Newsletter

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n. 1

Index

Interviews

In January 2018, the Department of Sociology and Social Research has been appointed "Department of excellence" by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR). Based on that appointment, MIUR is now supporting, with a grant of over 9 million euros, a five-year longitudinal study on Italian households, called ITA.LI (ITAlian LIves, Indagine sui Corsi di Vita in Italia). This study is going to be conducted, using both qualitative and quantitative methods, by two research teams, which work in the recently established "Institute for Advanced Study of Social Change" (IASSC). Issue 1/2019 of the newsletter starts with interviews with Serafino Negrelli, Director of IASSC, Carmen Leccardi and Mario Lucchini, who lead, respectively, qualitative and quantitative core research activities.

Serafino Negrelli: The Institute for Advanced Study of Social Change

Serafino NEGRELLI is professor of Economic and Work Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Milano Bicocca. He has been involved in and directed many researches and empirical surveys, mainly focused on the social consequences of economic globalization. He analysed the local production systems for the European Research Project of *EUROCAP*, "Social Dialogue, Employment and Territories. Towards a European Politics of Capabilities", coordinated by Robert Salais, *ENS* Cachan. He has been among the project leaders for the European Project on 25 cases of transnational firms restructuring, *AGIRE*, "*Anticiper pour une gestion innovante des restructurations en Europe*". He was the Italian partner of the European Project *CAPRIGHT*, "Resources, rights, and capabilities: in search of social foundations for Europe" (2006-2010, EC Sixth Framework Programme). He was member of the National Executive Committee of *AISRI* ("Associazone Italiana di Studio delle Relazioni Industriali") affiliated to the *ILERA* (International Labour and Employment Relations Association), in which he is one of the coordinators (with professor Anil Verma, University of Toronto) of the International Study Group on «Public Policy and Industrial Relations». He was Coordinator of the First-Level Degree Programme in Organizational Sciences at the Faculty of Sociology of the University of Milano Bicocca. He was coordinator of the PhD program in Economic Sociology, at the University

of Brescia, and member of SUM PhD program. He was in the national board of *AIS* (Italian Association of Sociology). He was member of the Administrative Board of the University of Milano Bicocca (2016-2018). He is member of the Italian Society of Economic Sociology (SISEC) and member of the PhD program in Analysis of Social and Economic Processes (ASEP) in the Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Milano Bicocca.

Amongst his most recent publications:
- Negrelli, S. and Pacetti, V. (eds.) (2016) I contratti di rete. Pratiche di capitale sociale tra le imprese italiane. Bologna: Il Mulino
- Lucchini, M., Negrelli, S. and Zaccaria, D. (2014) La qualità del lavoro in contesti diversi: un'analisi multidimensionale. In: Barbieri P. and Fullin G. (eds.) Lavoro, istituzioni, disuguaglianze. Bologna: Il Mulino
- Negrelli, S. (2013). Le trasformazioni del lavoro. Modelli e tendenze nel capitalismo globale, Roma-Bari: Laterza
- De Leonardis, O., Negrelli, S. and Salais, R. (eds.) (2012) Democracy and Capabilities for Voice: Welfare, Work and Public Deliberation in Europe. Brussels: Peter Lang

You have been recently appointed director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of Social Change (IASSC). What are the main goals of IASSC?
The Institute for Advanced Studies of Social Change (IASSC) has been established in January 2019 within the Department of Sociology and Social Research (DSSR) of the University of Milano Bicocca. This Institute was financed by funds for the Departments of Excellence, as required by the Italian Law 232/2016 (2017 Budget Law). The main purpose of the IASSC is to set up an Observatory on social change. More specifically, its main goals are:
- to develop new knowledge on the social and territorial transformations affecting Italy, with the main focus on exploring the complex dynamics of social change. To realize this knowledge, a qualitative survey and a quantitative survey on the life span of a representative sample of Italians will be carried out;
- to become the Italian pole for the storage of quantitative and qualitative data of a longitudinal nature (in line with the international academic standards of excellence), which is able to attract visiting social scientists from national and international contexts, and which will become a venue for high visibility conferences and seminars;
- to enhance the information collected, both through geo-referencing and through connection with administrative databases, in order to profitably integrate information that currently is available only separately;
- to integrate analysis methods through the enhancement of existing laboratories, also thanks to the use of visual techniques;
- to increase the competitiveness of our doctoral school, maximizing the impact on the employment prospects of young researchers, both in the academic field and beyond.

What are IASSC's strategies for its further development?
To achieve these main goals, the IASSC intends to strategically launch a series of activities:
- to implement a complex longitudinal research as a basic tool for the scientific community to observe social change dynamics. The research paths will be of a quantitative and qualitative nature, featuring a strong integration between the quantitative survey and the qualitative one;

3

- to set up a database integrating the longitudinal survey data with those already available at the DSSR, or to be acquired by other sources, in order to combine macro and micro data;
- to develop working groups, research and seminar activities which, starting from the availability of the collected data, allow the deepening of a series of topics, both theoretical and methodological in nature, inherent to social change and consistent with the competences and the research areas;
- to promote doctoral teaching activities related to the issues of social change.

