

Department of Sociology and Social Research

# Newsletter



[www.sociologia.unimib.it](http://www.sociologia.unimib.it)

**2020**

**n. 2**

## Index

**Interviews**

---

**2**

**PhD theses**

---

**18**

**Book Reviews**

---

**19**

**Publications**

---

**25**

**Research**

---

**28**

**Events**

---

**29**

**Other news**

---

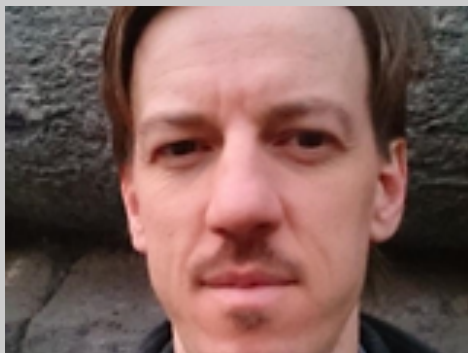
**31**

# Interviews

In this issue of the newsletter, we have interviewed all tenure-track assistant professors who recently joined our Department and asked them a few questions about their research and their expected contribution to their field of research in the next few years. We have also invited them to share their views about the Covid-19 pandemic and how it has affected their research interests.

## Gianluca Argentin

---



**Gianluca Argentin** teaches Sociological theory and Theory of social change at undergraduate level. His research interests include inequalities in education, analysis of the teaching workforce and policies aimed at improving teacher effectiveness, and the design and implementation of randomized controlled trials aimed at estimating the impact of innovative interventions in education.

Amongst his most recent publications:

- (2020) with Pavolini, E., How Schools Directly Contribute to the Reproduction of Social Inequalities. Evidence of Tertiary Effects, Taken from Italian Research, *Politiche Sociali*, 7, pp. 149-176
- (2019) Gli esperimenti nelle scienze sociali: molta strada resta da fare per un dibattito maturo sul tema, *Quaderni di sociologia*, 81, p. 131-141,
- (2019) with Gerosa, T., Romito, M., Uberti, E., Birds of a Feather Flock Together. Evidence from a Study on the Networks of First-Year University Students, *Scuola democratica*, pp. 149-173
- (2019) with Assirelli, G., Facchini, C., The winding (but satisfying) pathways of researchers in sociology: descriptive evidence from a large-scale Italian survey. *Revue internationale de sociologie*, 29, pp. 426-445

### **What are your main research interests?**

My research is focused mainly on social inequalities, and particularly on the role played by education. My main aim is trying to connect three strands of social research: firstly, the mainstream quantitative description of inequalities in education, especially their trends over time and in specific contexts; secondly, focusing on the active role played by teachers and schools in reproducing or reducing social disadvantages; finally, the impact evaluation of policies aimed at reducing inequalities, as well as evidence-based education.

### **Do you think that the COVID emergency affects your research?**

Obviously, it does and will continue to do so. Preliminary studies already show the unequal impact of lockdown policies on students' achievement. On the other hand, inequalities in education pre-

existed Covid-19 and will continue once that the emergency has passed. The pandemic is simply revealing (and taking to the extreme) several mechanisms which normally contribute to the reproduction of inequalities in education.

**How do you think you may contribute to the development of our Department?**

I think that my main contribution may derive exactly from the aforementioned aim of connecting sociological research and theory to policy design and evaluation. In my opinion, sociology is too often focused only on describing social problems, while we need – both as researchers and citizens – to identify solutions through the production of rigorous evidence. I think that sociology could play a crucial role in promoting evidence-based policies in education and in reducing social inequalities in this field.

## Monica Bernardi

---



**Monica Bernardi** is an urban sociologist, Ph.D. in Quality of Life in the Information Society. She currently teaches Urban Tourism for the degree course of Science of Tourism and Local Community. For the department she follows the two-years initiative Urbana as responsible of the scientific committee and the related 3B universities network and, she is the editorial manager for the project Sociological Encyclopaedia of Places (edited by G. Nuvolati). She is also member of the editorial committee of [intervistautori.org](http://intervistautori.org) (the first Italian platform of sociological podcasts); part of the scientific committee of the series “Urban Explorations” by Ledizioni editor; and member of the “Register of Experts and Operators of the Sharing Economy in

Milan”. She has been Visiting Scholar at the GRI-Gyeonggi Research Institute, Seoul in 2015; Visiting Scholar at TUFTS University, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Medford, Boston (MA) in 2017; and Visiting Scholar at the Dimmons Research Group, IN3, Open University of Catalunya, Barcelona, in 2019. She follows the main international networks around the topic of the sharing economy writing as freelancer editor for LabGov/Urban Media Lab, on sharing cities, digital platforms, urban commons and social innovation. Her Ph.D. research on the topic of the sharing economy and governance models of sharing cities was awarded in 2016 with the “Premio Giovani Talenti” – Lincei Academy.

Amongst her most recent publications:

- (2020) Book review of Davide Arcidiacono and Mike Duggan, *Sharing Mobilities. Questioning Our Right to the City in the Collaborative Economy*, Partecipazione e conflitto, 13(2), pp. 1232-1243
- (2020) 국제 사례 연구: 바르셀로나의 도시 커먼즈 (tr: International Case Study: Urban Commons, the City of Barcelona). In Yi, H. (Ed.), 도시의 공유 기반 활동들과 커먼즈: 바르셀로나와 몬트리올의 사례들과 서울이 나아가야 할 방향 (Urban Sharing-Based Activities and Commons: Cases of Barcelona and Montreal and the Direction Seoul should take) Mission Report, CITIES-SSEC (Seoul Social Economy Center), pp. 24-35
- (2020) Sharing Economy & “Catastrofismo Emancipativo”. Fine o Rilancio di un Fenomeno? In Spanu, S., Nuvolati, G. (a cura di), *Manifesto dei Sociologi e delle Sociologhe dell’ambiente e del Territorio sulle Città e le Aree Naturali del Dopo Covid-19*. Ledizioni, pp. 31-34
- (2020) with Diamantini, D., The “sharing economy community” on the role of local government in promoting, steering and governing the sharing economy. An exploratory study, *International Journal of Business and Globalisation*, 24 (3), pp. 307-329

### What are your main research interests?

I work on the topic of the collaborative and sharing economy from an urban perspective. It is often considered a purely economic phenomenon, while it is inherently urban: the city is the perfect

setting for its development and spread, a hub for new experimentations and innovations; according to Agyeman and McLaren (2015) it is in the recovery of the shared nature of urban common goods that lies the ability of a city to become a platform of goods, services, experiences, knowledge and shared spaces, contributing to the reduction of inequalities and spatial and social injustices. This is the framework within which my work develops, including the more recent theory of urban commons (Foster and Iaione, 2017) and the models of governance that cities can adopt to manage them. In the last year I also worked on the emergence of networks of sharing cities in order to understand how cities are replying to the spread of the digital platforms and to their impacts in a coordinated manner too. In addition, it should be said that the sharing and collaborative economy is a transversal phenomenon that touches different areas (work, travel, distribution, housing, socialization, community and neighborhood development...) allowing me to deepen researches in a variety of areas. Indeed, my more recent work deal (and will deal) with tourism and platforms, energy communities and "commoning" processes, food sharing and just sustainability, collaborative and adequate housing through innovative and sustainable management models, home pooling and prosumers, sharing mobilities and social justice, commons-based urban welfare state for tech justice in cities and networks of sharing cities. The methodology adopted is often of mixed type, with the aim of combining a more qualitative approach with quantitative analysis, and more recent I started to approach the so-called computational sociology.

