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Interview

with Elena DELL'AGNESE

by Ilenya Camozzi

Elena Dell’Agnese is Full Professor of Geography at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca. She is also Vice President of the International Geographical Union (IGU-UGI), Council Member of the Società Geografica Italiana and Chair of the research group AGeI "Island Studies".

Her research interests focus on political geography and gender issues (nation building processes and regional iconographies in Europe and in Asia; European borders and their role as identity markers; cities as symbolic landscapes and political places/spaces; the political geography of masculinity). She has been working on rural and urban deprivation, and she is also interested in urban developments and transformations.

Among her recent publications:
- Italian Critical Geographies, with C. Minca and M. Schmidt Muller di Friedberg, In L. Berg and U. Best (Eds.), Placing Critical Geographies: International Histories of Critical Geographies, Ashgate-Aldershot – forthcoming;

THE MALDIVES: Tourism, Research and Ethics

As scientific coordinator of the UNIMIB Workshop ‘Turismo sostenibile in ambienti fragili’ (Sustainable Tourism in Fragile Environments), you often go to the Maldives with your students. What is the purpose of these visits with students?

With the students, I go to the the MarHe Center (http://www.marhe.unimib.it/), a research outpost financed by the University of Milano-Bicocca, on the island of Maghoodhoo. For them, I think it is important to understand that there is a huge difference between the heavenly image of the Maldives, promoted by tourist advertising, and the reality of inhabited islands, with their problems related to water and waste management. Although Maghoodhho is still a coral island, with a white beach fringed by palm trees and turquoise sea, students understand in a few days how the dream image clashes with the reality of the islands. All lessons are constructed in such a way as to offer students a theoretical point of view and then to develop it in relation to the Maldives as a case study. For this reason, classroom hours are complemented by excursions to nearby islands, visits to resorts and even water lessons, in order to bring students closer to the issues of reef and coral ecosystem.
I imagine that the students are also very interested in the possibility of having contact with the inhabitants of the island.

Of course, although it is not always very easy to organize meetings of this kind. Apart from the linguistic difficulties, which allow us to speak only with those who master English, there are also cultural misunderstandings at times, since, like all Maldivians, the inhabitants of the island are Muslims. The ban on walking around the island in brief clothing, for example, offers an excellent opportunity to reason with students about host and guest relationships and how these represent one of the central themes of tourism research.

Apart from the educational reasons, I know that you are also going there for scientific reasons. What are the specific objectives of your research?

For some time now, I have been researching the resort islands, the uninhabited islands that Maldivian tourism planning has destined for international tourism. For many years, the only way to visit the Maldives was to stay on one of these islands, where there was no Maldivian population, but only tourists and workers. Designed to meet the expectations of tourists, the resort islands have a totally artificial space organization, which has nothing to do with the social reality of inhabited islands. However, they fully respect the dream landscape of the tropical island, the heavenly landscape of "barefoot" luxury, where tourists feel modern (and very spoiled) "robinson crusoe".
What is interesting is to understand how this type of scenario, exclusively linked to tourism, has managed to obfuscate the image of the "real Maldives", where problems of isolation, regional inequalities, social inequalities, unemployment and, in the capital, even drug addiction are certainly not lacking.

From what you tell me, it clearly emerges the paradoxical co-existence of two opposite universes that share the same geographical space but do not have contacts: the one of the luxurious resorts for wealthy tourists and the one of the real country with its many social and economic inequalities. As human geographer, which kind of interpretation would you give in front of this scenario?

This contrast makes the Maldives a very interesting regional area for tourism research. The project is naturally trying to understand how to make sure that a part of the money spent by tourists and tourism entrepreneurs to make the dream possible can also be spent on social and environmental objectives, such as the education of younger generations or the preservation of the reef.

You are implicitly referring to the issue of ethical implications of tourism. Can ethic tourism really exist and, if it can, what does it need for its implementation?