What is the potential of IASSC?
The IASSC can offer a great potential for the implementation of knowledge aimed at improving the welfare conditions of the Italian society, mainly by becoming a relevant reference point for monitoring changes at the micro and macro level. Taking full advantage of the network of relationships that the DSSR maintains with the media, the public actors, and the third sector and civil society, the IASSC can constitute an important point of reference for the launch and evaluation of those public policies that are aimed at tackling the main problems related to social change. As far as the benchmark is concerned, the IASSC certainly represents an important chance for Italy to interact with other leading experiences on the international scene that deal with the same issues. The achievement of the longitudinal quantitative-qualitative research will be finalized to the provision of a dynamic and integrated database on social change. The filed data will be integrated with the structures already embedded in the DSSR, such as the UNIDATA Center which collects aggregate and individual socio-economic statistical information but which does not currently have longitudinal data. UNIDATA, however, is already strongly included in international networks such as the CESSDA (Consortium of European Social Sciences Data Archive) and will be able to promote the internationalization of the project itself. In particular, this will allow DSSR to become the Italian pole of longitudinal quantitative and qualitative data storage. Following the example of the UK Data Archive of the University of Essex, the IASSC will be able to develop the useful know-how to register also qualitative longitudinal data and thus make them reusable in secondary analysis.

Carmen Leccardi: Life courses of young Italians. A qualitative longitudinal study

Carmen LECCARDI is Professor of Cultural Sociology at the University of Milano-Bicocca. Since 2010, she has been Director of the PhD program in Applied Sociology and Methodology of Social Research. She was Vice Rector for equal opportunities (2012-2013). She is currently Director of the Gender Cultures Inter-University Research Centre. Co-editor of the SAGE journal Time & Society, for which she is now a consulting editor, she is a member of the advisory boards of several international social sciences journals. In the first decade of the new century she was European Vice President (with Carles Feixa) of the research committee 'Sociology of Youth' of the International Sociological Association. From 2013 to 2015 she was President of the European Sociological Association. She is currently a board member of the Research Network 'Sociology of Culture' in the same association. In 2018, she was awarded an Honorary Scholarship issued by the Melbourne University (Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Youth Research Centre). Her field is the study of processes of social and cultural change, with a specific focus on youth, gender, and generational differences; time experiences and their changes. In her research, she prioritises qualitative approaches, particularly hermeneutic methods.

Among her recent books:

- Leccardi, C. (2015) Sociologias del tiempo. Santiago, Chile: Finis Terrae
- Feixa, C., Leccardi, C., and Nilan, P. (eds.) (2016) Youth, Space and Time. Agoras and Chronotopes in the Global City. Leiden: Brill
- Leccardi, C., and Volonté, P. (eds.) (2017) Un nuovo individualismo? Individualizzazione, soggettività e legame sociale. Milan: Egea

You supervise the qualitative research team on the life courses of young Italians. Why is the longitudinal perspective so relevant?
Carrying out a longitudinal research, both on a quantitative or qualitative level, means researching social change. Especially in the case of young people, it refers to the study of the interconnections between the changes in institutionalised life – education, work, family… – and the changes in the meanings and forms of their transition to adulthood. In the last decades the linearity of this transition was lost. We now have to face an increase in fragmentation and reversibility. At the same time, young people are becoming more adept at facing this situation through agency. In this

research, we will focus on a specific cohort (24-29 years old) that sits right in-between the end of university (if it is the case) and the entry in the labour market. We will carry out 120 qualitative interviews (divided by Northern, Central, and Southern Italy), identifying the respondents by the first wave of quantitative research. We will follow them for four years, and we will be able to focus on their entry in their thirties. This means we will be in a position to analyse how they will deal with the issue of an open-ended transition and the loss of the institutional support in their path from youth to adulthood. In addition, we will employ 'dialogical workshops', an innovative methodology developed by the Melbourne Youth Research Centre (*see below*). As already underlined, when looking at life courses we are also looking at institutions, and at how well they provide individuals and groups with a possibility to link their present with their future. Our focus as a qualitative longitudinal group is on handling the experiences of young people in this age bracket, considering their differences in class, ethnicity and gender, as well as in their geographic backgrounds. We are interested in understanding how these differences influence the transition itself.

