

Communication, promise and politics: The power of mutual promises

Comunicación, promesa y política: El poder de las promesas mutuas

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In this article, the promise is analysed as peculiar communicative action that creates a link between the person who makes a promise and the person who receives the promise. The one who makes a promise in a free and unilateral way becomes committed in his present and his future. At the moment the promise is announced, it becomes a commitment and a debt that the other can legitimately retrieve. Another form is the mutual promise, that links together those that make the promise in their actions and future condition, making this promise a common condition. From this perspective, the conformation of the body politic itself has been revised, that which arises from the original contract (*pactum unionis*) that at least from the beginnings of modernity is the basis of a *we*, an artificial community created from the act of a mutual promise. *We* is a product of an inheritance that commits our present and our future. This *we* is a task that not yet, at least not completely, we have to become.