It must be said that sometimes it is the resorts themselves that are committed to creating positive relations with the inhabited islands, in order to help them in waste management, for example, or to creating synergies in terms of transport with the guest houses. In some cases, resort initiatives have been launched to finance school activities or even to teach island children to swim (it may be surprising, but bathing is not an island tradition). It is difficult to determine if it is really about ethical tourism, or just a good way to get publicity. But I think it's better than nothing.
AGING IN A NETWORKED SOCIETY  
Older People, Social Networks and Wellbeing

The overall aim of this project is to investigate the impact of offline social networks, i.e., more “traditional” and face-to-face social networks, and online social networks, i.e., social relationships developed using SNSs on older people’s physical health, cognitive functions, and well-being. In addition, this project aims to explore the role of smartphone and social networking sites (SNSs) use on older people’s social inclusion and on intergenerational solidarity. This research will contribute to fill in some of the existing gaps in this field in a number of ways, e.g., exploring the impact of the changes in older people’s offline social network characteristics (separately considering losses and additions) on physical health, cognitive functions, and well-being, and assessing causal relationship between SNSs use and older people’s health and well-being.

To reach our goals we will use different research methods and a combination of qualitative and quantitative data. We will perform secondary analysis of EUROSTAT survey data and data from the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), comparing the Italian case to the one of other European countries and using advanced regression techniques. We will compare older people of different age groups, older men and women, older people who live in different areas (urban/rural) and with different living arrangements. “Piggy backing” on a pre-existing longitudinal study on the older population of Abbiategrasso, we will also conduct an experiment, to assess the causal impact of Facebook use on older people’s physical health, cognitive functions, and well-being. This is the first study of this nature carried out in Europe. Last, we will describe older people’s practices of smartphone and SNSs use using innovative digital methods (e.g., analysing big data from smartphone use and SNSs study participants’ profiles) and conducting a small case ethnographic study that involves AUSER Monza and Brianza’s members. We are not aware of similar studies carried out on older people.

Conducting such a complex piece of research requires an interdisciplinary approach and a complementary set of skills. A multidisciplinary team, mixing and bringing into collaboration sociologists (Department of Sociology of Social Research at Milano Bicocca), a geriatrist, a biologist and a neuropsychologist (Golgi Cenci Foundation), and an expert in digital methods (Media Department at Middlesex University London), will carry out the proposed research. AUSER Monza and Brianza, one of the most important voluntary organization in the field of active aging in Italy, is also partner in the project, providing privileged access to study members, informing the research design and the analysis plan and proving feedback on the interpretation of the results. AUSER will have a key role in disseminating research findings to the stakeholders and the civil society. The project will also largely benefit from Dr. Kieran Walsh’s expertise, the Principal Investigator of the Horizon 2020 COST ACTION “Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research and Policy”.

Another key aim of the project is to enhance young researchers’ career. Beside the active, lively, international and multidisciplinary research environment, young researchers working in the project will benefit from individualized Career Development Plans, aimed at reinforcing their career records, academic visibility and professional skills.

The project has been supported by Fondazione Cariplo and has a duration of 2 years (from May 2018 to May 2020).

We are currently recruiting a research fellow to work at the Department of Sociology and Social Research of Bicocca University. The research fellow will assist the PI, Professor Emanuela Sala in the research, taking responsibility for the analysis of cross-sectional and longitudinal data from various European surveys. 

Link to the full call: https://www.unimib.it/ateneo/gare-e-concorsi/cod-18a018

The website of the project is coming soon. In the meantime, follow us on ResearchGate! https://www.researchgate.net/project/Aging-in-a-networked-society-Older-people-social-networks-and-well-being

Photograph: project partners at the kick-off meeting (Bicocca University, 23/02/2018)
A DEPARTMENT OF EXCELLENCE

The Department of Sociology and Social Research has been recently appointed “Department of excellence” in a national competition that involved all the Departments of Sociology in Italy (see the final ranking published by the MIUR on 9th January 2018).