Can you further explain the objectives of this qualitative longitudinal focus?
It is important to stress that nowadays, when facing the future, a number of young people (and young adults) seem to prefer a so-called 'indetermination strategy', based upon the idea that it is hard to build a traditional life project: in a rapidly changing world, goals can change, and social conditions can change quickly too. A true life project just seems out of reach. This could actually be a rational form of agency – deciding what to do along the way. The important question we wish to focus on is: is the so-called indetermination strategy really an open strategy? What is the role played by class, ethnic background, and gender in this choice? According to existing national and international research, the possibility of relying on a trial-and-error approach – as regards to the relation with the labour market, for instance – seems very much connected to social, cultural, and economic capital. The relations with the family of origin are of utmost importance. One of the goals of the qualitative longitudinal research is to deeply analyse the relation between young people's life strategies and major structural hindrances.

Do you expect to find important peculiarities of this generation for what concerns intergenerational relations?
In Southern European countries, young people live longer, and they stay with their families longer – especially young men. We need to focus on the conflicts that prolonged cohabitation can create. It would be interesting to understand what happens in intergenerational relations when a young person enters their thirties without having any real social independence (but having enjoyed personal autonomy, usually, for a long time). Qualitative longitudinal methodologies can capture continuities and discontinuities in the timing of these relations, as well as in their characteristics. As is often underlined in international studies on youth, in Southern Europe independence is often looked for within the family, rather than outside of it. This is due to the lack of welfare provisions, as well as to specific job insecurity.

What is the weight of this research in your opinion?
The strength of the qualitative longitudinal research is tied to the fact that we have the opportunity to analyse the experiences of young people and their changes over time, since there is a quantitative study behind it. Thanks to the previous survey, we will be able to construct a general scenario of youth in Italy. This will allow the research team to delve deep into questions related to young people's representations of their present and futures lives, as well as into their hopes and fears. In

my opinion, the special strength of this Departmental longitudinal research is linked to the presence of a mix methods strategy, both quantitative and qualitative. Different researchers, with different research backgrounds, will be able to cooperate. This to me is something of great worth. I would like to underline another important element related to the innovative quality of the study. We are currently cooperating with the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, Australia. We came to know about the longitudinal studies on youth - both quantitative and qualitative – carried on by this Australian Centre several years ago. Now we had the possibility not only to exchange ideas, but to start a common project. We also shared our experience with new methodologies related to longitudinal qualitative research, developed by the YRC (for example the already mentioned 'dialogical workshop': a sort of collective interview, able to deeply analyse certain issues inside the group). Besides that, a programme of visits has begun between Melbourne and Bicocca Universities. Shared publications are also planned. Lastly, it has to be underlined that, on an international level, most recent and innovative directions in youth studies are related to longitudinal perspectives. Our Department, through the 'Italian Lives' project – talking here about young people's life courses - has the opportunity to contribute significantly to this debate.

What are the expected outcomes and suggestions for the policy makers?
It is important to see whether, and to what extent some of the new strategies devised by young people to face an uncertain future are shaped by their social capital and class position. I think the results of this research will be helpful in building future generations of public policies, too. On a general level, it is important to investigate how different welfare systems – e.g. in Northern and Southern Europe – cope with social uncertainty, and what can be concretely done to support young people's effort to cope with it in their everyday lives. In Italy, this means considering precariousness from the inside, so to speak. How do young people react to uncertainty? How do these reactions change over time? I believe this understanding can help the construction of new social policies. On a general level, it is important to give young people practical opportunities to express their ways of competences, their ways of abilities. In my view, youth policies have to abandon the idea of youth as synonymous with NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). Future generations of youth policies will have to support the ways through which young people try to positively rethink their link with the future.

Mario Lucchini: The quantitative panel study

Mario LUCCHINI is associate professor of sociology. He completed his Ph. D at University of Milano and a Postgraduate Diploma and Master of Arts in Social Science Data Analysis at University of Essex, UK. He is an expert on quantitative analysis in social sciences. He published several studies on transition to adulthood, multidimensional well-being and deprivation, social inequalities in health. Over the last decade, his main research focus has been on multiple deprivation and social exclusion in Europe, particularly using topological techniques of data reduction trough which preserve multidimensional and dynamic aspects implied in these phenomena.

Among his recent publications:

- Lucchini M. (2018), Metodologia della ricerca sociale, Pearson, Milano
- Crivelli L., Della Bella S., Lucchini M (2016). Happiness and health. In: Bruni L. and Porta P.L. (eds.) Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Happiness and Quality of Life. Elgar, Cheltenham, UK: 372-399
- Riva E., Lucchini M. (2015). The Effect of the Country of Birth of the Owner on Business Survival. Evidence from Milan Metropolitan Area, Italy. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 41(11): 1794-1814
- Sala E., Terraneo M., Lucchini M., Knies G. (2013). Exploring the impact of male and female facial attractiveness on occupational prestige. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 31: 69-81

