

Department of Sociology and Social Research

Newsletter



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Presentation

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform professors, researchers, students as well as civil servants and freelance professionals all over the world about the activities of the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Milan-Bicocca.

The Department was established in 1999 and its main aim is to promote excellence in the development of social theory and empirical analysis of contemporary society.

Among the many research areas we have:

- Family, social services and care
- Gender and generation
- Labour market
- Migration, poverty, welfare and social capital
- Organizational theory
- Participation and governance
- Social sciences methods
- Sustainability, mobility and quality of life in metropolitan areas
- Tourism and local development
- Young cultures and cultural consumption

Around 70 professors and researchers work on these topics and teach in 8 First and Second level degree programmes covering four areas:

- Sociology
- Tourism
- Management of organizations and services design
- Social services

We also have three PhD programmes currently running:

- Applied Sociology and Social Research Methodology
- Urbeur: an international PhD programme dealing with urban issues
- Economic Sociology

Moreover, we have Summer Schools on different topics and several Research Centres and Masters (see <http://www.sociologia.unimib.it/DATA/bacheca/file/Master%20-%20Centri%20di%20ricerca%20-%20Laboratori.pdf>).

Many young researchers are involved in research projects thanks to post-PhD grant opportunities.

The Department is a very interdisciplinary one. The most of the professors, researchers and scholars are sociologists but we also have: economists, geographers, demographers, anthropologists, philosophers, historians and statisticians.

According to different researches based on different indicators, the Department always ranks in the very first positions as one of the best Department where to study sociology in Italy.

Prof. Giampaolo Nuvolati
Head of the Department of Sociology
and Social Research



with CARMEN LECCARDI

by Ilenya Camozzi

Carmen Leccardi is professor of Cultural Sociology at the University of Milan-Bicocca and Director of the PhD programme in Applied Sociology and Social Research Methodology. She is scientific coordinator of the Milan based inter-university Centre 'Gender Cultures'.

From 2013 to 2015 she was President of the European Sociological Association. Her main research areas are cultural models, with a particular focus on youth; gender and generational differences; experiences of time and how these change.

Her recent books include *Sociologías del tiempo* (Santiago, Finis Terrae, 2014) and *Youth, Space and Time. Agoras and Chronotopes in the Global City*, edited with C. Feixa and P. Nilan (Den Haag – New York, Brill, in print).



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THEIR BODIES. ABOUT THE COLOGNE VIOLENCE EVENTS

On the night of 31 December 2015 in Cologne (Germany), women celebrating New Year's Eve in the streets were violently attacked en masse. While investigations are still under way to understand the dynamics of these events and identify those responsible, there is one frightening certainty: the culture of violence against women endures. How do you interpret these violent attacks?

What took place on 31 December 2015 in Cologne was a horrific form of mass sexual violence against women. Similar attacks took place simultaneously in other German cities - and also in other European cities. In Cologne alone almost a thousand women reported being assaulted. As is immediately clear, this violence is out of the ordinary on several counts. In the first place, the sheer number of women attacked on the same occasion, and in second place, because the attacks took place in several locations across Europe on the same night; thirdly, for the occasion itself: New Year's Eve is traditionally a time for light-hearted partying and celebrations. Lastly, and this is undoubtedly the most significant aspect, the alleged identity of the attackers: 1,000-2,000 young men who mostly appear to be of North African and Middle Eastern origin.

Anti-Islamic, nationalist movements like Pegida (Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes), lost no time in blaming Angela Merkel's recent open door policy welcoming Syrian refugees. Yet in actual fact only three of the around sixty men arrested were refugees. In this sense, and beyond the figures, one issue appears evident: the connection between the violence of a sexual nature committed that night and the weakness in Europe of the social integration of migrants from Muslim countries in North and Central Africa and the Middle East. This comes to the fore when the spotlight is on women and their rights. So let's get to the heart of the question that was put to me: in my view, the violence committed on 31 December has to be considered in relation to the attackers' failure to acknowledge women as subjects with equal rights and of equal status to men. The migrants' societies of origin are strongly patriarchal and deny this recognition systematically, on a daily basis. In public spaces, during celebratory events, in an atmosphere of freedom, women are identified as targets (we should not forget the sex attacks on Egyptian women in Tahrir Square in Cairo in several recent occasions).