**What do you think could be the most relevant consequences of the current pandemic on your research topics?**

COVID-19 is clearly demonstrating how technologies are pervasive in our daily life and how platforms can gain a central role in our daily activities; the virus is confirming how our time is marked by the "localization of the global" and at the same time by the "globalization of the local", so keeping working on digital platform confirms to be important. The post COVID era is more and more marked by screen-to-screen interactions, but, even if it may seem counterintuitive, the new economic crisis will push towards communitarian solutions, because precarity is already growing, and we can experience a kind of sharing revival. Former niche services will become more and more essential since related to a more communitarian and collaborative dimension that protects health more than other solutions. In this context small units of reference, as in the case of collaborative forms of housing (that move at house/building/neighborhood dimension at most) can better support the new lifestyles prompted/induced by the virus spread. Therefore, studying both the digital online solutions (and their impacts/potentialities) and the more practical and physical solutions (as the 15-minuts city model or the self-sustaining city model) become crucial. The field research is not possible at that moment and the adoption of online tools should become prevalent in the research design.

**How do you think that you may contribute to the development of our Department?**

Society is changing fast, and the role of ICTs and digital platforms is increasingly crucial also in shaping the urban dynamics; the COVID-19, as already said is clearly demonstrating it. Therefore, the study of the collaborative and digital platforms' evolution, both in their corporate form and in the more cooperative model becomes fundamental to read the contemporary society and to be able to answer to the current citizens' needs. Trying to understand these social and digital innovations in the framework of the urban commons is the further step to understand how cities and network of cities are trying to accomplish to the Sustainable Development Goals. In my opinion being active in this stream of research can contribute to keep the department at the forefront in the study of the society from a contemporary urban sociology perspective.

## Lorenzo Domaneschi

---

**Lorenzo Domaneschi** teaches Sociology of Culture. He also teaches Sociology of Food at the Master of Food and Society. He is a member of the “BEST4FOOD” – Bicocca Center of Science and Technology for FOOD. He published several articles about consumer culture and food practices.



Amongst his most recent publications:

- (2019) The Sociomateriality of Cooking. The Practice Turn in Contemporary Food Studies, *Sociologica*, 3
- (2018) Fare cucina. La cultura della qualità alimentare tra arte e artigianato [The Practice of Cooking. The issue of quality between artworlds and craft], Carocci
- (2018) Brand New Consumers: A Social Practice Approach to Young Immigrants Coping with Material Culture in Italy, *Cultural Sociology*, 4

### **What are your main research interests?**

So far, my research work has been developed along three main areas of empirical investigation: a) the more general world of cultural production and consumption (mainly in the fields of food, but also about sport and mass media); b) the particular role played by material culture in the social practices related to the three previous empirical fields; c) the issue of food and wine sustainability as a discursive field. On the theoretical level, the above areas have been addressed through a progressive refinement of an approach based on the concept of "practice", starting from the classic reference of Bourdieu and integrated with the most recent developments of the so-called "practical turn" in the social sciences. On the methodological level I have used mostly two methods such as narrative interview and ethnography, in its different declinations (from the classic participatory observation to enactive-ethnography); also, these were often intertwined with other techniques such as discourse analysis and photo-elicitation.

### **What do you think could be the most relevant consequences of the current pandemic on your research topics?**

Since one of my main interests are food social practices, in particular from the point of view of the sustainability frame, it is quite clear that the impact of the global pandemic has largely imposed changes in research questions as well as a need for methodological reflections on data collection techniques. At the moment, there is the huge question of how and to what extent pre-pandemic practices resist the impact of this re-settling or are instead reshaped towards a different structuration (I'm thinking about domestic cooking, shopping for food or food delivery, for example). In this case, the issue here is to call in question how and to what extent the discourse of sustainability is more or less able to have normative power in addressing this transformation.

### **How do you think your lines of research can contribute to the development of the Department in the next few years?**

For various reasons, in Italy, unlike many other European contexts, the sociological analysis of food practices has not yet acquired the autonomy that has long been consolidated for other cultural

phenomena such as communication, immigration or art. My whole research path has been built on the bet that the sociology of food and the related research questions in terms of sustainability can be a valuable contribution, both to investigate, from a cultural point of view, a phenomenon that, in our country, is central on an economic and political level, and also in order to consolidate a network of links with other international research centers that are working on these issues and increasingly looking at the Italian context with great interest. In fact, I am the Italian coordinator of an international research network” led by the Environmental Policy Group (Wageningen University) that involves an international collaboration with scholars across Europe, Asia and the USA, that is working on these very issues. (<https://everydaylifeinapandemic.wordpress.com/>)

## Barbara Grüning

---

Barbara Grüning has been a senior researcher at the University of Milan-Bicocca since December 2018. Prior to that, she worked as a research fellow at the University of Bologna from 2009 to 2018 and, from 2013 to 2017, as a research associate within the European project (FP/7) “International cooperation in the Social Sciences and Humanities”. She has also been a visiting scholar and worked in various universities and research institutes in Germany and Austria. Her research fields range from the sociology of space to the sociology of the body, the sociology of knowledge, the sociology of memory, and comics studies.



Amongst her most recent publications:

- (2020) Between politics and common sense: The epistemological and symbolic boundaries of sociology during National Socialism, *Journal of Classical Sociology*, pp. 1-31
- (2020) The Troubled Legitimation of Hannah Arendt in the German and Italian Intellectual Field: 1962–2015, in Sapiro, G., Santoro, M., Baert, P. (Eds.), *Ideas on the Move in the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Palgrave, pp. 271-298
- (2020) with A. Santambrogio, (with) Karl Mannheim. In *difesa della sociologia. Saggi 1929-1936*, Meltemi

### What are your research interests and ongoing research projects?

I'm currently working on two projects I began several years ago. The first one concerns the working conditions and career paths of adjunct professors in Italy. The second concerns the “International festival of political songs” in the GDR and the related Liedszene (in broad terms, songwriters and “song-groups”). The core idea is to pinpoint some pivotal dynamics between the political field and the field of music production in the GDR, taking into account the different development paths (and ‘political’ institutionalization) of the various subfields (songwriters, jazz, rock, classical music, punk, hip hop, heavy metal and new wave) as well as their relationships. I'm also co-editing two special issues for international journals which deal with two further research topics I'm working on: comics and the canonization and institutionalization processes within SSH-disciplines. Finally, I'm carrying out a research project on the spatial-temporal experiences of anorexic subjects, from the inception of their disease until their hospitalization and (eventual) healing process. Unfortunately, at the moment it is quite difficult to continue the empirical investigation, partly because of a ‘lack of time’ - I'm also cooperating on the Institute's research project ITA.LI - but mostly because of the emergency situation we are living in.