What are the main features and goals of the quantitative line of research within ITA.LI survey?
The quantitative line of research of ITA.LI consists of a panel study on a nationwide sample of households, in which every adult member (aged 16 years and over) will be interviewed. Funding from MIUR covers three waves of data collection. These will be carried out every 12 months, starting from May 2019. In fact, the first wave is about to start and will take place in the next few months. The main goal of the research is to gather relevant information on the life course of each adult participant and understand social change. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the survey will focus on all important areas of life: geographic mobility and housing history, education, employment, family formation and fertility events, health and wellbeing. In the first wave, which is mainly retrospective, interviewers will use a life course event history calendar during a face-to-face interview to gather data on both current and past personal and household situations, conditions and events, since the day of birth. The second and third waves of data collection are prospective in nature. They are scheduled for 2020 and 2021 and are intended to update the event history data

collected in the first wave. Interviews will be carried out by means of CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) and CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interview). Hopefully, the ITA.LI data will be linked to ILFI (*Indagine Longitudinale sulle Famiglie Italiane*), a previous panel study on individual and households in Italy, and to administrative sources of data on employment and social benefits.

Could you provide more information on the sampling design?
In the first wave of the ITA.LI, households have been selected by means of a two-stage stratified sampling design. Strata have been defined by geographical area (Northwest, Northeast, Center, South, Islands) and municipality type (Metropolitan areas, Suburbs, Other). Within each stratum, a simple random sample of municipalities (primary sampling units) has been drawn. Within each selected municipality, a simple random sample of households (secondary sampling units) has been drawn, using the registry lists as sampling frames. Within each selected household, all individuals aged 16 or older have been defined as eligible for interview. In the second and third (and all possible subsequent) waves of data collection, the original sample will be updated so as to include: (*a*) new eligible members of sampled households; and (*b*) all eligible members of spin-off households, i.e. of the new households made up by members of the original sample who left home after the latest interview.

What are the main benefits for researchers and policy-makers resulting from this type of research?
As a result of three waves of data collection, data users will be able to investigate, using appropriate methods, the main determinants of health and wellbeing, education, work and family life trajectories, as well as the main outcomes of each change in any of the selected life domain on individual and household situation and condition. In addition, it will be possible to link data on individual and household life events with macro-level data, such as, for instance, public expenditure on social and healthcare policies, welfare state reforms, unemployment levels and therefore try and understand whether and to what extent changes in economic and institutional settings affect the lives of the respondents and their households. Since respondents are representative of the adult population in Italy, findings will be generalizable.

EVALUATING THE SCHOOL-WORK ALTERNANCE: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY IN ITALIAN UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This research (funded by the Miur within the Prin 2017 announcement) involves INVALSI (Poliandri), University of Milano Bicocca (Decataldo), University of Genova (Palumbo) and Sapienza University of Rome (Fasanella). The main purpose is to evaluate the School-Work Alternance (SWA) as a didactic methodology for training and guiding students in their development. Therefore we aim to: 1) analyse the developmental trajectories about students' occupational preferences and aspirations, career orientation, and socio-emotional skills in their interplay with SWA activities; 2) describe the opportunities offered by schools to students in terms of the SWA activities; 3) understand how teachers adjust the curriculum and didactic strategies to the SWA activities; 4) identify the social and occupational skills considered as crucial by the hosting organizations and the perceptions of the hosting organizations about their role during the SWA; 5) identify the way in which the SWA fits with students' needs and expectations and the way in which students modify their needs and expectations accordingly to hosting organizations' requirements; 6) delineate the systems of governance of the SWA and how it works in term of processes and results.

We will realize: 1) a three-year longitudinal study on the cohort of Grade 11 students enrolled in 160 Italian upper secondary schools; 2) a computer based content analysis on the SWA projects of the sampled schools; 3) a qualitative study using the focus group technique with a reasoned sub-sample of school principals and tutors; 4) an on–line survey to teachers, SWA tutors, and school principals from the 160 sampled schools; 5) an on-line survey to the SWA tutors of hosting organizations: 6) face-to-face in depth interviews with privileged witnesses.

Alessandra Decataldo

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN ITALY: ESTIMATES OF GIRLS AT RISK

The project (funded by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Italian Council of Ministers) aims to provide an up to date estimation of the population at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) living in Italy, with the intent to assess its impact further than the previous 2016 study.

Due to the recent migration pressure on Italy, which has reached considerable femininization rates, the phenomenon has gained increased attention, making urgent to better understand its distribution, reasons and consequences. The research team guided by professor Patrizia Farina, member of the Department of Sociology and Social Research, will:

- estimate of the prevalence of MGF among adult migrant and girls,
- estimates the potential risk of mutilation,
- monitor family attitudes over the practice.

To this end, around 70 interviewers will be trained to reach representative communities over the national territory, according to a mixture of snowball and facility-based sampling survey. Collected data will be used to produce a descriptive report as a tool for policy makers and enhance best practices of prevention and sanitary treatment.