The German sociologist of Turkish descent Necla Kelek writes: "We have to name this cultural difference and say clearly what is allowed [in Europe] and what is forbidden." Conflict and violence are often – wrongly – associated. As sociologists we know, from Simmel onwards, that conflict is a form of relationship – and, as such, of recognition. The sexual assaults in question are something different. They are not just an expression of general hostility, but a genuine war against women, their freedom and their right to physical and psychological safety. Like all wars, this war is waged through the systematic use of violence.

The forms which this violence takes vary according to the circumstances, time and place. On New Year's Eve 2015 mass sexual attacks (including a number of rapes) took place on the streets of several European cities.

To sum up, I believe that the NYE violence represents a clear, explicit attack on women and the expression of their subjectivities. As such it should be condemned without hesitation, along with the patriarchal culture that drives it. And it is no less important to strongly condemn the forms of anti-Islamic racism that came about on this pretext in Germany and elsewhere.

Starting with what happened in Cologne, I'd like to invite you to reflect on the role of the female body in contemporary societies.

In 1989 Barbara Kruger, the renowned American artist and photographer, created a poster which has since become world famous. Designed on the occasion of the Women's March in Washington to support women's reproductive rights, the poster depicts a woman's face divided in half: half in the light, the other half like a photographic negative (in the first half the woman exists because she has the power to decide, in the other she is little more than a shadow). The caption at the bottom could not be clearer: *Your body is a battleground*. Almost thirty years have passed since that poster was created, and forty since the many women's demonstrations - in Italy too - under the banner of 'My body, my choice'.

In social terms, exerting control over women's bodies continues to be a key issue, and a genuine battlefield. The fear created by the idea of women's freedom takes different forms in different places, and is proportional to the strength and depth of the patriarchal culture. The violation of women's bodies in Cologne, and the immunity taken for granted by the attackers, reminds us that gender order structures not only the bodies of women and men, but also their respective freedoms. It also grants a number of privileges to the latter - that Raewyn Connell aptly terms the 'patriarchal dividend'. The stronger the gender inequality in a given culture and society, the greater the aggression towards women's bodies and the violence that goes with it.

Lastly, what can sociology do when it comes to the strongly entrenched forms of violence against women in contemporary societies?

As we know, violence against women has spread across the globe, across social classes and ethnic groups. It takes different forms in different parts of the world: from forced marriages to genital mutilation, to preventing women from accessing education to denying fundamental freedoms in the most deeply patriarchal societies (the horror of ethnic rape and war is a case in point). In Italy, as in other western countries, femicide on one hand and the gender pay gap on the other exemplify the continuum of gendered violence. Sociology must remain keenly committed to exposing the very close link between gendered social structures and their corollary of violence against women, and the structures of social inequality. And constantly reiterate the fact that the practices of the institutions, without exception, play a central role in producing and reproducing gender inequalities, including violence. The interplay between gender as a social structure and its various manifestations according to geographical location, culture, ethnic group, class and sexual orientation - in line with an intersectional approach - enables sociological research to provide an important basis for formulating public policies to prevent and combat violence. Besides that, at this moment in history, mass violence against women, like the Cologne attacks, calls for the sociological community to get directly involved in rethinking the meaning and forms of social integration in globalised societies.



GEMM – Growth, Equal Opportunities, Migration & Markets



With over 20 researchers in 8 European countries, GEMM is an international 3-years project funded by the EC Horizon 2020 Framework and coordinated by Neli Demireva, Essex University. Kicked off in Oxford in October 2015, GEMM will deliver:

- an analysis of the obstacles to the successful incorporation of migrants and in particular to the attraction and retention of highly skilled migrants;
- a thorough assessment of the migration related drivers of growth and the functioning of markets;
- an assessment of ethnic inequality in the labour market as a barrier to competitiveness and innovation in Europe;
- a set of policy recommendations that contain concrete guidelines as to how migrants can contribute to the EU economy and society.

GEMM is realized by an innovative research agenda combining scientific rigor, a mixed methods and comparative approach, and crosscutting expertise. The Bicocca Team is especially involved in two areas of study:

- “Incorporation of Migrants”, comparatively analysing individual, contextual and institutional factors affecting immigrants’ insertion in the labour market using both harmonised international and national microdata;
- “Lived Experiences of Migration”, qualitatively exploring through in-depth interviews prospective and actual migrants.

Bicocca GEMM Team: Ivana Fellini (coordinator), Diego Coletto, Giovanna Fullin, Raffaele Guetto, Fabio Quassoli and Emilio Reyneri.

Participants (coordinators): University of Utrecht (Bram Lancee), Oxford (Anthony Heath), Carlos III de Madrid (Javier Polavieja), WZB (Ruud Koopmans), NEC (Siyka Kovacheva), CURS (Dorel Abraham).