### Do you think that the COVID-19 pandemic will influence your research activities and interests? If so, how?

It is difficult to make predictions. In this moment, I feel quite blocked in my ethnographic research activities. Furthermore, I'm also having some difficulties getting access to non-digitized books, articles and archival records that I need for my research on GDR music. In addition, I also find it

problematic to teach under these conditions. I believe that the research-teaching nexus is crucial, at least for my teaching. This means both preparing students for conducting individual or collective empirical research and transmitting my own research experiences to them. The current organization of teaching activities makes it very hard to pursue these objectives. Teaching is formally possible, but I feel a loss of meaning. However, with the qualitative research group of the Institute project, we are doing (online) interviews with young people about their past and present experiences in this emergency phase.

**What could be your contribution to the development of our Department in the next few years?**

This question implies at least two levels of interpretation. First, our contracts establish specific research, teaching and institutional tasks to fulfill. Thus, I think that fulfilling these tasks can already be considered an important contribution to the autopoiesis of the Institute, especially if we consider the emergency phase we are experiencing. The discourse of the competences may not appear so evident, but the position we have gotten is the “result” of a public evaluation of our skills and capabilities. Of course, I’m also aware that the new logic ruling the Italian academic system is mainly legitimated by the idea of ‘meritocracy’. Anyway, as a sociologist, it seems to me that this idea entails a representation of scholarly practices and strategies that is decontextualized from the academic environment and system in which scholars act. So, I cannot fondly accept this premise. My possibilities and opportunities for applying my competences, as well as my illusion of the academic game, depend first on the economic and time resources and constraints defined by government decisions, second on the local organization of academic work, and third on the formal and informal power relationships which structure the social space of our Institute. So, I find it hard at present to give a clearer answer.

## Carlotta Mozzana

---

**Carlotta Mozzana** completed a Ph.D. in Sociology at the Graduate School of Social, Economic and Political Sciences, Università degli Studi di Milano, in 2011. Her main research interests are the logics and practices of public action, welfare, health and social policies and services, institutional capacities and powers, ethnography and qualitative research. She is a member of the permanent Workshop of Sociology of Public Action Sui Generis and of the Foundational Economy Collective.



Amongst her most recent publications:

- (2020) Approccio delle Capacità e Servizio Sociale: Appunti per un Dialogo, *Rivista di Servizio Sociale*, 2, pp. 61-71
- (2019) A Matter of Definitions: The Profiling of People in Italian Active Labour Market Policies, *Historical Social Research*, 44(2), pp. 225-246
- (2019) Welfare, Capacità e Conoscenza. Le Basi Informative dell'Azione Pubblica, Carocci

### **What are your main research interests?**

My research interests mainly concern the forms and logics of public action, studied through social and welfare policies and the practices of social services. I am currently working on several subjects: the role of knowledge in public action, with a focus on its instruments and on the concept of anticipation; the forms of social solidarity and care born during the lockdown in the urban contexts of Milan and Naples; the role of social services in implementing the recent basic income schemes (with a broad national network of scholars and social workers); the connection between care and preparedness as a style of public action and a set of governmental techniques for reflecting about and intervening in local territories in an uncertain future.

### **What are the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic on your research?**

In this period of uncertainty, in which we are faced with the “unprecedented” nature of the challenge that COVID-19 imposed, the entire socio-economic system has found itself completely unprepared. This has exacerbated the inequalities already present in our society, because the virus was shown to be a risk factor especially for those at the lower end of the income distribution, more vulnerable to socio-economic and urban inequalities. The current situation is the result of the neoliberal political choices that have characterized the last forty years, which in the field of welfare are particularly evident in terms of access to social policies and services. Inequalities in access to services and collective property, progressively eroded over the last few decades, have also worsened during the pandemic crisis. Potentially, this might lead to the beginning of a change of paradigm for welfare states and for welfare studies, with a transformation in the role of the public, but above all of the State as the only institution able to cope with an epochal event like the one we are experiencing. A State that, however, has been weakened in the last forty years by a series of political choices that have considerably modified its action, but which has been asked to guarantee citizens access to all those protections and endowments that are the backbone of social welfare. The research challenge will be to understand what kind of public action frames will be developed following the crisis and which kind of welfare state is made possible in this context.

**What could be your contribution to the development of our Department in the next few years?**

The Department of Sociology and Social Research has a very strong tradition of studies and scholars that are working on the welfare state, and I believe that my contribution could be that of strengthen the research in sociology of public action and its instrumentation, with a focus on welfare policies and interventions at different levels; moreover, my studies about the role of social work in the implementation of basic income schemes might be helpful to further develop this field of research and to better understand the organizational and institutional dynamics that govern them.

## Emanuele Polizzi

---

**Emanuele Polizzi** completed a Ph.D. in Sociology at the Graduate School of Social, Economic and Political Sciences, Università degli Studi di Milano, in 2008. His research interests are welfare and local policies, civil society organizations and public action.



Amongst his most recent publications:

- (2020) Cortili, Piazze, Mercati. I tre luoghi del Terzo settore, in Bolognini, S. (a cura di) Prospettiva ponte e Genius loci. Materiali per una ricerca, Mimesis, pp.717-727
- (2019) with Bassoli, M., All smoke, no fire? Sharing practices and political investment in two Italian cities, Italian Political Science Review, 49(3), pp. 1-16
- (2019) Per quale Terzo settore è pensata la riforma? Nodi, rischi e sfide applicative, La Rivista delle Politiche Sociali, 2, pp. 227-244

### **What are your main research interests?**

Since the beginning of my career as a sociologist, I have been working on two main subjects. On the one hand, I look at the institutional action in the welfare sector, which means studying social policies or other public policies having an impact on the social life of communities and individuals, especially in their local level. On the other hand, I focus on the public action of civil society actors, both as autonomous mobilizations of citizens and organizations in the social and political sphere and as reactions to the institutional involvement provided by municipalities, regional government or national and European arenas.

### **What are the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic on your research?**

It is maybe too early to understand the deep consequences of such a big crisis on the attitudes and the behaviors of people and groups. What is already clear, though, is the huge impact that this crisis is having on what citizens, families and organizations demand to public institutions. After decades of hegemony of the neoliberal idea that states and government should be regulating only the main rules for the functioning of markets, we now see an increasing demand for a strong protective and preventive action from the states. The demand for more protection and prevention does not come only from the poorest people or from the radical left, but also from the larger middle class shocked by the pandemic and the lockdown measures. This demand might lead to the beginning of a change of paradigm for welfare states and for welfare studies, where the issue is no longer how to handle the retrenchment policies that we have seen in the last thirty years as unavoidable constraints. These constraints, such as the austerity rules at the European level, have been overcome in a few weeks this year. Now the problem might be how to enlarge and strengthen our welfare system in its capacity to build a safe society for all citizens but taking into account that we do not live any more in the social, economic, political and cultural context in which the old welfare state had been built, so we cannot merely restore it. Production systems have changed, family's model has

changed, cultural attitudes of citizens have changes and political organizations have changed too. Welfare studies, in my opinion, should try to understand what kind of “protective and preventive state” is possible in societies where all these elements have changed so much from the “trente glorieuses”.