Thomas Pettinato

INTERDIPARTMENTAL CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES - ABCD

The Interdepartmental Center for Gender Studies-ABCD is based at the University of Milano-Bicocca and is led (2019-2021) by Elisabetta Ruspini (Director), Department of Sociology and Social Research. ABCD is composed of around 90 individual members, belonging to 8 different Departments:
- Department of Business and Law - Dipartimento di Scienze Economico-Aziendali e Diritto per l'Economia (Representative Person: Roberta Provasi);
- Department of Economics, Management and Statistics - Dipartimento di Economia, Metodi Quantitativi e Strategie d'Impresa (Representative Person: Laura Pagani);
- Department of Human Sciences for Education - Dipartimento di Scienze Umane per la Formazione (Representative Person: Gabriella Seveso);
- Department of Law - Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza (Representative Person: Claudia Pecorella);
- Department of Physics - Dipartimento di Fisica (Representative Person: Silvia Penati);
- Department of Psychology - Dipartimento di Psicologia (Representative Person: Chiara Volpato);
- Department of Sociology and Social Research - Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale (Representative Person: Patrizia Farina);
- Department of Statistics and Quantitative Methods - Dipartimento di Statistica e Metodi Quantitativi (Representative Person: Laura Terzera, vice-Director).

Noemi Novello holds an ABCD scholarship.

ABCD has just started the activities for the period 2019-2021. ABCD promotes and disseminates gender research and gender studies. The main aims of the Interdepartmental Center for Gender Studies can be summarized as follows:
- to encourage scientific cooperation between scholars from different disciplines, with the aim of identifying new directions for gender-sensitive research, at both national and international level;
- to promote gender-equality in research and to integrate gender into research;
- to develop interdisciplinary research practices with a focus on intersectional gender differences and inequalities, and their association with a number of factors such as age, socio-economic condition, ethnicity, religion (and so on);
- to promote interdisciplinary research practices on gender differences, including the biological and medical aspects, and issues related to people with disabilities experience;
- to disseminate gender-sensitive knowledge through research projects and research publications;
- to encourage public debate on gender-related issues at the national and international levels;
- to organize conferences, seminars, meetings and to support events to disseminate gender knowledge and gender studies;

- to facilitate opportunities for discussion within and outside the University about gender issues and to support cooperation with communities, associations, and institutions for a better integration of the gender dimension in research planning and development;
- to promote education activities on gender differences and inequalities;
- to endorse collaboration among University centers that focus on gender studies, also through the participation in conferences, events and projects aimed at promoting networking and mutual learning.

The new ABCD website will be available soon.

Noemi Novello and *Elisabetta Ruspini*

For further information:

Centro Interdipartimentale per gli Studi di Genere-ABCD **abcd.studidigenere@unimib.it**

Recent ABCD activities and events:

"Rapporto sul femminicidio in Italia. Una riflessione attorno ai lavori della Commissione Parlamentare", November 26, 2018

https://www.unimib.it/eventi/rapporto-sul-femminicidio-italia-riflessione-attorno-ai-lavori-della-commissione-parlamentare

"Donne raccontate in musica e in letteratura", March 6, 2019

https://www.biblio.unimib.it/it/eventi/donne-raccontate-musica-e-letteratura

"Dopo lo sciopero dell'8 marzo. E adesso?", March 11, 2019

https://www.unimib.it/eventi/dopo-sciopero-dell8-marzo-e-adesso

PhD theses

REFRAMING SOCIAL MIX AND THE MANAGEMENT OF MIXED COMMUNITIES IN THE NEW WELFARE STATE
Evidence from social housing projects in Italy and the Netherlands

Igor Costarelli

Abstract: European countries are facing rising demand for affordable housing by a widespread and differentiated audience. Both in Italy and the Netherlands policy-makers and practitioners address this emerging need by implementing new social housing projects targeting diverse social groups - such as students, young households, welfare dependents, and refugees - which results in a fine-grained social mix. Drawing on Magic Mix and Housing Sociale projects, respectively in the Netherlands and Italy, this dissertation unfolds the contemporary meanings and the practices attached to the idea of social mix. It is argued that the current framing of social mix is re-shaping housing professionals' roles, strategies and missions as well as the interactions between tenants and their relationships. Through innovative housing management approaches, e.g. self-management and Social Management, and conditionality-based allocation mechanisms, i.e. allocating social dwellings provided that tenants regularly engage in supportive activities within the housing project, housing professionals aim to increase tenants responsibilization towards the individual dwelling and community. This dissertation highlights similarities and differences that characterize responsibilization strategies in both social housing systems, and discusses the specifics of each context in relation to broader changes in the welfare state.
Keywords: social mix; social management; tenants responsibilization; welfare conditionality; comparative research

IDEOLOGY, PRAGMATISM AND INNOVATION: SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS
A comparative exploration of the 'production side' of local food systems in Milan and Manchester