PROMOTING HEALTH, REDUCING GENDER/CULTURAL INEQUALITY.

Oncological prevention and screening in the reproductive age-bracket, and against sexually-transmitted diseases, in Beirut and Milan.



Financed by the Italian Health Ministry, the research is an EU-international organization partnership project designed to boost health programmes and conventions.

This is a special EUROMED liaison venture calling for on-site intervention and targeting inequalities, especially gender-related. EUROMED is a 18 months project involving 12 persons.

Immigrants tend to be poor responders to prevention programmes, while female cancers and sexually transmitted diseases are still rising among young people and migrant women.

The case study concerns two Mediterranean metropolises, Milan and Beirut: one with a strong immigrant presence (15%), the other with a private insurance-based health system and a massive influx of refugees (Palestinians and Syrians) – more than a third of the Lebanese population.

Detecting healthcare needs calls for exploratory "integrated" research, combining mixed-method scientific research, a comparative approach using secondary sources of quantitative data, and a qualitative survey in the field (in-depth interviews with stakeholders and focus groups with female patients).

The case study will produce a comparative analysis of different Mediterranean contexts, focusing on health prevention policies for women and young people, and access by migrant people to healthcare and prevention services.

Scientific Director:

Mara Tognetti (University of Milan-Bicocca - mara.tognetti@unimib.it).

Project partners:

AMELINC Cooperative; Associazione Blimunde for Milan; Les Amis des Marionnettes for Beirut.

Books Review

THE SOCIOLOGY OF THE FUTURE. SOCIETY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Fabio Corbisiero and Elisabetta Ruspini (eds.)

Preface by John Urry, Introduction by Paola Di Nicola

Wolters Kluwer/Cedam, 2016

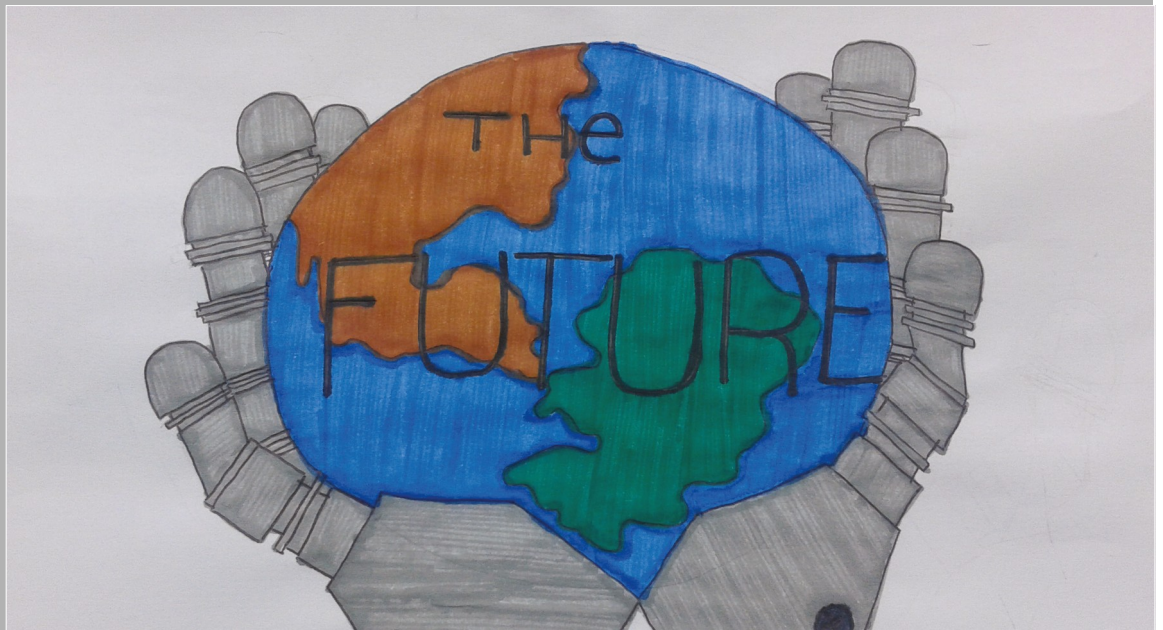


Illustration: Maddalena Emma Zanetti

The Sociology of the Future is an emerging field of inquiry aimed at examining the future as a component of social reality. This edited collection discusses characteristics and forms of the Italian Sociology of the Future. More specifically, the book – through an exploration of theories and methodologies – introduces the field and suggests some ways it is taking definition in Italy. The book also tries to understand which emerging social challenges are taken into account by contemporary Italian Sociology.

