BSA, SLAS, LASA and ALAS. I have reviewed for the American Journal of Sociology, Conicyt Chile, and the journal of Business History and have examined MPhil dissertations at the Sociology Department and the Latin American Studies Centre in Cambridge.

In addition, I have organized several international conferences at the University of Cambridge: 'Chile's Winter of Discontent: The End of a Paradigm for Latin America?' (May, 2012); "Interrogating Economics in the Public Sphere" (April, 2013); and "Economic reason: intellectuals and think tanks in the late twentieth century" (June, 2013), among others.

TEACHING

I have extensive experience teaching a range of both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, e.g. on Sociology of Communication at Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, de Talca and Adolfo Ibañez de Chile, on Modern Societies in the Sociology Department at Cambridge, as well as modules on the Politics of Science and Keynes in the HPS Department at Cambridge.

LANGUAGES

Native Spanish, fluent Portuguese, fluent English, beginner French.

REFERENCES

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PhD Thesis Abstract

Between Illusion and Disenchantment: Varieties of Capitalism in Chile and Argentina (1975–2010)

During the last three decades, both Argentina and Chile have experienced capitalist revolutions ‘from above’, which have transformed relationships between firms, workers and the state. These transformations have common elements: similar deindustrialisation patterns focused on primary product exports, and ‘hierarchical market’ relationships between capital and labour (Schneider 2009), among others. Despite these similarities, approaches to capitalism in these countries currently diverge. Neoliberalism in Chile is ingrained in the institutional setting and naturalised among business and political elites. In Argentina, by contrast, a post-neoliberal landscape emerged in the wake of the 2001 crisis and the state’s interventionist capacity has been restored.

How does the literature on varieties of capitalism and the new theories of capitalist change help explain these revolutions ‘from above’ in Argentina and Chile? It has been argued that a ‘new spirit’ that promotes autonomy, self-realisation and non-hierarchical relations has given capitalism a fresh justification in the developed world (Boltanski & Chiapello 2005). In this view, capitalism has become an increasingly theoretical enterprise supported by its own ‘cultural circuits’ (Thrift 2005), which produce theories that justify capitalism’s own purposes, recasting it as something creative and fun. Is this new spirit present in Chile and Argentina? Can it be used to explain recent transformations there?

This thesis explores the varieties of capitalism in Argentina and Chile by asking three main questions. First, what are the similarities and differences of capitalism in these countries? Second, why did neoliberalism meet such different fates in them? Third, what kinds of spirits have driven recent capitalist changes in these countries? And in particular, is there a new spirit of capitalism (à la Boltanski & Chiapello) that emerged with neoliberalism in Argentina and Chile since the 1980s? This research is based on material collected from 120 interviews with representatives of the ‘cultural circuits of capitalism’ in Santiago and Buenos Aires during 2008-2009, combined with secondary data.

The main findings of this research suggest that beyond the common hierarchical pattern, the pro-business capitalism in Chile and the national-popular capitalism in Argentina operate differently. The cohesive business sector in Chile enjoys a dominant position whereas Argentina’s factious business class is on the defensive. Vertical employment relations in Chile differ from the more horizontal relationships in Argentina, where unions still play a prominent political role. Powerful cultural circuits of capitalism in Chile spread neoliberal notions of success, whereas analogous circuits in Argentina have been contested, losing influence and visibility. Neoliberalism was naturalised in Chile not only because it produced wealth and rising living standards, but also because the dictatorship removed the institutions that sanctioned collective action, while helping to empower the business class. Moreover, the political class maintained commitment to the market model through the transition to democracy. In Argentina, by contrast, neoliberalism was contested because the reforms wrought negative economic results and the political and business classes never fully supported it. Moreover, Argentine society resisted the de-collectivising effects of the reforms, spreading social movements and unrest. The counter-offensive against neoliberalism guided by the Kirchners has further de-legitimized this project. Finally, this research found that rather than a ‘new spirit’ of autonomy and emancipation, ‘old spirits’ of capitalism were revived in Argentina and Chile, such as the ‘commercial spirit’ of Smith, the ‘entrepreneurial spirit’ of Schumpeter and the ‘destructive spirit’ of Polanyi. Whereas neoliberalism was contested and unleashed disenchantment in Argentina, it provided an illusion of progress in Chile.