The final ranking has been determined both by the results of the 2017 national survey on the research activity (VQR) - elaborated by the National Agency of evaluation (ANVUR) - and by the positive evaluation of the aims of the research project of the Center for Advanced Studies on Social Change (CSSC).

Thanks to the aforementioned award, the Department of Sociology and Social Research will establish the Center for Advanced Studies on Social Change (CSSC) that, on the one hand, will involve numerous scholars of the Department and, on the other hand, will allow enrolling young scholars in next years.

Photograph: UNIMIB – Piano di Comunicazione 2018
WESTERN CAPITALISM IN TRANSITION
Global Processes, Local Challenges

Edited by Alberta Andreotti, David Benassi and Yuri Kazepov
Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2018

Since its emergence at the end of the seventeenth century, industrial capitalism as a specific form of social organisation has set recurrent challenges to its own persistence, and until today, it has proved to be successful to develop new ways of accumulation based on its capacity of adaptation. Is this process of transition now accelerating or reaching an end point? This book is a critical exploration of capitalism in transition, bringing together cutting edge, world renowned scholars who reflect from different disciplinary points of view. This collection engages with the primarily Western themes of welfare capitalism and social fragmentation. Structured over three parts, the book analyses; the transformations of welfare societies and capitalism with a focus on South European welfare states and their (in)capacity to tackle poverty; the transformation of work and migration with a special attention to informality and the question of social rights; and the transformation of cities.

VALUTARE L'ISTRUZIONE
Dalla Scuola all'Università

Alessandra Decataldo and Brunella Fiore
Roma, Carocci, 2018

In the last decades, schools and universities evaluation has become one of the most quoted issue debated into the educational systems. The terms of the debate are not only about the resources’ redistribution, but mainly in order to improve students’ learning modalities and their attainment of educational outcomes. This book looks at the whole educational cycle – from schools to university which have the same didactical mission - underlying the similarities but, at the same time, showing the differences in the structure and consequences of the evaluation processes. This book addresses to graduating and post-graduating students in the fields of social and human sciences, but it represents a precious tool also for educators, teachers and trainers working in these fields.
LA SALUTE NEGATA
Le sfide dell'equità in prospettiva sociologica

Marco Terraneo
Milano, FrancoAngeli, 2018

Health is essential because we know how important it is to enjoy physical and mental efficiency to carry out life projects. We also know that when health is damaged it is important to have access to the best care, with the aim of recovering health conditions soon. What we often overlook is that the risk of getting sick or receiving adequate health care largely depends on the social position in society. The work we do, the income we earn, the education we achieve, but also the social relationships we are part of, are factors that increase or decrease chances of enjoying good health. Likewise, although in our country the National Health System guarantees universal health care, there are great differences in access and use of health services among people, on the basis of the resources (knowledge, power, prestige, money) that they possess. This book addresses, both theoretically and empirically, the persistent inequities of health and healthcare which characterize our societies. It does it from a sociological perspective, in order to show how this approach can make a significant contribution to the understanding of the processes at the root of health inequities. On the other hand, the book does not only give the tools to understand and analyse health and healthcare iniquities, but also offers a conceptual and analytical framework to find solutions able to change the unjust health conditions in which many disadvantaged people live.