**What is your expected contribution for the development of our Department in the next few years?**

Studying welfare systems requires not only to analyze the welfare sector in itself, but also to understand the complex mix of social, economic, cultural and political elements of the whole society. Our Department covers all these areas with a very rich group of scholars. So, firstly, I think that working in these Department is a great opportunity for me and for the “welfare studies” colleagues to let us understand better the texture and the fabric of societies upon which welfare systems are built. Secondly, I think that my studies on civil society public action (or its privatism) and their involvement (or disconnection) in the public sphere might be helpful to the Department colleagues to understand how social collectives (or individualism) and political engagement (or disengagement) are produced in our society, in particular in the local and urban contexts.

## Lia Tirabeni

---

**Lia Tirabeni** teaches Sociology of Organizations). Before joining our Department, she was Research fellow at the Department of Cultures, Politics, and Society (University of Turin), where she completed her Ph.D. in Sociology. She taught organizational subjects at the Department of Management and the Department of Psychology (University of Turin), as well as at the Polytechnic of Turin. She was Visiting research fellow at the Department of Management Science & Technology, Athens University of Economics and Business (Athens). She does research in the field of sociology of organizations; particularly, she studies the linkages between organizing and technology, issues of organizational culture, identity and power. She has an expertise in qualitative research methods (case studies, ethnography) in the organization study field.



Amongst her most recent publications:

- (2020) Technology, Power and The Organization. Wearable Technologies and Their Implications For The Performance Appraisal, in Addabbo, T. et al. (Eds.) Performance Appraisal in Modern Employment Relations, Palgrave Springer
- (2020) with Miele, F., Digital technologies and power dynamics in the organization: a conceptual review of remote working and wearable technologies at work, Sociology Compass, 14(6), pp. 1-13

### **What are your main research interests?**

My research concerns organizational sociology. I am particularly interested in how technology affects organizations and work practices (for example how technologies shape and, in turn, are shaped by power and control dynamics within organizations), included the individual interactions with advanced technology artifacts and their implications for organizing. Further I am interested in cultural and identity issues, and their respective linkages, within complex organizations. I am also interested in post-qualitative research methods applied to the organizational field.

### **What do you think could be the main consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on your research?**

As a qualitative researcher, I see many consequences of the pandemic with respect to my own 'traditional' way of doing research. The main consequence concerns the fact that you can't completely 'catch' many intangible aspects of the organization you are studying, as you can't, simply said, physically visit the organization. That means that it is impossible for you to do, for example, participant observation, that is a fundamental technique in my research. Also, if you can't do interviews in person, you can't literally 'breathe' the culture and the organizational life, that is i.e., you can't deeply understand how people really do the things in the real organizational context. You can only hear 'stories', but you can't see with your own eyes how the organization works. Due to the COVID-19 there are a lot of qualitative technique of inquiry that are totally precluded. However, the pandemic can be an opportunity also to think about more creatively to the way how you usually do research while forcing you to invent other ways. Instead from the point of view of the issues I study, I think the pandemic generated a huge need for further organizational investigation and

design, let's think about the organizational implications of the collapse of the national health system, just to name one problem. In the future I guess we will need more and deeper organizational analysis.

**How do you think your interests and your competences could contribute to the development of our Department?**

Organizational studies are a fundamental part of the Department and its story. We do not forget that we have here one of the few degree's courses in Italy focused precisely on organization science, a precious peculiarity to be always valorized. Also, in my opinion, this field of research should be further strengthened and expanded within the economic sociology main field of research. I feel this a bit as my mission in general and within the Department in particular, where I hope I can give a contribution doing my best in order to reinforce and, in my own small way, make further grow the sociology of organizations.

## Valeria Verdolini

---

**Valeria Verdolini** teaches Sociology of Migration. She graduated in Law (University of Bologna, 2005, cum laude), she took an LLM in Sociology of Law (Onati Institute IISJ, 2008) and completed



a Ph.D. in Sociology of Law (University of Milan, 2009). Since 2009 she has been working for the University of Milan (Faculty of Law) and University of Milan-Bicocca (Department of Sociology) as post-doctoral researcher. She has been a team member of the Horizon 2020 project "Margin: tackle insecurity in marginalized areas" and of the ERC project "Euroexpert: what is useful for?". She taught "Inequality and social mobility" in the International LLM "Law and sustainable development" (University of Milan, 2015-2019), and "Qualitative methods" in the LLM ERMA (University of Sarajevo 2018-2019). She has been Visiting professor at the University of Nueva Granada (Bogotá, 2018). She is a member of the

directive Board of Antigone Onlus.

Amongst her most recent publications:

- (2020) La violenza. La violenza. Il carcere come zona grigia: violenza quotidiana, abusi e rivolte nell'ultimo anno penitenziario, in Miravalle, M., Scandurra, A., XVI Rapporto sulle condizioni di detenzione, Edizioni Antigone
- (2020) Zone di contatto: la tutela dei diritti religiosi in carcere alla prova del Radicalismo, in Mancini, L., Milani, D. (a cura di), Pluralismo religioso e localismo dei diritti, Giappichelli
- (forthcoming) with Stefanizzi, S., A "space" of One's own: identity and conflict in two Milan Districts, Quality and Quantity

### **What are your main research interests?**

My works have matured through qualitative methodologies, from the semantic analysis of normative texts to urban ethnography, from in-depth interviews to focus groups, both in national (Security and safety studies, prison studies, migrations) and international works (post-revolutionary Tunisia, post-conflict Colombia). In a nutshell, the main focus of my research activity is the margin: the urban one, the deviant margin, the global margin (and the consequent investigation of possible epistemologies of the South).

### **What do you think could be the main consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on your research, both in terms of methods and topics?**

I agree with the recent definition of Richard Horton in Lancet journal of the Covid-19 as a "sindemic". The author underlined how epidemic variables are clustering within social groups according to patterns of inequality deeply embedded in our societies. A similar reflection came from Arundathi Roy, when she wrote that the lockdown worked like a chemical experiment that suddenly illuminated hidden things. The margin, somehow, became more visible in recent times, and vulnerable populations face increasing levels of inequality and everyday violence. I did participant observation in prison in the last months, and the recent effects are visible and measurable, and will be the object of further studies. If this participant observation will no longer be possible in future

days, I tried to find new ways of addressing the phenomena. Recently, I joined the international project “EXCEPTIUS - Exceptional powers in time of Sars-CoV-2 crisis” (lead by Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) which aims to assess the impact of emergency measures on democratic stability and political legitimacy, a research which it is possible to implement also with desk-based research, a concrete adaptation to recent times.

**What is your expected contribution for the development of our Department in the next few years?**

My academic path develops through an interdisciplinary and international tension, with the aim of a possible dialogue between different disciplines, methods and different contexts, especially through field and teaching experience in developing countries. I think that this is part of what Sari Hanafi defines as one of the objectives of “global sociology”: “supplementing the post-colonial approach with an anti-authoritarian one” and I believe that this approach could define the kind of contribution I would like to bring to this department.

