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Sociology of markets – Prof. Nadya Guimarães and Prof. Philippe Steiner

I. SUMMARY OF THE DISSERTATION

INTRODUCTION

1. Basis for a sociology of antitrust

- 1.1 From sociology of competition to sociology of antitrust
- 1.2 From sociology of economics to sociology of antitrust
- 1.3 From sociology of law to sociology of antitrust
- 1.4 From antitrust theory to sociology of antitrust

2. Antitrust in systems theory

- 2.1 Competition and economic scarcity
- 2.2 Competition law and legal dogmatic
- 2.3 Forbidding conversation and distrusting trust

3. Sociology of antitrust beyond systems

- 3.1 Back to complexity
- 3.2 Social function of competition and antitrust goals
- 3.3 An idea “out of place”? Antitrust in the Brazilian case of society

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

II. FINAL WORK AT “SOCIOLOGY OF MARKETS”

My idea for the final work was to sketch the item “1.2” of my doctorate dissertation. I intended to depart from some works I had previously read about “sociology of competition” and ask: how does competition operate in the economic context? Scholars like Simmel have provided powerful models to understand competition, but observing antitrust requires specific consideration on the functioning of modern markets. And I believe that a sociological view can add significantly to the puzzlement of the “antitrust goals” debate.

During the classes, however, I started to think in some other unexpected questions, such as: (i) is market competition restricted to egoistic behavior of atomistic actors? (ii) what is the consequence for an understanding of competition when one thinks in terms of a sociology of markets (in plural) as diverse as markets of singular products, contested markets, strawberry markets and derivative markets? (iii) is market competition equal to economic competition or they represent non-coincident spheres?

Such kind of questions makes me believe that the observation of competition will lead me to raise some important issues regarding the theoretical paradigm with which I worked in my master dissertation on theory and sociology of law: the systems theory developed by Niklas Luhmann. Competition suggests some complexities which are not sufficiently captured by the distinction system/environment. But such greater theoretical question will be developed in the last chapter my dissertation and only opened in the final work of the current discipline.

Therefore, my main goal in the final work will be to find in the sociology of economics some foundations for the building of a “sociology of antitrust”. This will be made through sociology of markets, not only by presenting a concurrent view of market other than the one provided by the antitrust prevailing theory, but mainly to observe the richness of sociological view when it comes to understand competition in different types of markets.