A NEW INDIVIDUALISM?
Individualization, Subjectivity and Social Bond

Edited by Carmen Leccardi and Paolo Volonté
Milano, Egea, 2017

The importance assigned to the individual is an essential characteristic of modern society, and individualism is part and parcel of it. But individualism has its story and phases. In recent decades there has been much talk of a “new individualism”, often described as a potential risk to the keeping of the social bonding.
In this volume some of the most famous contemporary sociologists, from Ulrich Beck to Hartmut Rosa and Danilo Martuccelli, in dialogue with established Italian scholars, propose a reinterpretation of contemporary individualism in a way which is attentive, articulated and alien from ideological drifts. It is immediately evident that the phenomenon has many facets. The universalist individualism of triumphant modernity has not simply been replaced by the self-referentiality of socially fragile individuals who fall victims to the expansion of the logics of consumption and the “tyrannies of intimacy”. Following a parallel path, new experiences of sociability and participation do emerge, too.
In a climate of intense social acceleration, the vacuum left by the weakening of the forms of political organization, but also of the forms of knowledge that accompanied the parable of modernity, has to be filled. Precisely for this reason the analytical in depth analysis of these processes seems urgent, because it can contribute to shedding light on the relationship between the growth of individualism, forms of social bonding and dynamics of civil participation.
The book reflects on these themes through the contributions of Ulrich Beck, Franco Crespi, Carmen Leccardi, Danilo Martuccelli, Walter Privitera, Hartmut Rosa, Loredana Sciolla and Paolo Volonté.
La réalité migratoire des femmes est désormais un phénomène mondial. Cette dynamique a toujours revêtu des dimensions et des caractères différents en fonction des pays de départ et d'arrivée. En ce qui concerne l'Italie, le phénomène migratoire remonte aux années soixante-dix et présente des caractéristiques et des spécificités peu étudiées en sociologie des migrations.

Ce volume met en relief la complexité, la croissance dynamique et systématique de la présence des femmes migrantes en Italie. Après avoir analysé les recherches relatives aux femmes immigrées en Europe et en Italie, cet ouvrage accorde une attention particulière aux thèmes des transformations identitaires, de l'insertion des femmes de la migration dans le marché du travail ainsi que de leur santé.

Cet ouvrage s'adresse tout particulièrement aux universitaires qui s’intéressent aux processus migratoires, mais il a aussi été conçu pour tous les acteurs et les institutions qui travaillent avec les sujets migrants.
Teresa BERTOTTI, Carla FACCHINI, Paolo ROSSI

Traiettorie d’innovazione welfare locale. La riconfigurazione del settore politiche sociali del Comune di Milano nelle valutazioni degli operatori
in Autonomie Locali e Servizi Sociali
2, 275-297, 2017

Ilénya CAMOZZI, Daniela CHERUBINI, Carmen LECCARDI, Paola RIVETTI

Normas y valores de los jóvenes en el Mediterráneo árabe: un análisis de género
in Revista Cidob d’Afers Internacionals
5, 201-224, 2018

Sebastiano CITRONI

Dalla disuguaglianza all’inclusione sociale?
in L. D’Alessandro and A. Montanari (Eds.)
Diseguaglianze e Crisi della Fiducia. Diritto Politica e Democrazia nella Società Contemporanea
Milano, Franco Angeli, 215 – 228, 2018

Social Spirals Through Everyday Group Life: Settings and Group Styles in a Comparative Perspective
in Frontiers in Sociology- Sociological Theory
2, 1-10, 2018

Cultural Entrepreneurialism for Civic Causes in Milan and Los Angeles
with P. Lichterman
in Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa
3, 471 – 485, 2017

Participation in Urban Interventions. Meaning-Effects and Urban Citizenship
in Cidades Comunidades e Territórios
34, 30 – 45, 2017
Annalisa DORDONI

Lavoro di vendita al cliente e liberalizzazione dei consumi. Una ricerca comparativa sulla deregolamentazione degli orari di apertura dei negozi
in Quaderni di Rassegna Sindacale-Lavori
3, 99-112, 2017

Times and Rhythms of the Retail Shift Work: two European Case Studies. Immediate Gratification and Deregulation of Shop Opening Hours
in Sociologia del lavoro
146, 156-171, 2017

Tempi e ritmi della vendita diretta al cliente: società dei servizi 24/7 e trasformazioni sociali
in D. Pacelli (Ed.)
Le cose non sono quelle che sembrano. Contributi teorico-analitici per una sociologia non ovvia
Sulla traccia di Luciano Gallino
Milano, FrancoAngeli, 113-126, 2017

Altre mobilità professionali
in C. Croce and A. Zucca (Eds.)
Altri lavori, altri lavoratori. Diario di bordo
Milano, Fondazione Feltrinelli, 59, 91-102, 2017