## The De-Domestication of Home - The Story of Airbnb

---

Roei Bachar-Hurwitz

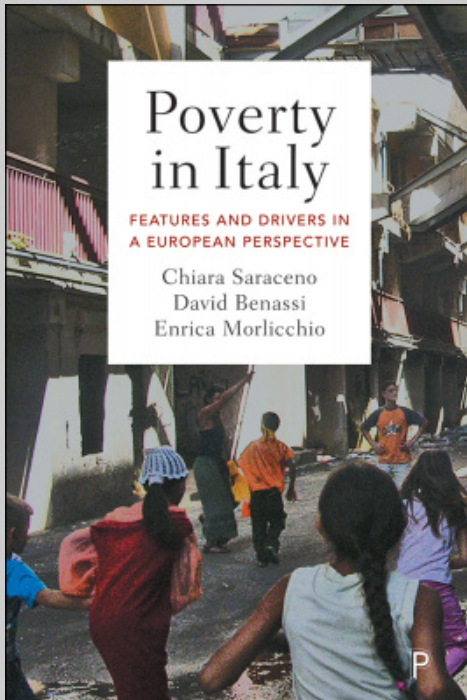
**Abstract:** “The De-Domestication of Home – The Story of Airbnb” follows the influence of Airbnb on the lives of hosts who continue to live in the Airbnb home (stay-at-home-hosts), in three cities: Milan (Italy), Lisbon (Portugal) and Jerusalem (Israel). Airbnb is considered a meteor success in the continuous development of the urban tourism market, and in the blossom of the “sharing economy” and technology-based services. 145 mini cases were collected, using a qualitative approach including ethnography, interviews, and visual examination, among other methods. The research follows a “holistic” vision of home as a sentimental, conceptual and emotional space, which is distorted by the practice of “doing Airbnb”, while focusing on the importance of emotions for the understanding of social behaviour. Home, in the urban context, is a place of retreat, protection and privacy, whose dichotomy on the public realm allows an emotional and sensual introspection, and in which intimacy and deep relationships can emerge while providing the most basic human needs. The findings demonstrate the chronological process that hosts experience, from their initial interest in the service towards their intentions to leave the service altogether. Moving through the stages in the process, motivations to host shift, as domestic values are traded for commercial ones, and agency over home is slowly being taken away. During the process, the hosts’ interests are forgotten, as the balance between the public space and the private one is being shaken, and domestic needs are deprived. However, the movement of values, so it was found, supports the dissolution of domestic gender expectations and gender roles, toward a possible positive development of gender equality. These patterns of change strongly suggest the ability of new “technology-based” services to conquer, exploit and manipulate new spaces, with new, trendy, and attractive packages, such as the sharing economy. By doing so, they are due to change the urban social order forever.

**Keywords:** Domestic space; Urban Tourism; Sociology of emotions; Sharing economy; ICT; Gender roles.

# Book Reviews

## POVERTY IN ITALY

Chiara Saraceno, David Benassi, Enrica Morlicchio



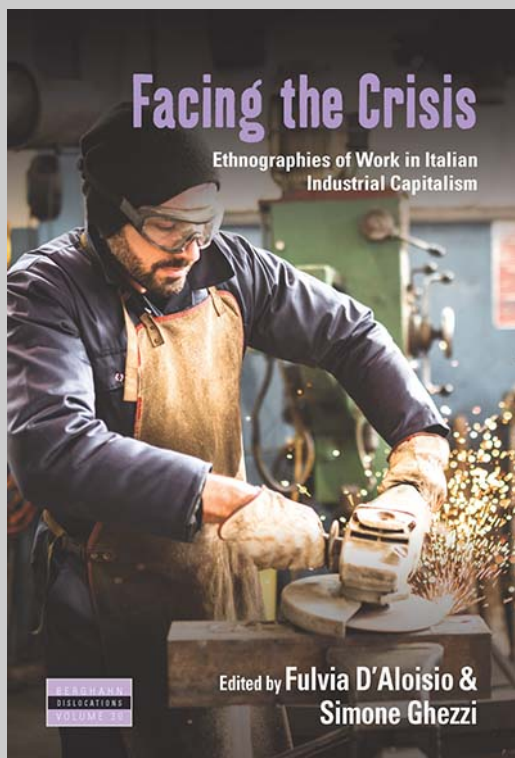
The book explores the structural and cultural dimensions of poverty in Italy. Comparing Italy's regime with other European countries, the authors consider the interplay of conditions in the labor market, the family and welfare arrangements as causes of poverty. This in-depth analysis explores how forced familialism, unbalanced gender arrangements, territorial cleavages and sluggish growth have rendered Italy vulnerable to financial crises. As old risks of poverty have worsened, new risks have emerged and children, the working poor and migrants have become the "new poor". Combining theoretical and empirical tools, this is a topical fresh take on the understanding of poverty in Italy that is even more crucial considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/poverty-in-italy>

## FACING THE CRISIS. ETHNOGRAPHIES OF WORK IN ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM

Edited by Fulvia D'Aloisio and Simone Ghezzi

This volume brings together ethnographic material from anthropological research projects carried out extensively during the latest economic crisis. Each industrial area included here is meant to cover as much as possible the diversity of the Italian manufacturing system. Three of the richest Northern Italian regions have been included: Piedmont (the jewellery district of Valenza, by Michele Fontefrancesco); Lombardy (the luxurious antique-style furniture district of Brianza, by Simone Ghezzi). Central Italy is represented by Tuscany (the caravan district once upon a time a furniture making district, by Francesco Zanotelli), and by Marches (the shoe making district situated between



Macerata and Fermo, by Michael Blim). As for the Mezzogiorno, we have considered the recent establishment of a large automobile factory by FIAT in Menfi, Basilicata (by Fulvia D'Aloisio). An ethnographic research on the road freight transport has also been included here, as very little is known about the labour conditions of truck drivers, despite the importance of their work in the Italian industrial system (by Francesco Bogani). The concluding chapter is authored by the Italian economist Andrea Fumagalli who, drawing on the ethnographic material collected in this volume and on his own research provides a reading (shared by the editors) of the current Italian economic crisis in terms of a systemic crisis of labour rather than in terms of a market-led recession and, eventually, some workable remedies. The Forward by the anthropologist Don Kalb brings the book to a conclusion. Most of the ethnographic research has been carried out by scholars who were already familiar with the aforementioned areas well before the beginning of the economic crisis in 2008. Thus, they are able to offer

