The Greek political publishing field during the long 1960s, exemplified by the case of Istorikes Ekdoseis, 1963–1981

Mais, C.

PROPOSITIONS

Christos Mais

1. Political publishing in Greece during the long sixties constituted a distinctive publishing field, with specific characteristics, such as the limited significance of economic capital and the major significance of symbolic capital, the great impact space and time plays for the field's particular characteristics and evolution, and the domination of non-fiction translated works.
2. Symbolic capital is the most important form of capital of the political publishing field, deriving not from the quality of the publications (either material, e.g. design, or content-related, e.g. quality of translations) but from their political status.
3. In contrast to the trade-publishing field, economic capital is relatively insignificant in the political publishing field, not due to a scarcity of financial resources but due to the fact that the majority of the agents of the field were driven into it for political rather than economic reasons.
4. The political publishing field reflects the underlying sociality of space, where space (e.g. educational institutes, coffee houses and bars) is significant in terms of the materialisation of social communication that evolves into social capital.
5. There is a need for more concrete definitions of the various sub-genres (e.g. alternative, underground) that constitute the political publishing field, since loose definitions are counter-constructive or even misleading for research.
6. Time and space are two vital elements in the study of publishing fields since investigating or comparing fields across different time periods and places may prove to be disorientating and misleading.
7. Historicising publishing fields helps us in investigating them since fields are dynamic and evolve in time as printing technology or social conditions do.
8. Publishing fields are characterised by, among other factors, technological advancements in typesetting and printing. The evolution of the technology used in publishing, transforming the latter into a less time and money consuming process, contributes to the faster and wider development of publishing fields.
9. Social media are of increasing importance for research in humanities and social sciences and they can be used as research platforms, archives and communication mediums.
10. Theory needs to be solid enough to provide a framework and fluid enough not to constrain research, in order to introduce and elaborate on different findings without fear of derailing from a very rigid theoretical path.
11. EU policies do not serve the people of Europe but specific economic and political interests as illustrated by the case of the EU Economic Adjustment Programmes implemented in Greece.