Chiara GIUBILARO

(Un)framing Lampedusa. Regimes of Visibility and the Politics of Affect in Italian Media Representations
in L. Odassi and G. Proglio (Eds.)
Border Lampedusa. Subjectivity, Visibility and Memory in Stories of Sea and Land
London, Palgrave Macmillan, 103-117, 2018

Lo spettacolo del naufragio: migrazioni, luoghi visuali e politica delle emozioni
in InteRGRace (Eds.)
Visualità e (anti-)razzismo
Padova, University of Padova Press, 10-23, 2018

Undoing Commons. Diritto Alla Città, Attivismo Culturale e Pratiche di (Un-)Commoning nel Sud d’Italia
in ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies
17 (2), 325-47, 2017

Shooting Borders. Per una geografia visuale delle migrazioni
in Rivista Geografica Italiana
127, 315-336, 2017
Lorenzo NATALI

Dr(awing)A(pperception)K(nowledge)MAP. Note metodologiche su una ricerca partecipata tra città e carcere
with C. Mutti and G. Acito
in F. La Rocca (Ed.)
Epidemia visuale. La prevalenza delle immagini e l’effetto sulla società
Roma, Edizioni Estemporanee, 303-327, 2018

Film-live «Atlante». Una nuova metodologia qualitativa nel campo della criminologia visuale
with M. Costa
in Studi Culturali
3, 457-486, 2017

Zeitgenössische Umweltschäden unter einer ‹grünen› kriminologischen Lupe: Der Fall Italien
in Zibaldone
63, 13-25, 2017

Hacia una criminología verde "con" imágenes: la foto-elucidación como método para explorar la percepción social de los daños ambientales
in H. Mol, D.R. Goyes, N. South and A. Brisman (Eds.)
Introducción a la Criminología Verde. Conceptos para Nuevos Horizontes y Diálogos Socioambientales Bogotá
Fondo Editorial de la Universidad Antonio Nariño, 1, 128-148, 2017

Paolo ROSSI

Il welfare come merito? Logiche di responsabilizzazione e processi di individualizzazione nell’accesso ai servizi socio-assistenziali
in Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia
3, 579-614, 2017

Emanuela SALA, Chiara RESPI, Alessandra DECATALDO

Non Response in Web Surveys. The Role of SMS Reminders
in Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia
1, 5-24, 2018
The economic globalization is increasingly characterized by relevant changes in terms of organization of work, labour market segmentation and new forms of collective actions aimed at representing and protecting vulnerable workers.

On the 12th of June 2018, an international seminar with the title “Economic Globalization, Vulnerable Workers and New Forms of Collective Action” was held in the Aula Pagani at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano – Bicocca.

The seminar illustrated the findings of two empirical researches: “Latin Workers Organizing in London” realized by Gabriella Alberti – University of Leeds, UK; “Cut to the Bone: Subcontracting, Workers Cooperatives and Low-paid Work in the Italian Meat Industry” Lisa Dorigatti – University of Milan, Italy.

This was one of the international seminars related to Analysis of Social and Economic Processes – ASEP PhD Program. The seminar has been organised by Giovanna Fullin and Diego Coletto, University of Milano – Bicocca.

The international conference entitled “Equality and Environmental Justice” took place at the University of Milano-Bicocca on the 5th of June 2018. The Conference was organized by Centro di Ricerca Dipartimentale PRAGSIA in collaboration with Reset DOC – Dialogues on Civilization, Centro Studi di Etica e Politica, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele.

Beside institutional delegates and practitioners (Mirko Alagna, Claudia Baracchi, Giancarlo Bosetti, Edoardo Datteri, Federico Laudisa, Roberto Miraglia, Francesca Pongiglione, Giorgia Serughetti), Kenneth Baynes, Professor in Social and Political Philosophy – Syracuse University, N.Y. and Jeremy Moss, Professor in Political and Applied Philosophy – University of New South Wales, Sydney, participated to the conference.

