

### Chapter 1 : CER | Book Review | Domanski's On the Verge of Convergence

*On the Verge of Convergence; Social Stratification in Eastern Europe (Ceu Medievalia) [Henryk Domanski] on blog.quintoapp.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Based on comparative surveys, the author presents a study of social transformation in Central and Eastern Europe after*

Shopping cart for ecommerce efforts and dues collection Survey tools to engage your members Web calendars and more! Creating a private online member community that includes social media components as well as web-based membership management software is easier than you might think, and it can help you: Separate software licenses, training, hardware and maintenance can be costly when you are working on different platforms and with different vendors. You might be surprised at the dollar cost and the efficiency lost. Besides the efficient workflow that occurs when using a product with components designed to work together, you now have only one logon, one vendor to contact with questions, and one stop for training and one member database. Plus with one system running everything, you have one dashboard to retrieve valuable data in all areas. The complete social media and membership management solution helps you maximize your web presence and modernize your social media offerings. Plus the ease of use of the software available, the diminished learning curve in having only one system to learn and plans with unlimited training make for a seamless integration into your social media plans and organizational mission. Give them access to you through vast content offerings. When considering membership management software, look for something that provides the extras at no additional cost such as the ability to create file libraries and upload multi-media files like MP3s, PowerPoint Presentations, video tours and seminars. Plus the security of a private online community means you have peace of mind regarding your documents and videos. Allowing for interaction with content makes your constituents feel more valued. In addition to creating a feature-rich community for your members it is also important to seek out a solution that provides efficient tools for your administrators. System-wide reporting tools, data import and export, and ease-of-use all help your internal staff perform their duties more effectively and in less time. And because there is only one system to learn, training is easier as well. And an empowered staff is a happier, healthier staff! The technology to meet all of your management and community needs is out there and could possibly save you money when you factor in what you spend for each individual piece of your system. Put an end to your work-arounds and select software that integrates all you want to accomplish in one, user-friendly solution. An all-inclusive membership management software solution can consolidate your organization efforts, increase your efficiency and maximize your opportunities through a feature-rich online community that remains under your control while it showcases your branding. Subscribe to the YM blog for the latest YM news and industry trends.

**Chapter 2 : On the Verge of Convergence : Henryk Domanski :**

*The convergence of the Internet and television could finally be here. At least, Showtime Networks thinks so. The cable-TV company conducted a study in January which showed that one in five.*

