



Filcoreti Flock, a new form of network in an emergent democracy

Isabel de Maurissens

Institute of network cultures,
University of Applied Sciences (HvA)
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It is said that on the first day of the new year the ancient emperors of China solemnly gave a musical note on which the people of the Empire had to agree, harmonize and remain united throughout the following year. The emperors thought that the music only, along with the rites, could hold off unrest. In the grip of a fear of collective unrest, mandarins insisted on the role of music, which was used to contain, moderate the Empire as a whole.

Who moderates today? Once there was the emperor, a centralized power but now this role has been taken over by software and networks. For the French philosopher Catherine Malabou, central power

is definitely going through a crisis, although it continues to establish itself as an epistemological and ideological obstacle. This crisis of centrality is based on a delocalization and a reticular flexibility of command structures. As the brain's neural connections are flexible and don't obey a centralized or hierarchical system, in the same way an economical and political power shows organisational flexibility where the center seems to have disappeared.

If central power is a thing of the past, the major protagonists that model society are now networks. Signals that the central power is falling apart are apparent in many political areas, with the new meaning of decentralized powers that use the network to find other contacts with the '*res publica*', in professional associations that are no longer able to give a distinct scope to professions, but also in the school itself, feeling restricted in its four walls.

'The *social* is no longer a reference to society, [...] nowadays, the social manifests itself as a network'. If we return to the metaphor of the emperors' music note, are we not risking a cacophony? Wouldn't that emperor's only note have been better?

Here at Indire in Florence, Italy our focus is on innovation in education research. These theoretical reflections are part of a larger empirical research, conducted in 2016 amongst thousands of Italian primary school principles. We asked the question whether the school will continue to stand on its four walls in this network society, representing, after all, that centralized power in accordance with a single model? Can space, territory and networks be places of learning?....