Raffaele Matacena

Abstract: Situated at the intersection of economic, rural and food sociology, this work focuses on small-scale agri-food producers selling their products through alternative food channels in Milan, Italy, and Manchester, United Kingdom. It investigates the role of farmers-producers in alternative urban networks of food provisioning, highlighting their practices, attitudes, representations, and logics of action, and how these are shaped by their collaboration with such networks. By comparing the cases of Milan and Manchester, this work provides an interpretation of the reality of small-scale farmers in these two regions, highlighting the innovative practices they realize to seek viability for their farms within the alternative food economy, along with the corresponding 'de-commodification' modalities with which their activities are re-integrated within an innovative

system of social relations. The analysis therefore aspires to contribute to the debate on food sovereignty, sustainability of local food systems, and rural development, which are issues of increasing scientific interest as well as critical areas of local-regional and national policy.

THE QUEST FOR INTEGRATION IN MIXED METHODS INQUIRY
A Research Synthesis on Mixed Methods Studies in Social Sciences

Noemi Novello

Abstract: Mixed methods studies in social inquiry may follow two main perspectives on integration: on the one hand, complementarity seeks an information enrichment, a fuller and more comprehensive picture on a social phenomenon; on the other hand, convergence focuses on the chance of overcoming single methods' bias through mixing. While the first approach results rather unproblematic – both theoretically and empirically – convergence seems to pose additional challenges, especially in the elicitation of "meta-inferences". This dissertation introduced a methodological research synthesis of mixed methods studies in social inquiry. Research questions are related to understandings, implementation and epistemological legitimization of integration within the academic community of scholars applying mixed methods in social sciences. Moreover, particular attention was paid to processes of knowledge production – and reproduction – in the community, as well possible power and privilege dynamics within it. Diverse research strategies were implemented, in order to answer to research objectives: automated content analysis was performed on articles published in academic journals; citation network analysis was applied on references lists of the same papers; semi-structured interviews with experts and the related thematic analysis were helpful to address scholars' points of view on integration, as well as a modality to better explore paradigms and epistemological issues.

Keywords: mixed methods, epistemology, methodology, integration

MOVING LIKE BOXERS HITTING LIKE COMRADES
The embodiment of a political culture in boxe popolare

Lorenzo Pedrini

Abstract: In the last ten years, the field of scholarly study on martial arts and combat sports has been expanding steadily. This Ph.D thesis draws on two-year ethnography of boxe popolare (people's boxing) —namely, a style of boxing codified by Italian leftist grassroots groups—and participant observation of a palestra popolare (people's gym) in Milan. The inquiry purports to (a) deepen understanding of the nexus between physical cultures and politics and (b) contribute to elucidate the renewal of political cultures by overcoming the disembodied perspectives on ideology. The first section of the analysis tracks down the relation that ties boxing to the sociocultural matrix of the leftist grassroots groups. Boxing draws its significance from the antagonistic culture of the informal political youth organizations in which the practice is embedded and reflects the main changes that have been occurring in the collective action repertoires of the street-level political

forces over the past few decades. The second section examines the daily routines of boxe popolare. The argument thereby demonstrates how training regimes manipulate the bodies to inculcate a set of corporeal postures and sensibilities inherent to a mythology of otherness peculiar to the far-left ethos. To conclude, the lived experience of boxe popolare addresses the importance of placing the situated practices and the socialized body at the centre of the study of political cultures in the contemporary post-ideological era.

Book Reviews

GOVERNARE MILANO NEL NUOVO MILLENNIO
[Governing Milan in the new Millenium]

Alberta ANDREOTTI (ed.)
il Mulino, Bologna, 2019

As other European cities, Milan can be analysed at the municipal, metropolitan and macro-regional scale. Regardless the entry point of analysis, the city is at the core of an important economic area and it is living a new Renaissance period. What is currently going on in Milan? At what extent the modes of governance do affect the transformations of the city, and the services for its population?

In this volume, we seek to understand whether, who and how the changes affecting the city in the transition to the new millennium have been governed. All the authors consider who are the main actors, public and private ones, involved in these changes and give particular emphasis on the dynamic of relations they have been having (cooperation, collaboration, avoidance, conflict…) during the last decades. Authors engage also with policy instruments, and the continuities and discontinuities adopted in some different urban policy domains: security, social assistance, planning, local public utility services, fashion system and collaborative economy. Out of the chapters, it is possible to identify and reconstruct some dynamics currently going on in Milan, some of them are very similar to what is happening in other European cities, others are more specific, and related to the history and features of the city and its metropolitan area. By this way, the volume discusses and challenges the idea of the weakness and/or strength of the local government capacity, and its change in time. The authors stress that despite continuities there is a regained capacity to steer and govern changes that was lost in the early transition to the new millennium.