On the Verge of Convergence: The theme of social stratification easily leads to technical discussions that may only be interesting for specialists in this area of sociology. Those who are not specialists might have wished for a more general discussion as to why stratification is such an important issue for understanding the transformation process. In addition, although the author generally shows impressive statistical skills, he does not always devote enough space to explaining the logic behind different statistical methods, which means that readers without strong statistical backgrounds can get lost at times. For example, not many undergraduate students will know what "zero order correlations" are; nor will they understand the logic of using odd-ratio coefficients instead of regular coefficients in doing logistic regressions. At one point, the author seems to have used factor analysis, but he only states so in an indirect manner. Of course, Domanski could rightfully defend himself on the grounds that he was not writing for a general public or even for undergraduates; rather he was aiming for a specialized group of scholars. His book is undoubtedly an important contribution to this scholarly debate, especially at the empirical level. This study will certainly be much quoted and used as a starting point for many analyses on stratification in Eastern and Central Europe. He shows that Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic have come closest to Western patterns of stratification, while Bulgaria and Russia are the farthest from them and Slovakia lies somewhere in the middle. Although the author demonstrates this quite convincingly, he does not devote much space to explaining these differences. This emphasis on description at the cost of explanation can leave the reader very frustrated. One result that particularly stands out is the almost complete lack of gender differences in Bulgaria, even in areas in which gender turns out to be a highly significant factor in the remaining five countries of the study. The author ventures no explanations. Another example is the fact that Russian entrepreneurs have more "sophisticated" cultural patterns than professionals, while the opposite is true for the remaining five countries. Even his methods of operationalizing his terms are sometimes questionable. Cultural sophistication An example of a questionable methodological approach is his apparent decision to use factor analysis to construct a scale for degree of cultural sophistication. By using a sophisticated method, he found a score for degree of cultural sophistication. However, factor analysis is meant to be used for determining how many dimensions a scale has. If the scale only has one dimension ie degree of cultural sophistication , then it is more appropriate to do a reliability test such as one based on alpha scores or a test of "difficulty" such as the Mokken scale to see which questions really measure cultural sophistication and then add the scores of these questions together. At times he makes statements about results which are not statistically significant, which means that we cannot really know if his results are based on a "true" relationship or simple sampling error. Domanski often compares the strengths of standardized coefficients to claim that some relationships are stronger than others, even though the variables with higher coefficients in some cases have lower levels of significance than variables with slightly lower coefficients. Under these circumstances, one should be cautious in making conclusions about the relative strengths of variables. For example, in discussing middle class proprietors, he claims that the normal Western pattern is for the category of "higher professionals and managers" to have higher incomes than owners of small businesses. That is probably true, given that managers of large corporations will usually earn more money than owners of small stores. However, he measures owners of small businesses under the heading "owners with employees," which even includes owners of large multinational corporations. In the West, this distinction might not be such a problem, as large corporations are usually owned by many shareholders rather than by one person. However, because of the peculiarities of the privatization process, it is probably more common for East European firms to be owned by one person. An example would be the restitution of the Bata shoe company to the son of the original owner. If the company had not been nationalized in the Communist era, then it might well have become an incorporated stock company, but since the Czech section of the company came under state control, it never reached this level and thus was given back to the son of the original owner. His main measure of

self-recruitment is the issue of whether or not one had owned a private enterprise in . It is hardly surprising that somebody who owned an enterprise in also owned one in , especially since they were likely to have continued owning the same enterprise. This obvious correlation tells us really nothing about the privatization process. Domanski also measures self-recruitment by investigating whether there was a correlation between the father or grandfather having owned an enterprise and the son owning one in . Such a discussion quickly becomes rather meaningless if the restitution process is left out. If a man who starts his own business in the s had a grandfather who had a different enterprise in the pre-Communist times, then we see an important sociological process underway. That means that entrepreneurial skills and values have been transmitted over generations. Even if the survey data does not show whether the private property was gained through restitution, Domanski could have discussed the different laws on restitution in the six countries and then related it to the survey results. On the other hand, a high relationship in Russia would not reflect any laws on restitution, since after more than 70 years of Communist rule, there was no property that could be easily restituted. Steven Saxonberg , 5 March Moving on:

*On The Verge Of Convergence Vergence wikipedia, a vergence is the simultaneous movement of both eyes in opposite directions to obtain or maintain single binocular vision when a creature.*