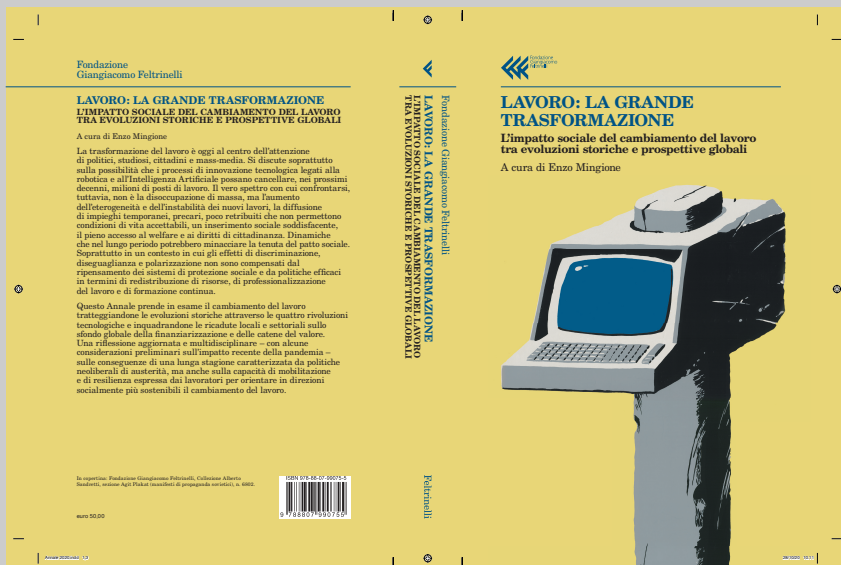
important details into the peculiarities of each regional development and manufacturing sector providing unique insights on the different industrial decline they are facing. The material collected in this volume deals with topics that are typically anthropological: life histories, intergenerational relations, gender issues, the meaning of work, family and kinship networks, moral economies, and the embeddedness of the economy, to name but a few. It demonstrates that the anthropological conceptual toolkit is essential to understand what is happening to the “Made in Italy” and the people that have contributed to craft it in the current “austerity” period.

## LAVORO: LA GRANDE TRASFORMAZIONE [Work: The great transformation]

Edited by Enzo Mingione

Work is going through transformations that raise serious worries about the development of contemporary societies. The possibility that robotics and artificial intelligence could destroy millions of jobs in the next future is extremely serious. However, the main problem today is not

mass unemployment, but the increasing heterogeneity and instability of new jobs. The spread of temporary, unstable and low paid jobs does not allow acceptable conditions of life and full access to welfare and citizens' rights. In the long run, this process is likely to destroy the social pact behind social citizenship. The volume, edited by Enzo Mingione in the series "Annali di Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli", deals with the transformation of work within a historical and



global approach. The essays collected in the volume deal with various facets of the transformation of work, from digitalization to new forms of representation of workers, from global labour chains to gender and ethnic differences, from tertiarization to the updating of expertise. The contributions of several international and Italian scholars offer an updated and multidisciplinary picture of the ongoing transformation of work.

<https://fondazionefeltrinelli.it/pubblicazioni/collane-cartacee-annali-e-catalogo-storico/>

## LO SPAZIO NECESSARIO. TEORIE E METODI SPAZIALISTI PER GLI STUDI URBANI [The space needed. Spatialist theories and methods for urban studies]

---

Luca Bottini

Cities have been attracting the attention of sociologists since the beginning of the discipline with Marx, Weber and Simmel. The urban centres, complex systems in which populations, culture, infrastructure, symbolic places, functions and local identity interact each other, inspired the development of a sociological approach dedicated to the study of the relationship between the city environment and human phenomena. The Chicago School was the first fundamental



scientific expression of this way of observing the urban. The wave of urbanization that characterized the second post-war period, together with the consequent environmental implications, increased even more the interest in these issues, stimulating a cross-cutting debate in the social sciences: sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists and urban planners, each with their own scientific sensitivity, put under analysis the social and individual effects of urban life. This scientific effort laid the foundations for a “spatialist” paradigm in urban studies, a way of observing the phenomena of cities by enhancing their spatial dimension. But how does social behaviour interact with the urban environment? How can we analytically face this topic? The book offers a series of transdisciplinary spatialist perspectives to answer these questions in order to shed light on the fascinating link between social behaviour and urban space.

<https://www.ledizioni.it/prodotto/lo-spazio-necessario/>

## ENCICLOPEDIA DEI LUOGHI, Volume 2

### [The Sociological Encyclopedia of Places, Volume 2]

Edited by Giampaolo Nuvolati

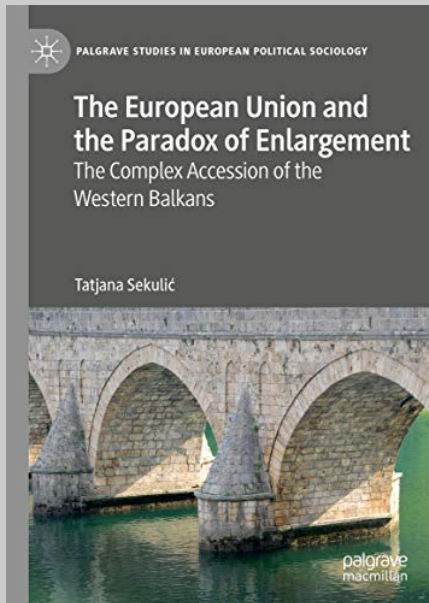
The second volume of the Sociological Encyclopaedia of Places has been published in June 2020. Just like the first volume, it is a collegian work that collects the voices of Italian urban sociologists telling the story of the urban spaces where we live, work, move, travel etc. In this second volume nineteen places are covered by twenty-six authors: farm holiday, protected areas, camps and reception centres, farmstead, public housing, historical centres, discos and dance halls, rivers, amusement park, handmade labs, monasteries, monuments, murals, hostels, squares, game room, subsoil, spaces of regeneration and religious spaces. The volume offers reading keys and theoretical coordinates, as well as case presentations, useful to develop localized research, and reduce the apathy towards spatial contexts that often characterizes sociological research. The term encyclopaedia may betray an excess of ambition, but it seemed the most suitable to convey the idea of a work able to touch many places: from those related to transport to those related to leisure, from those related to public safety to those related to consumption, and so on. Volume III is forthcoming in December 2020.



<https://www.ledizioni.it/prodotto/enciclopedia-sociologica-dei-luoghi-2/>

# THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE PARADOX OF ENLARGEMENT: THE COMPLEX ACCESSION OF THE WESTERN BALKANS

Tatjana Sekulić



This book sheds light on the contradictions underlying the European Union enlargement process, specifically to the Western Balkans, challenging the common assumption that the integration of an extended European space might be possible without mutual transformation of the institutions and agencies involved. Sekulić maps the institutional dimension of the accession process, and analyses how the “conditionality principle” shapes and constrains the space for negotiation within the EU. Combining ethnographic research with the discourse analysis of the European Commission’s reports and documents from 2008 to 2019 concerning the Western Balkan countries, the book also explores the perceptions and agency of the individuals involved in this process. The European Union and the Paradox of Enlargement will be of interest to students and scholars of European integration, the sociology of Europe and the EU, and Eastern European and Western Balkan studies.