The handbook involves scholars belonging to 12 Research Networks that compose the AIS (Associazione Italiana di Sociologia - Italian Sociological Association): Cultural Sociology; Environmental and Territorial Sociology; Economic Sociology and Sociology of Work; Gender Studies; Political Sociology; Social Policy; Social Research and Methods; Sociology of Everyday Life; Sociology of Health and Illness; Sociology of Law; Sociology of Religion; Sociology of Education.

John Urry, influential scholar who has shaped several fields of sociology, died suddenly, 18th March 2016.

Prof. Fabio Corbisiero and Prof. Elisabetta Ruspini - and all members of the Department of Sociology and Social Research - would like to express their deepest condolences to Professor John Urry's family.

INCLUSIVE TOGETHERNESS. A COMPARATIVE ETHNOGRAPHY OF CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS MAKING MILAN SOCIABLE

Sebastiano Citroni

Edizioni La Scuola, Brescia, 2015



Winner of the “Osservando il Volontariato” award, this work addresses the practices and outcomes of ten non-profit associations who aim to produce inclusive forms of social relationships, improve public spaces and augment urban sociability in Milan. Although different in many respects, these associations share the same controversial urban project, using events as their main repertoire of action in order to affect the local public sphere and regenerate the neighborhood’s shrinking social fabric.

Through a comparative ethnographic approach, the reader is immersed in the everyday practices of the various groups, from official meetings to backstage action, gaining an insight into different forms of inclusive togetherness, each of which with its own exclusionary implications. The research found that a limited number of group styles – recurrent patterns of interaction in everyday group life – account for the outcomes produced by the urban project under investigation.

By emphasizing the simultaneously situated and institutional nature of the studied group styles, this research intersects with and updates a sociological tradition of study that, by addressing micro-level interactions, provides key insights into significant macro-processes, such as the socially inclusive/exclusive outcomes of these types of urban projects.

Teresa BERTILOTTI

La *garçonne* e l'assassino. Storia di Louise e di Paul, disertore travestito, nella Parigi degli anni folli by Fabrice Virgili, Danièle Voldman

Translation and afterword by Teresa Bertilotti (with Vira Lanciotti)

Viella, Roma, 2016

Marina CALLONI

Images of Fear in Political Philosophy and Fairy Tales: Linking Private Abuse to Political Violence in Human Rights Discourse

Journal of International Political Theory, 2016

vol. 12, n. 1, pp. 67–89

Carmen LECCARDI

Genere e Società

in R. Cipriani (ed.), Nuovo Manuale di Sociologia

Maggioli Editore, Santarcangelo di Romagna, Rimini, 2016

Paolo ROSSI

Looking for an Emergency Door: the Access to Social Services between Informational Asymmetries and Sensegiving Processes

International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, 2016

vol. 36, n. 1/2, pp. 102-118

Elisabetta RUSPINI – Isabella CRESPI (eds.)

Balancing Work and Family in a Changing Society. The Fathers' Perspective

Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2016

DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY AND VIOLENCE. CONTRADICTIONS OF A PLURALIST SOCIETY

University of Milan-Bicocca
April – December 2015

The project “Democracy, Liberty and Violence. Contradictions of a Pluralist Society” was conceived in response to the terrorist attack that took place in Paris at the very beginning of 2015.

Assassination of the staff of satirical weekly “Charlie Hebdo”, and of the clients of a kosher supermarket, opened a number of interrogatives about the menace of terrorism, but also about process of social inclusion and integration and of a new patterns of pluralism in the European societies.

At the heart of the initiative was the attempt to discuss the new conflicts emerging in a post-secular society, as well as new forms and models of political violence, but also to speak about fundamental issues of a liberal democratic culture and its universalistic aspiration.





Photographs: Matteo Ceschi

Created to involve students and young researchers, the aim of the project was to frame a public space in which exchange thoughts and fears about challenges of a European society becoming increasingly plural, and at the same time not yet fully aware of the depth of the transformation.

Nine seminars and four film projections were organized from April to December 2015, designed and coordinated by Tatjana Sekulić in cooperation with a group of professors and researchers of the Department of Sociology and Social Research, representing four research Centres (Etnicos, Diaforà, Pragsia and Sui generis). Other two Departments had joined the initiative (Human Sciences for Education and Law), strongly supported by the patronage of the Rector of the University of Milan-Bicocca.