Credit Card vs Cash in Africa “ on the verge of convergence. Conversely, financial service providers now look to promote the use of cards in South Africa and throughout the African continent. Banks have begun to incentivise customers and retailers through the likes of rewards programs, reduced transaction costs and improved access to card transaction facilities. Even with these incentives and despite the greater risk and costs associated with cash transactions, many consumers are still reluctant to switch to card. Yet, Africa and South Africa, specifically, are poised for digital change in the financial industry, and there is a slow progression away from cash towards cards or electronic banking. There is some risk associated with cards: However, is cash truly a better option? Carrying cash, particularly for people who use public transport “ as many South Africans do “ is risky business. With card transactions, many banks are willing to reimburse lost funds due to fraud, provided the customer follows the recommended safety precautions. ATMs are also high-risk targets for fraud, with more and more ATMs being fitted with card-skimming devices by criminals. In fact, defrauding a person withdrawing cash from an ATM is much easier for a criminal than doing so using a card skimmer on a credit card machine. This method is far less traceable. This increases the risk of a criminal being caught. ATM skimming also offers a higher return, as the traffic for withdrawal from an ATM is considerably higher than that of a retailer. Finally, cash transactions cost more, for both the consumer and the retailer. Consumers typically pay hefty fees to withdraw cash, and even higher fees to deposit it, whereas card transactions carry significantly lower fees and charges. However, infrastructure to facilitate card transactions is still a problem in some, more rural areas. For the most part, the rise of mobile payments and clip-on card readers has eliminated much of the problem around infrastructure accessibility. These easy-to-use devices and mobile payment applications have enabled even small business owners to accept card payments from virtually anywhere. Changing the mindset of cash users, however, poses the biggest challenge. People need to be educated on the risks and rewards of both cash and card transacting in order to fully understand the benefits “ and dangers “ associated with both. Practicing safe online shopping habits, adopting an awareness of suspect behaviour and simply being cautious when entering personal information such as a pin number or credit card details can go a long way to mitigating much of the risk with card payments. Whereas with cash payments, preventing theft is far harder to achieve. Making card and online transacting more secure Most financial institutions and payment portals are continually updating their security protocols, working towards minimising fraud and card scams. There are also governances and regulations in place which seek to protect consumers, retailers and financial institutions alike. Security standards such as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard PCI-DSS , an information security standard for organizations that handle branded credit cards from the major card schemes, exist to provide payment peace of mind for the consumer. Additional security measures such as transactions based text notifications, fraud prevention systems, application alerts, once-off payment authorisation codes and even biometrics are all being incorporated into card and online transacting to make it more secure. Today, retailers and service providers simply cannot afford to operate on a cash-only basis and many are finding it far more cost effective to accept cards only. Even the likes of airports and shopping centres have now implemented credit card facilities when customers need to pay for parking. This a very convenient option for the credit card user “ as we have all struggled to find change at the bottom of our wallets and hand bags. Consumers will need to start adapting to this shift, and embrace digital payment methods “ for better safety, to save on costs and to reap the rewards that financial institutions are punting.

**Chapter 4 : The Emergence of VERGE | GreenBiz**

*Domanski also measures self-recruitment by investigating whether there was a correlation between the father or grandfather having owned an enterprise and the son owning one in*

Innovation Ecosystem Newport on the verge of building its own microgrid As part of an integrated resilience initiative, the first phase of the microgrid will feature solar and state-of-the-art storage technologies Image courtesy of the City of Newport The map of Phase 1 of a planned microgrid in Newport, part of an integrated resilience initiative being developed by a public-private consortium. The planned microgrid would be the first one built in Rhode Island. With the planned construction of the first microgrid in Rhode Island as part of a public-private consortium, Newport has positioned itself on the front lines of resilience in re-inventing itself in the face of climate change and technological innovation. The questions that need to be asked Will the R. General Assembly examine legal remedies to enable homeowners and businesses with renewable energy sources not to be disabled from the grid during blackouts and storm outages? What kinds of hubs of distributed generation can be created in Rhode Island as an alternative to building large new power plants? Will CommerceRI consider the potential to create an innovation campus in Newport to take advantage of the existing plans for a new green infrastructure? What are the opportunities to create incentives in new housing construction for renewable energy and storage systems? Under the radar screen At some point soon, Rhode Island will have to make choices about its future energy infrastructure: The Newport microgrid project, in many ways, offers a counterbalance to the argument that construction of new power plants equals more jobs. Investments in cleaner, smarter, more innovative ways to produce energy as a way to connect the community being served may offer a more sustainable job creation formula, one that boosts the local economy. It could change the political equation. NEWPORT “If all goes well with pending approval by the Newport City Council, work could soon begin in the next few months on building an electricity microgrid, the first of its kind in Rhode Island, as part of a larger effort to create a portfolio of integrated resilience initiatives to serve as a national model for resilience. The first phase of the microgrid project is planned to include critical facilities: Carroll, director of Civic Investment for the City of Newport. The microgrid would incorporate renewable energy sources, including rooftop solar, and a state-of-the-art battery storage system, according to Carroll. The potential second phase would extend the microgrid corridor northward to include Newport Hospital. A potential third phase would be to build out to the microgrid system to include the wastewater treatment plant, a sustainable agriculture project at CCRI, the Newport Housing Authority, and the Newport Innovation District, according to Carroll. Describing the context for the microgrid, Carroll told ConvergenceRI: The integrated resilience initiative was developed in response to a national RFP issued by the City of Newport in to create a public-private partnership with a private consortium. The initial consortium included: After the initial agreement, the consortium added an impact investment firm called G2 Investments, and formed the Newport Project Development Company. The microgrid project will involve yet unnamed private partners and investors as well as National Grid. There was interest expressed in building a microgrid as a test case, and Newport fit the four potential categories being sought: In the first phase of building the microgrid in Newport, the source of renewable energy will be solar, according to Carroll, with potential diversification as the microgrid project moves forward. Without revealing the name of the private partner, Carroll said the microgrid would serve as a test case for better energy storage technologies. Larger sustainable plans In addition to the microgrid, plans for the resiliency initiative in Newport also include a potential sustainable urban agriculture project, a hydroponics facility to built on five acres adjacent to the CCRI campus in Newport, according to Carroll. The new facility would employ state-of-the-art hydroponics technology pioneered by the Dutch, as part of a large glass structure, financed by a U. Carroll said that the city would be working with stakeholders, including the local Health Equity Zone, as part of its investment with green infrastructure, to develop the appropriate skills and job training components to fill newly created jobs with benefits with local residents.