The volume is the result of a collective work started some years ago, and developed within the international network WHIG (What/who is governed/governing) coordinated by Patrick Le Galès and involving the following local teams: London, University College London, M. Raco; San Paolo, Univerisdade de Sao Paolo, E. Marques; Mexico City, El Colegio de México, V.U. Saldaña; Milan, University of Milan – Bicocca, A. Andreotti. Several chapters of the book were presented and discussed within workshops of this network.

The volume collects contribution from scholars of the Department of Sociology and Social Research, the Politecnico of Milan, the Catholic University of Milan, and Sciences-Po in Paris. Authors are: Alberta
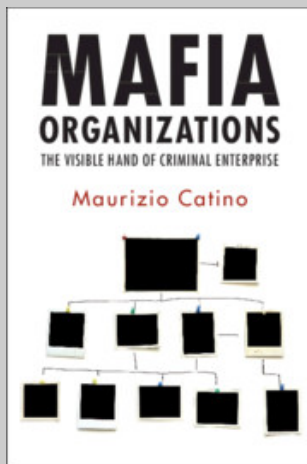
Andreotti, Guido Anselmi, David Benassi, Diego Coletto, Monica Colombo, Marianna d'Ovidio, Patrick Le Galès, Alessandro Maggioni, Andrea Molteni, Valentina Pacetti, Ivana Pais, Gabriele Pasqui, Emanuele Polizzi, Fabio Quassoli, Tommaso Vitale.

MAFIA ORGANIZATIONS
The visible hand of criminal enterprise
Maurizio CATINO
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2019

How do mafias work? How do they recruit people, control members, conduct legal and illegal business, and use violence? Why do they establish such a complex mix of rituals, rules, and codes of conduct? And how do they differ? Why do some mafias commit many more murders than others? This book makes sense of mafias as organizations, via a collative analysis of historical accounts, official data, investigative sources, and interviews. Catino presents a comparative study of seven mafias around the world, from three Italian mafias to the American Cosa Nostra, Japanese Yakuza, Chinese Triads, and Russian mafia. He identifies the organizational architecture that characterizes these criminal groups, and relates different organizational models to the use of violence. Furthermore, he advances a theory on the specific functionality of mafia rules and discusses the major organizational dilemmas that mafias face. This book shows that understanding the organizational logic of mafias is an indispensable step in confronting them.

"Mafia Organizations provides a deep analysis of these crime groups throughout Italy and around the world, capturing the essential fact that they are organizations, coping with the same problems with which all organizations must cope, but under extraordinary circumstances that make them unique, and uniquely interesting. Leveraging comparisons for analytic insight, Professor Catino has written what is not only the best book by a social scientist on organized crime, but a study that will fascinate and inform students of organizational behavior and social organization as well." *Paul DiMaggio*, New York University

"Mafias are complex organizations that face many of the same managerial challenges as legitimate enterprises. Maurizio Catino is well qualified to bring insights from the vast organizational theory literature to understand how Mafias deal with these challenges. While drawing heavily on the many lengthy confessions of members of mafias in Sicily and Southern Italy, a strength of the book is its coverage of mafias in

the United States, China and Japan. This is an important addition to the already rich literature on Mafias." *Peter Reuter*, University of Maryland
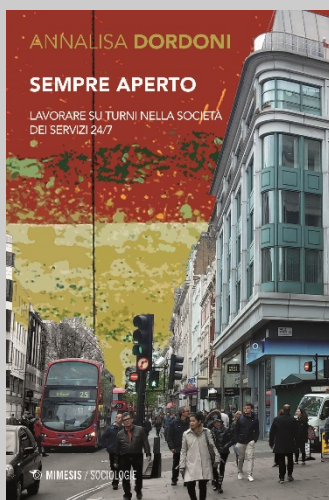
SEMPRE APERTO
Lavorare su turni nella società dei servizi 24/7
[Always Open. Working Shifts in the 24/7 Service Society]

Annalisa DORDONI
Mimesis, Sesto San Giovanni (MI), 2019

This book stems from a Doctoral research on times and rhythms of working with customers, particularly the perceptions and representations of shift workers in the retail sector, in two situated contexts: two shopping streets in the city centers of Milan and London, Corso Buenos Aires and Oxford Street. Qualitative research methods have been used: 6 months of ethnographic observation for each context and comprehensively 50 interviews and 2 focus groups. This book investigates working times and rhythms in these particular European socioeconomic contexts, characterized by a post-Fordist, strongly service-oriented economy and the phenomena of mass consumption and customers' demand for immediate gratification. Moreover, this book explores the dynamics of a new process of transformation of social times and rhythms, in today's European deindustrialized metropolises. On the one hand, Corso Buenos Aires and Oxford Street are similar: two shopping streets in global metropolitan cities which see a high turnout of tourists and locals, rushing for consumption activities. On the other hand, different cultural backgrounds influence the workforce composition, in terms of gender and age, and condition the work-life balance in different ways, even though the nature of the job and the employers, companies and brands, are often literally the same.