The event has been introduced and coordinated by Marina Calloni and Marco Grasso, University of Milano – Bicocca.
WENDY ESPELAND: ACADEMIC RANKINGS AND REACTIVITY

International Seminar
Tuesday, 5 June, 2018

The international seminar was promoted and organized by the research group Lab. “SuiGeneris - Laboratorio di Sociologia dell'azione pubblica”, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano – Bicocca.

The seminar was based on the book “Engines of Anxiety. Academic Rankings, Reputation and Accountability”, edited by the Espeland with Michael Sauder.

Many members of the Department - Lavinia Bifulco, Elena dell’Agnese, Roberto Moscati, Gianmarco Navarini, Marco Romito - and scholars from other Universities - Vando Borghi (University of Bologna), Joselle Dagnes and Juan Carlos De Martin (University of Torino), Gianfranco Viesti (University of Bari) - were invited to discuss with the author about the book.

The seminar has been introduced by Giampaolo Nuvolati and coordinated by Ota de Leonardis.

Photograph: UNIMIB – Piano di Comunicazione 2018
The Department of Sociology and Social Research welcomes scholars to apply to our international programs to become a:

- Visiting professor / researcher;
- Erasmus professor / researcher.

Visiting scholars:

- Hamilton Viana Chaves - Centro de Ciências da Saúde, Universidade de Fortaleza, Brasil
- Andrea Ascani - Utrecht University, Netherlands
- Jaime Serra - University of Évora, Spain
- Femke Dewulf - University College Ghent, Belgium
- Greet De Brauwere - University College Ghent, Belgium
- Jeremy Moss – The University of New South Wales, Australia
THIRD MISSION

Traditionally Universities are engaged with two main missions: education (the “First Mission”) and research (the “Second Mission”). Nowadays, Universities are also involved in a “Third mission”. The “Third Mission” refers to the involvement of Universities in tackling social and economic challenges using their knowledge and expertise in doing research.

The Department of Sociology and Social Research acknowledges the strategic importance of the “Third Mission”, as underlined in the 2018-2020 (multi-annual) planning document. As for the “Third Mission”, the Department’s aims for the next years will be:

- to manage, widespread and publicise more widely the scientific knowledge;
- to develop and promote new forms of cooperation with public and private enterprises;
- to develop innovative strategies in order to intertwine the aforementioned missions.

Welcoming the goals of the “Third Mission”, professors, researchers and PhD students of the Department have been involved in many extra academic seminars, public conferences, interviews, participation in radio or tv programmes that took place between January 2018 and May 2018.

A summary of these activities – sorted according to different topics - are illustrated below.

FAMILIES, GENDER AND GENERATIONS

- **Patrizia Farina** (Comune di Milano, Ospedale Cà Granda -Milano, Unicef Monza e Brianza, Caritas Ambrosiana, Tribunale dei Minori, Arci Arcore, Bookcity Bicocca, Bookcity Mudec, Ministero degli Esteri, Neodemos, Gente, Corriere della Sera, la Repubblica, Radio Popolare, SkyTg24, TG Lombardia)
- **Cecilia Nessi** (RTBF - radiotélévision belge francophone, Musée de la vie Wallone Liège)
- **Elisabetta Ruspini** (Radio24, Corriere.it, ioeilmibambino.it, Parlamento Europeo – Sede di Milano, Consulta Interassociativa Femminile del Comune di Milano e dalle Università di Bologna, Cattolica di Milano e di Milano-Bicocca, SmallFamilies, Università di Bergamo, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca)
- **Giorgia Serughetti** (La7, Rai3, SkyTg24, Radio 1 Rai, Radio 3 Rai, Radio Marconi, Corriere della Sera, Casa internazionale delle donne di Roma, Fiera dell’editoria)
JOB TRANSFORMATIONS AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET

- **Annalisa Dordoni** (Linkiesta, Elzeviro, UILTuCS Lombardia)
- **Fulvia Mecatti** (Modis, Microsoft)