**Chapter 5 : On the verge of success - ConvergenceRI**

*Get this from a library! On the verge of convergence: social stratification in Eastern Europe. [Henryk Domański] -- "Based upon comparative surveys and newly obtained data, Domanski's book provides a major contribution to the study of social transformation in Central and Eastern Europe after*

Yow-Pin Lim talks with Rep. ProThera has recently located to Eddy St. The move by ProThera Biologics to lease space for three years at Eddy Street appears to presage the next successful growth phase by the early stage company. It also reinforces the growing strength of the emerging biomedical industry ecosystem in Rhode Island. It also underscores the potential of the former Route land to become a hub of biomedical and life sciences companies. The questions that need to be asked With the announcement by Gov. Beyond looking at the development of more incubator space, what specific investments are being considered to support the infrastructure to support the biomedical industry sector? With the proposed funding of a state-run small business loan fund, what kinds of job creation metrics will be used? Under the radar screen Mnemosyne Pharmaceuticals, an early stage Rhode Island drug development firm, much like ProThera Biologics, appears to have some promising potential developments in the near future. With both companies, their success is based upon the strength of their excellence in scientific research. And, that it is a long-term investment. ProThera has developed a new biologic, known as Inter-alpha Inhibitor Proteins, which is a naturally occurring, broad-spectrum protease inhibitor. The biologic has shown strong potential in treating a range of life-threatening inflammatory diseases, such as dengue fever, anthrax and bacterial sepsis. In addition, as part of its core technology platform, ProThera is developing a series of biomarkers in systemic inflammation from bacterial and viral causes, as well as a diagnostic marker for neonatal sepsis. Co-founder and CEO Dr. Among the relationships forged with clinical and academic research scientists include: Louise McCullough from the University of Connecticut, working on stroke. Last spring, Prothera Biologics had moved into a commercial research lab facility at the former Fuji Film building at Massasoit Ave. At that time, ProThera had been in the midst of discussions to form a strategic partnership with a leading player in the blood product industry to ensure the flow of high-quality product supply needed to support clinical development and trials. The Inter-alpha Inhibitor is created through a blood fractionation process. With the move comes an apparent new confidence about its future: Prothera becomes the lead tenant, sub-leasing space to two startups: The location on Eddy Street, Horan, continued, will enable closer collaboration with the medical community. The building is located across from the South Street Landing project, where a shared nursing school center and administrative offices for Brown are being constructed.