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030422943#aboutBook>

# Publications

## Igor COSTARELLI

---

with R. Kleinhans and S. Mugnano

**Active, young, and resourceful': sorting the 'good' tenant through mechanisms of conditionality**  
in *Housing Studies*  
2020, online first

### **La gestione dell'housing sociale**

in *Archivio di studi urbani e regionali*  
127, 5-22, 2020

### **La cultura dell'abitare sociale**

in: A. Mazzette e S. Mugnano (eds.), *Il ruolo della cultura nel governo del territorio*, Milano: Franco Angeli  
214-215, 2020

with S. Mugnano

### **L'abitare ai tempi del COVID-19**

in: G. Nuvolati and S. Spanu (eds.), *Manifesto dei sociologi e delle sociologhe dell'ambiente e del territorio sulle città e le aree naturali del dopo Covid-19*, Associazione Italiana di Sociologia Sezione Territorio, Milano: Ledizioni  
115-118, 2020

with G. Anselmi, L. Bottini, V. Conte, L. Daconto, G. Scolari,

### **Il fenomeno del policentrismo come veicolo di sviluppo dei quartieri: il caso milanese**

in: C.d.M. Milano City School (ed.), *Costellazione Milano. Contributi di ricerca per un'esplorazione del campo urbano*, Feltrinelli: Milano  
17-36, 2020

## Annalisa DORDONI

---

### **Tempi e ritmi della vendita al cliente. Processi di destrutturazione e alienazione**

in *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia*  
61(1), 61-94, 2020, doi: 10.1423/96934

## Patrizia FARINA

---

with T. Pettinato

### **Percorsi migratori e delinquenza femminile**

in C. Pecorella (ed.), *La criminalità femminile: un'indagine empirica ed interdisciplinare*  
Milano: Mimesis, 2020  
with L. Ortensi

**Sexual violence victimisation among university students in Italy: a gendered intersectional quantitative approach**

in GENUS

76, 2020

**Marcello MANERI**

---

**Breaking the race taboo in a besieged Europe: how photographs of the «refugee crisis» reproduce racialized hierarchy**

in Ethnic and Racial Studies

2020, doi: 10.1080/01419870.2020.1723672

**Vengono qui per delinquere»: logiche e cicli di criminalizzazione dell’immigrazione**

in La Rivista delle Politiche Sociali/Italian Journal of Social Policy

2, 63-84, 2019

with F. Quassoli and O. Ricci

**#Jesuis... whatever. Le reazioni agli eventi terroristici al tempo dei social media: una prospettiva di analisi**

in Studi culturali

1, 163-185, 2019

with O. Ricci and F. Quassoli

**La storia in-diretta. La costruzione delle voci di Wikipedia sugli attacchi terroristici**

in Problemi dell’informazione

2, 285-313, 2019

**Giampaolo NUVOLATI and Sara SPANU (eds)**

---

**Manifesto dei sociologi e delle sociologhe dell'ambiente e del territorio sulle città e le aree naturali del dopo Covid-19**

Milano: Ledizioni, 2020

**Valeria QUAGLIA**

---

**Men, masculinities and diabetes: “doing gender” in Italian men’s narratives of chronic illness**

in Sociology of Health & Illness

1-16, 2020, doi: 10.1111/1467-9566.13176

**Egidio RIVA**

---

with M. Pisati and M. Lucchini

**The Spatial Location of Chinese Businesses: A Longitudinal Analysis of Clustering Patterns in Milan, Italy.**

in Polis

XXXIV(1), 5-32, 2020

with M. Lucchini

**The effect of the work-life interface on insomnia: A longitudinal analysis of male and female employees in Switzerland**

in Swiss Journal of Sociology

Special issue Understanding social dynamics: 20 years of the Swiss Household Panel  
46(3), 425-443, 2020

with A. Bracci

**Perceived Job Insecurity and Anxiety. A Multilevel Analysis on Male and Female Workers in European Countries**

in Frontiers in Sociology

2020, doi: 10.3389/fsoc.2020.573549

with M. Russo

**Flexible working and skill-based inequality: Causes and consequences**

in S. Norgate and C. L. Cooper (eds.), Flexible Work: Designing Our Healthier Future Lives, Routledge: Abingdon, UK

145-158, 2020

## Paolo ROSSI

---

with A. Bruni

**L'organizzazione ospedaliera tra passato e futuro**

in: M. Cardano, G. Giarelli and Vicarelli G. (eds.), Sociologia della salute e della medicina, il Mulino: Bologna

245-267, 2020

## Emanuela Maria SALA

---

with D. Zaccaria, A. Guaita, R. Vaccaro, G., Casanova, S., Abbondanza, L., Pettinato, G., Cerati, E., Rolandi

**Assessing the impact of Social Networking Site use on older people's loneliness and social isolation. A randomized controlled trial: The Ageing in a Networked Society-Social Experiment Study (ANS-SE)**

in Contemporary Clinical Trial Communication

2020, doi: 10.1016/j.conctc.2020.100615

## ALLINTERACT

### Widening and diversifying citizen engagement in science (H2020)

ALLINTERACT (<https://allinteract.eu/about/>) is a project selected and funded under H2020 program (SwafS-20-2018-2019: Building the SwafS knowledge base). From October 2020 to May 2023, this project will aim, on the one hand, to create new knowledge about how to transform potential citizen participation in science into actual engagement in scientific research, and on the other hand, to unveil new ways to engage societal actors, including young citizens and groups that have traditionally been excluded from science.

The project is grounded on the idea that, although many citizens still do not see why they should understand science or participate in it, they are willing to participate in science when they become aware of the social impacts generated by research outcomes. In this line, previous research has evidenced that if citizens are aware of social impact emerged from research, they are more likely to be involved and participate in science.



ALLINTERACT project will focus on two Sustainable Development Goals –Quality Education and Gender Equality – and with a mixed method approach, by using digital technology (social media analytics), a survey and an intervention study, including communicative focus groups. By exploring the transformation of potential engagement into actual engagement through fostering awareness of the social impact of research, this project will contribute to understand how societal actors react to and interact with scientific developments. The aim is to improve the cooperation between science and society, with diverse citizens and societal actors involved in it. The potential pair

between scientific excellence and social awareness of social impact of research will be addressed alongside. Overall, engaging in a transformative and productive dialogue with citizens throughout the research will be key process in order to achieve the envisioned goal.

ALLINTERACT project will be coordinated by Prof. Flecha (CREA-Universitat de Barcelona) and will count on an international and interdisciplinary consortium in close dialogue with diverse stakeholders and societal actors. In this line, the consortium includes Prof. Kumpulainen (University of Helsinki), Prof. Avraamidou (University of Groningen), Prof. Leccardi (University Milano-Bicocca), Prof. Torres (ISCSP – University of Lisbon), Prof. Ovseiko (Oxford University), and Prof. Petuya, president of the European Parents Association (EPA). In addition, ALLINTERACT is supported by Instituto Natura, Yes Forum and the Department of Welfare of the Catalan administration.