MIGRATION PROCESSES

- **Patrizia Farina** (Comune di Milano, Ospedale Cà Granda -Milano, Unicef Monza e Brianza, Caritas Ambrosiana, Tribunale dei Minorì, Arci Arcore, Bookcity Bicocca, Bookcity Mudec, Ministero degli Esteri, Neodemos, Gente, Corriere della Sera, la Repubblica, Radio Popolare, SkyTg24, TG Lombardia)

MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND POLITICAL CHANGES

- **Marcello Maneri** (Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Radio Popolare)

SYMBOLIC FORMS AND MEDIA STRATEGIES

- **Andrea Cerroni** (TV Svizzera italiana, Insurance Connect)
- **Marcello Maneri** (Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Radio Popolare)
- **Elisabetta Ruspini** (Radio24, Corriere.it, ioeilmiobambino.it, Parlamento Europeo – Sede di Milano, Consulta Interassociativa Femminile del Comune di Milano e dalle Università di Bologna, Cattolica di Milano e di Milano-Bicocca, SmallFamilies, Universität di Bergamo, Universität degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca)

WELFARE POLICIES

- **Andrea Cerroni** (TV Svizzera italiana, Insurance Connect)
- **Patrizia Farina** (Comune di Milano, Ospedale Cà Granda -Milano, Unicef Monza e Brianza, Caritas Ambrosiana, Tribunale dei Minorì, Arci Arcore, Bookcity Bicocca, Bookcity Mudec, Ministero degli Esteri, Neodemos, Gente, Corriere della Sera, la Repubblica, Radio Popolare, SkyTg24, TG Lombardia)
"Sei mia" is the title of the cultural and civil evening that took place in the month of March 2018 at the Piccolo Teatro di Milano - Teatro Studio Melato proposing a reflection on the theme of male violence against women today.

The event was organized under the patronage of the City of Milan and with the participation of the city cultural and scientific institutions such as the Piccolo Teatro, the Casa della Cultura, the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Milano-Bicocca, the Interuniversity Research Centre for Gender Cultures, the Badaracco Foundation, the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation, and the Mondadori Foundation. Pastoral organizations such as Caritas Ambrosiana and associations such as the Women’s Shelter for Maltreated Women in Milan, “Donne in quota”, “Maschile Plurale” (the first Italian male association against the violence on women), as well as the movement “Non Una Di Meno”, have also joined.

At the heart of the initiative, conceived by Marco Manzoni (Oikos Studio) and Carmen Leccardi (University of Milano-Bicocca), the intent to propose an analysis on that part of contemporary masculinity that chooses violence as the only practicable language in the relationship with women and their desire for autonomy and subjectivity. What drives men of different ages, social backgrounds, cultures to resort to violence to silence women? Why this male cruelty that threatens, and kills? Where does violence on women sink its roots? And how is it possible to reduce the imbalance of power that continues to exist between genders?

During the evening, personalities from the cultural and scientific world and members of associations and networks working in the field faced these questions and queries, with the aim of promoting not only a greater level of attention on male violence, but also to promote, together with a cultural deepening, the development of new forms of intervention. Speakers of the event were: Daria Colombo, Salvatore Veca, Silvia Vegetti Finzi, Luigi Zoja, Carmen Leccardi, Marco Manzoni. Representatives of groups, organizations and associations such as Claudia Biondi of Caritas Ambrosiana, Stefano Ciccone di Maschile Plurale, Manuela Ulivi of the “Casa delle Donne Maltrattate” together with Carlotta Cossutta of the Non Una Di Meno network have finally brought direct testimonies of their daily commitment against male violence towards women.

