

Commission on Urban Anthropology, IUAES
<http://urban.anthroweb.net>

&

University of Peloponnese
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social and Educational Policy

CUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Corinth, Greece, 27-29 May 2011

Call for Papers

Market vs Society?

Human principles and economic rationale in changing times

Michel Rautenberg, Jean-Baptiste Clais, Université de Lyon, Centre max Weber, Université Jean Monnet Saint Etienne

Changing of the local network of exchange : from the Utopia of the 70th until the contemporary internet.

The aim of this presentation is to interrogate the reality of the decrease of the local and social solidarities by comparing two examples. The first shows the important place of the neighbourhood linkage in a small district in north of France¹ : people tell that in the 70th and 80th, they exchanged a lot of services, foods and material in order to maintain mutual solidarity. Today is an other time : individualism seems to be the principal feature of the neighbourhood. The second is about a network of collectors of ancient computers². They lay down very strong ethic rules in the exchange in order to keep prices of their computers largely under the prices on E-bay. So that some of them have been able to collect some of the most important private collections of computers and video games in France. The enquiries also show solidarity between most of the members of the network who spend a lot of time in helping one another.

Comparing the two situations, we'll develop the following assumption : local exchanges exist when they respond to a collective aspiration. In the first case, it was some collective utopia shared more or less by a majority of the inhabitants ; in the second case, it is the collective interest in belonging to a quite famous network. A second assumption is that social solidarity have now to be search in the virtual space. Social solidarity didn't disappear, they move.

¹ Bénédicte Lefebvre, Michel Rautenberg, *Utopies et mythologies urbaines à Villeneuve d'Ascq*, Septentrion, 2010.

² Jean-Baptiste Clais, ????????????