

Dialectic of knowledge - contribution to the theory of knowledge in advanced capitalism.

In the first decades of the twenty-first century concepts such as knowledge economy and network society came into everyday use. Knowledge work is now widely considered as the foundation of modern, developed economy. Among Marxist scholars much popularity has been gained by the hypothesis of cognitive capitalism. However, an often overlooked aspect of the issues of knowledge economy is its social character and dialectical nature. Authors based on achievements of Negri and Hardt and theoreticians of cognitive capitalism often use such Marxian categories as general intellect or collective worker, taking their social and historical content as given and requiring no explanation.

Meanwhile, concepts such as real and formal subsumption of labour under capital present for example in, Results of the Direct Production Process (Draft of Chapter 6 of Capital), relate directly to the processes of socialization of production that arises from progressive division of labour. In the proposed speech, we want to focus on the problem of knowledge analysis in contemporary economic relations. From our point of view, Marx's observations in this respect are not outmoded at all. Exactly the opposite, in particular, the Marxian dialectical method and materialistic epistemology can contribute to explain phenomena related to knowledge as an economic variable. We will shown five moments of dialectical tensions relating to knowledge in modern capitalism, all of they connected to the historical process of the transition from formal to real subsumption of labour under capital and expansion of exchange of commodities (Sohn-Rethel 1978). We will try to find unity of opposites in: individual and social knowledge, relational and temporal aspects of knowledge, homogeneous (average) and extra knowledge as well as the dialectic process of knowledge creation. Next, using the rental theory of ownership (Tittenbrun 2011) we will demonstrate the importance of knowledge for economic processes and its social roots. In our opinion knowledge should be understood not only as an essential component of the production process, but also as a product of real abstract of exchange, a consequence of an advanced division of labour and socialization or plainly social practice. Simply put, we can say that the production processes using the average level of knowledge (Thorstein Veblen industrial arts) are able to achieve an average labour time. Where the competence of workers and used technologies are outdated, average labour time is not reached. In contrast, where the competence of workers are unique - or using Max Weber's words: workers have monopolistic qualifications and skills - and technology is new, a particular capitalist is able to reach above average labour time (therefore extra surplus value). As pointed out by Jeon (2010, 2011),

executive work and knowledge work are inseparable but only the former produces new value. How much surplus value will be created depends on knowledge but its very creation depends on direct production processes. Knowledge is present here both in the labour force of all employees as well as ideal and material means of production. In the proposed presentation, the relations between these entities - as Marx recommended - will become the subject of our reflection.