The analyses and testimonies were interspersed with readings of theatre pieces on the theme proposed by the Piccolo Teatro di Milano (with Lucia Marinsalta, David Meden and the dramaturgy by Paola Ornati).
GENDER, POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

A “Third-Mission” Course
Tenth Edition, Academic Year 2017-18

The University of Milano-Bicocca has so far produced ten editions of the "Gender, Politics and Institutions" course. The project - typically connected to the University “Third Mission” - was born as an affirmative action promoted by the Ministers’ cabinet for the Department for Equal Opportunities at the beginning of the new century. From 2005 to 2013 the initiative was co-funded at a national level by Universities and this Ministry. Overall in Italy there are more than 22,000 people who have registered for the various editions, activated over the years, in more than 40 universities. They are heterogeneous women by age, by training, by professional experiences and cultures. In addition, the number of young migrant women taking part has increased in recent years. The course, in recent years, has also been opened to men. The course represents an important opportunity for the Universities, in order to open up to the territory and the civil society; for those who take part there is a significant opportunity to consolidate how the practices and functioning of public institutions from a gender point of view are managed. In the academic year 2017-18 the course – organized since the beginning by the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Milano-Bicocca in co-operation with the Equal Opportunities Committee at the beginning, and its substitute today, the “Comitato Unico di Garanzia”, was sponsored by the European Parliament, the Ministers’ cabinet for the Department for Equal Opportunities, the Metropolitan City of Milan and the Municipality of Milan.

Equal opportunities and gender studies have become a mainstay of the development of European citizenship over the past few decades. Even though also in Italy women’s educational level raised consistently starting from the last decades of past century, there is still a lack of adequate participation of women in public life in our country. Through this course we intend to make available to the attending students a set of knowledge aimed at promoting not only a “gender sensitive” culture, but also specific skills for the active inclusion of women in political, economic and social life. In fact, the project involves the connection with institutional and associative actors able to focus the attention on policies of equal opportunities and practices related to them. In this way it is possible to offer, in addition to general knowledge, skills oriented to the application of the principles of equal opportunities and the gender perspective in the institutional and political sphere. Furthermore, the aim of the project is to raise awareness among young men and students of both genders on issues related to gender equality and the fight against violence on women and discrimination based on gender in everyday life.

With the aim of providing a knowledge set related to the world of politics and institutions, the course develops the following thematic areas: Gender in history and in the media; The evolution of Italian and European legislation on equality between men and women; Economic processes, careers and opportunities; Gender policies and women’s times of life; Women’s participation and political representation; Women, religions and gender equality; History and representation of violence against women. During the project start-up phase, a Scientific Coordination Committee was set up with the aim of ensuring an adequate scientific and didactic level, as well as monitoring the coordination and management of the course.

The Committee is composed of the following professors: Carmen Leccardi (President), Marina Calloni, Ota De Leonardis, Carla Facchini, Tiziana Vettor, Francesca Zajczyk.
“The Talk in Campus. Society from below” (TIC). It is an initiative born from the desire to create a space for meeting and debate between young researchers on issues that transversally cross the Department’s research themes.

The first meeting took place on April 26th and hosted the philosopher and journalist Roberto Ciccarelli, with whom we discussed his latest book “Forza Lavoro. Il lato oscuro della rivoluzione digitale”. The reflection allowed to highlight the different aspects that characterize the "work force" in the today’s digital capitalism. Indeed, we talk more and more about work without questioning the condition that makes it possible, that is, the work force. In particular, we discussed the figure of “the entrepreneur of himself”, “existential start-upper”, “the commodification of work”, etc. But we also reflected on the possible counter-hegemonic strategies; on the platform cooperativism (see for instance the model proposed by Smart-mutualistic society for artists); on the need for a more globalized research gaze, which could take into account the materiality of capitalist production (think for example to miners who mining coltan, or to assembly plant workers in Vietnam) in order to build a counter-narrative on the digital revolution. The question at the center of the debate was therefore “what can the workforce do today”?

TIC is conceived as an open discussion format, in which, from time to time, we will confront with each other and with authors or texts of sociological interest. We hope this will be the first of several meetings designed and organized by those who are refining their research tools and want to dialogue with colleagues and experts.