In addition, a photo reportage “Signes/Segni” by Matteo Ceschi was exposed from 10 November to the mid December. The photographs were taken at the Place de la République at Paris, anticipating another terrific terrorist attack of 13th November 2015.

Among 65 scholars, researchers, civil society activists and journalists, several international guests contributed to the project: Dino Abazović (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Antoine Jardin (Université Sciences Po, France), Alice Sophie Sarcinelli (Université de Liège, Belgium), Claudio Visentin (Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland), and Linden West (Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom). The participation of about 200 students of the University of Milan-Bicocca was a real achievement of the initiative.

For further information:

<http://www.unimib.it/go/48530/Home/Italiano/Eventi-in-home/Democrazia-liberta-e-violenza>

Visiting and Erasmus Opportunities

The Department of Sociology and Social Research welcomes scholars to apply to our international programs to become a:

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

Present Visiting scholars are:

- Maël Dif-Pradalier (Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland)
- Gundi Knies (University of Essex, United Kingdom)
- Maria Lucia Lopes Da Silva (Universidade de Brasilia, Brasil)
- Mariarosa Scarlata (University of Surrey, United Kingdom)
- Sassia Spiga (Université Badji Mokhtar de Annaba, Algeria)

For further information:

<http://www.sociologia.unimib.it/default.asp?idPagine=2780>

Latin-American Consular Group



The Department of Sociology and Social Research has organised on 30th March 2016 an international conference, in collaboration with the Latin-American Consular Group of Milan and Northern Italy. The meeting was chaired by the Rector Prof. Cristina Messa and attended by representatives of the Consulates General of Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, with the participation of numerous unimib scholars.

The aim of the encounter was at learning more about the situation of Latin-American communities living in Milan as well as at strengthening on-going projects and developing new programmes in Latin-American countries. It was the first opportunity to officially present the Latin-American Consular Group, an association composed by 13 General Consulates, established on 10th March and chaired by Marisela Morales Ibáñez, Consul Titular of Mexico.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The forms of urban attractiveness: methods of analysis and case studies. Milan & Barcelona as attractive cities.

Program based in Milan & Barcelona

Description:

The main aim of the summer school is to improve the knowledge of the participants in the field of the urban attractions analyzed from different perspectives and in particular concerning different types of urban populations and services, different models of policies and governance structures.

The summer school will be divided in three sets of lessons and activities covering:

- the analysis of the theoretical and methodological instruments available in order to study and improve urban attraction;
- the presentation of successful case studies of city marketing and attraction strategies performed in Italian and European cities;
- the tour of chosen places and “hot-spots” within the two cities in order to corroborate the theoretical part with the empirical field (lessons in the morning and trips in the afternoon).

Contents covered:

- Types of metropolitan populations living, consuming and working in the cities
- Mobility systems and accessibility to urban opportunities in contemporary cities
- Local resources utilized to develop touristic and job attractions
- Public policies oriented to improve attraction
- Governance and participation models as tools for improving attractions
- Urban rhythm and night attractiveness
- Walkability and urban environment
- The environmental quality as an urban attractiveness

Program Coordinators:

Prof. Giampaolo Nuvolati, University of Milan-Bicocca (giampaolo.nuvolati@unimib.it)

Prof. Montserrat Pareja Eastaway, University of Barcelona (mpareja@ub.edu)

Location: Barcelona (1st week); Milan (2nd week)

Application Deadline: 20th April 2016 (can be extended to 11th May)

Prerequisites: BA Degree

Requested documents to be uploaded in the application form: CV, ID card or passport

Target Audience: We welcome students from different disciplines: sociology, anthropology, geography, urban planning, urban design, and architecture, as well as practitioners and policy-makers. We shall be glad to consider any other background deemed for the program as reflected from the CV of the students

For further information: urbanattractiveness@unimib.it

CREDITS: 6 CFU

TUITION: 1000 € include courses and activities in Milan and Barcelona (travel, housing and living expenses are not included in the tuition fee)

DATES: June 13th – 24th June 2016



INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Sustainable Human Development (SHD)

The **International Doctoral Program in Sustainable Human Development (SHD)** is an agreement between the Universities of Milan-Bicocca (Italy), A. Jauretche Buenos Aires (Argentina), Sancti Spiritus (Cuba), Nicaragua in Managua (Nicaragua), the KIP International School, The Intercultural Development Research Institute (IDRIInstitute), Municipalities and NGOs. On 15th February 2016, an official agreement has been signed in La Havana (Cuba) among all the Rectors of the involved Universities.

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