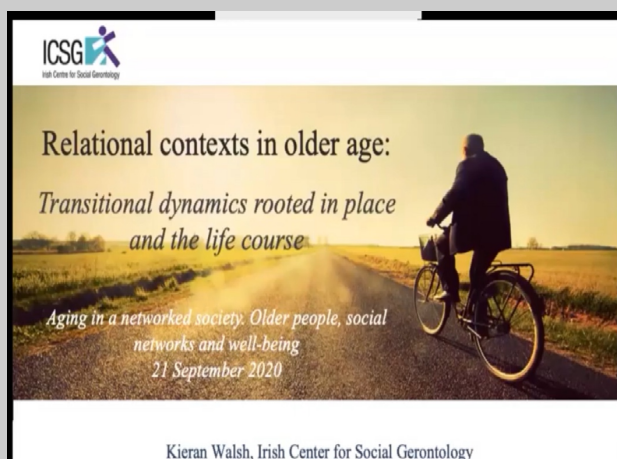
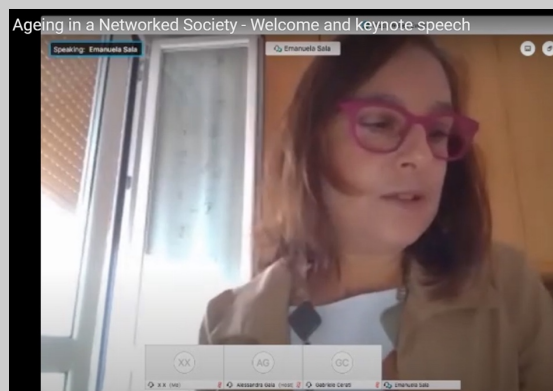
# Events

## AGEING IN A NETWORKED SOCIETY: OLDER PEOPLE, SOCIAL NETWORKS AND WELL-BEING

Milan, 21 September 2020

On September 21st 2020, we hosted the online international conference “Ageing in a Networked Society: Older people, social networks, well-being”. (the programme of the conference is available [here](#)), in which the research team lead by Emanuela Sala presented the results of the homonym [project](#) funded by the Fondazione Cariplo in 2017. Keynote speakers were the leading experts in ageing research: professors Marja Aartsen and Kirian Walsh. With 100 participants, the conference was a real success.

Click [here](#) to download the video-recordings and [here](#) to download the presentations





## SERVICES AND POLICY MAKING ON MULTI-LOCAL LIVING

### Fourth meeting of the European network for multi-locality studies

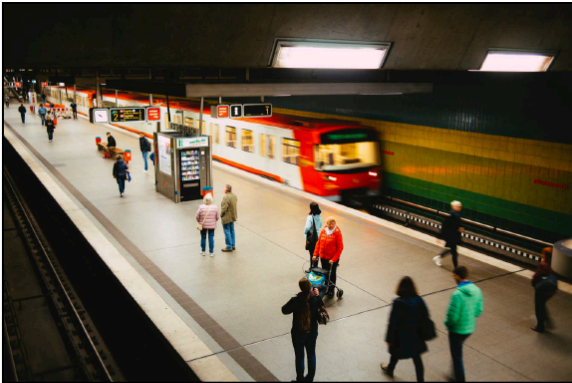
Milan, 12-13 November 2020

The Department of Sociology and Social Research will host the fourth international meeting of the European Network for Multi-locality Studies, with the supervision of Prof. Matteo Colleoni and the researchers belonging to the Research Center on Mobility, Tourism and Territory (CeMTeT). The event will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020, partially online, and will focus in particular on services and policies for multi-localism.

More info are available at this link: <https://www.sociologia.unimib.it/it/news/postponed-4th-meeting-european-network-multi-locality-studies>



*Services and Policy Making on multi-local living*  
**Fourth meeting of the European Network for Multi-locality Studies**



**12 - 13 November 2020**

The meeting will take place [online](#)

University of Milano-Bicocca  
Department of Sociology and Social Research  
via Bicocca degli Arcimboldi 8 – Milano

# Other news

## THIRD MISSION

---

### Interviews and media appearances

#### Emilio Reyneri

##### Job transformations and structural changes in the labour market

Repubblica, Repubblica.it, L'Espresso.it, Rai 3, Lavoce.info, Radio Rai 1 e 3, Arté, L'Eco di Bergamo, Il Fatto quotidiano, Provincia di Trento, Confartigianato Varese, Twnews.it, Xinhua.net, Huffingtonpost.it, Yahoo.com, msn.com/it

##### Welfare

Lavoce.info, Welforum.it

##### Migration processes

Repubblica, Giornale Radio Rai 1, 2 e 3

##### Trade Unions

Rivoluzione positiva

## THIRD MISSION

[Intervistautori.org](http://Intervistautori.org)

---

The following colleagues have been interviewed on Intervistautori.org, the first Italian website of sociological podcasts:

- Giampaolo Nuvolati and Sara Spanu, about their co-edited book “Manifesto dei sociologi e delle sociologhe dell'ambiente e del territorio sulle città e le aree naturali del dopo Covid-19”;
- David Benassi, about his co-authored book “Poverty in Italy. Features and Drivers in a European Perspective”
- Tatjana Sekulić, about her book “The European Union and the Paradox of Enlargement The Complex Accession of the Western Balkans”;
- Andrea Cerroni, about his book “Understanding the Knowledge Society. A New Paradigm in the Sociology of Knowledge”;
- Davide Caselli, about his book “Esperti. Come studiarli e perché”;
- Federico Butera, about his book “Organizzazione e società. Innovare le organizzazioni dell'Italia che vogliamo”;
- Maurizio Catino about his book “Le organizzazioni mafiose. La mano visibile dell'impresa criminale”;
- Marco Gui, about his book “Il digitale a scuola. Rivoluzione o abbaglio?”
- Nunzia Borrelli about her book “Lo spazio del cibo. Un’analisi sociologica”.

## CONFERENCE RC21 ANTWERP 2020

---

14-16 July 2021

The 2021 annual conference of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 21 on Urban and Regional Development will take place in Antwerp, from Wednesday 14 until Friday 16 July 2021. The general theme of the conference is “Sensing and Shaping the City”, focusing on how citizens experience the fragmentary, unequal and contradictory realities of global urbanity.

- Marianna D’Ovidio and Valentina Pacetti have co-organized and will chair a session entitled “Manufacturing in the contemporary city”
- Serena Vicari-Haddock has co-organized and will chair a session entitled “Rent-seeking: the new game in town. The legacy of Anne Haila (1953-2019)”
- Veronica Conte and Federico Prestileo have co-organized and will chair a session entitled “On cities as tourist commodities: real estate and economic transformations in the digital platform era”

Conference official website: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/rc21-sensing-the-city/>

## IV MIDTERM CONFERENCE OF ESA RESEARCH NETWORK 37

---

27-29 January 2021

The IV Midterm Conference of European Sociological Association's Research Network 37 (Urban Sociology), entitled "Urban Theory and Urban Praxis: Past, Present and Possible Futures" will be hosted by RN37 and the University of Bologna. Giampaolo Nuvolati will be a keynote speaker.

- Silvia Mugnano and Igor Costarelli have co-organized and will chair a session entitled "Housing in a post-Covid society: trends, policies and challenges"
- Veronica Conte has co-organized and will chair a session entitled "Urban Regeneration: Policies and Effects"

Conference official website: <https://esarn37.hypotheses.org/iv-midterm-conference-bologna-2020>

Department of Sociology and Social Research

Giampaolo Nuvolati  
**Head of Department**

Alessandra Decataldo  
Egidio Riva  
**Editors**