### Chapter 6 : Newport on the verge of building its own microgrid - ConvergenceRI

*We get the scoop on how Ubuntu Touch plans to tackle Android's market share & the challenges involved in moving some of our favorite desktop Linux apps to Ubuntu touch. Plus what makes the.*

Speaker Nomination Submission Deadline: April 20, Overview: The event convenes a high-powered audience of more than 2,000 leaders from companies and utilities, city and regional governments, policy makers, NGOs, solution providers and startups to explore the emerging technologies and scalable solutions within three dynamic and influential markets: VERGE promises fresh, solutions-focused perspectives on the innovative ideas and enabling technologies shaping our future. We are accepting proposals for the following types of session formats: Case Studies Stories from the Field 1-hour deep dives around specific case studies where multiple speakers representing the ecosystem involved discuss their real-life experiences in solving specific challenges. General Breakouts Panel Discussions hour exploratory sessions focused on expansive topics in policy, trends and innovation. Speakers reflect a range of perspectives and are experts in their respective fields. Interactive Workshops hour participatory workshops that surface key insights by leveraging the collective intelligence of those in the room. This is the most open, flexible format. This year, our event will include three concurrent conferences each focused on a dynamic and influential market driving the transition to a clean economy. VERGE Energy brings together large energy buyers, producers and professionals involved in energy management and procurement including professionals from corporations, government agencies, innovative service providers, developers, financiers and utilities to explore the emerging technologies, policies and models accelerating renewable energy procurement, microgrids, energy efficiency, and other solutions to decarbonize global energy systems at the grid and distributed scales. VERGE Transport brings together vehicle manufacturers, government and policy makers, transportation service suppliers, energy producers and infrastructure providers to explore the emerging technologies, policies and models accelerating electric vehicles and transit, autonomous, connected and shared mobility systems, sustainable fuels and the infrastructure enabling a clean, efficient transportation system accessible to all. VERGE Circular brings together professionals involved in design, sustainability, materials science, supply chain management, product strategy, logistics, procurement and other business functions as well as policymakers, investors and service providers to explore the emerging technologies, policies and models accelerating more sustainable food and water systems, the built environment, logistics and supply chains, advanced materials and manufacturing and other systems optimizing resource use through systems that are restorative and regenerative by design. Note that all three conferences will include cross cutting themes not inclusive: Resilience and security; Future of cities; Equity and inclusion; Model transformation; Emerging technologies; and Finance opportunities. What we are looking for: Especially when it comes to afternoon breakouts, we prioritize those that are: Solutions-focused and outcomes based and leave participants with clear, actionable insights Participatory integrate into the session design meaningful opportunities for audience interaction with one another and the speakers Diverse accurately represent the diverse perspectives and people working across sectors on the topic being discussed Convergent build on the VERGE theme of convergence, not just exploring one topic in isolation As a reminder, we curate exploratory, interactive, outcomes-based sessions, ensuring the inclusion of diverse stakeholders with important perspectives who are not always at the table. Please keep this in mind. Please fill out the form below and we will contact you if we are interested in more information. We encourage you to submit your proposal early, as speaking slots do fill up very quickly. Deadline to submit speaker nominations:

### Chapter 7 : The Ad Contrarian: On The Verge of Convergence?

*Convergence a big word, that you probably haven't thought about since prepping for the SATs, but one that could save you a ton of money. Most organizations start out with the basics: an email app, a calendar program (probably part of your email) and word processing software of some kind.*

**Chapter 8 : Credit Card vs Cash in Africa – on the verge of convergence.**

*On The Verge of Convergence? It's been about 15 years now that we've been waiting for "convergence" -- when the TV and the computer would join hands and walk blissfully down the aisle. Out chattering digerati keep telling us it's right around the corner, and like much of what they've told us, it's nowhere in sight.*

**Chapter 9 : On the Verge of Convergence Explosion**

*"Convergence" is one of those budding buzzwords that marketers and even scientists use when describing the prolonged combination or mixing of various entities. The blending together of traditional and social media is one example as is the simultaneous inward movement of eyes towards each other.*