Publications

Ylenia CAMOZZI

with D. Cherubini, C. Leccardi and P. Rivetti
The Transformation of Youth Cultural Norms and Values. A Gendered Analysis
in J. Sanchez Garcia and E. Sanchez-Montijano (eds)
Youth at the Margins: Perspectives on Arab Mediterranean Youth
Routledge, Abingdon, UK, 181-201, 2019

Igor COSTARELLI

with R. Kleinhans and S. Mugnano
Reframing social mix in affordable housing initiatives in Italy and in the Netherlands. Closing the gap between discourses and practices?
in Cities,
90, 131-140, 2019

with R. Kleinhans and S. Mugnano
Residential patterns of immigrants: trends and transformations in Milan
in Mondi Migranti
1, 27-48, 2018

Marco GRASSO

with K. Vladimirova
A moral analysis of carbon majors' role in climate change
in Environmental Values (*forthcoming*)
http://www.whpress.co.uk/EV/EVpapers.html

Lorenzo PEDRINI

Boxing is our business. The embodiment of a leftist identity in boxe popolare
in Societies
8(3), 85, 1-29, 2018

Muoversi come pugili, colpire come compagni. Etnografia della boxe popolare
Novalogos, Anzio-Lavino (RM)

SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING SECTOR

A professional training course financed by Federcasa
University of Milano-Bicocca, April-July 2019

Our Department, under the scientific supervision of Lavinia Bifulco, has designed a high-level professional training course for employees and managers of Federcasa, The Italian Public Housing Federation including nearly a hundred of associates. Federcasa has identified our Department as a reference point of excellence in the fields of public housing, socio-spatial analysis, participation, local welfare and social innovation. Lavinia Bifulco, Mario Boffi, Matteo Colleoni, Igor Costarelli, Carlotta Mozzana, Silvia Mugnano, Giampaolo Nuvolati and Emanuele Polizzi will be delivering to the practitioners theoretical and empirical lectures. The course will take place from April to July and it will enable knowledge transfer in support of the starting up of three new divisions dealing with social management within three selected regional headquarters (Milan, Foggia and Umbria). The aim of the course is to train new professional experts through theoretical and practical knowledge to enable the implementation of an integrated approach to public housing social management, which means activates practices of social mediation and support for the more vulnerable tenants and fostering local networks between and within the territorial agencies.

Maria Dodaro

MILANO: UNA CITTA' PER TUTTI?
[Is Milan a city for anybody?]

Auditorium Stefano Cerri, Milan, 28 February 2019

The inclusive city needs an urban project, participation and culture. There is a common responsibility for the future of Città Studi in Milan. Serena Vicari Haddock discussed these issues with Paolo Berdini and Salvatore Settis during a public conference in Milan.

URBANA

Milan, 29/30 May 2019

After two years, URBANA has come back to Milan. The first edition, which took place in 2017, represented an important opportunity to connect Milan-Bicocca University and the rest of the city of Milan. More than 20 initiatives have animated the city, in a widespread way and along four days, involving citizens, local actors, policymakers, academics, journalists, practitioners and artists, to reflect on four different areas: welfare, society, territory and innovation. URBANA came back to focus on the relationship that the universities Bicocca, Politecnico and IULM have with their neighbourhoods, namely Bicocca, Bovisa and Barona. The topic of the suburbs is now crucial to reflect on the changes and opportunities for development of the territories. Milan, in particular, is showing great attention to the evolution of the identity of neighbourhoods also in a perspective of urban polycentrism.

The 2019 edition of URBANA was intended to be an opportunity for meeting, dialogue and discussion on the policies implemented to date and possibly to improve the quality of life, mobility and identity of three university districts. Along with the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the Milan-Bicocca University, promoter and leader of this initiative, the partner universities, Politecnico and IULM took part in the event also sharing their local narratives and expertise in the working tables and then they were confronted with the final speech in the presence of some representatives of public actors.

The first day of URBANA, may 29th, took place at Feltrinelli Foundation, and was split into two parts: the morning session, with a public plenary, have seen the presentation of the book "Story of a District. Milan-Bicocca: People, Places and recollections" (G. Nuvolati and G. Bigatti edited by, Milano, Scalpendi, 2018). Giampaolo Nuvolati, editor of the book and creator of URBANA, talked with some of the authors who participated in the volume, Giorgio Bigatti (co-editor), Elena Dell'Agnese, Franca Zuccoli, Luca Rimoldi, Elisabetta Bucciarelli and Gianni Biondillo. Later, presentations by Politecnico professors (Alessandro Balducci and Valeria Fedeli) and IULM (Marco Maggioli) has followed. In this session the speakers talked to the public about the relationship between their universities and the neighbourhood, telling some stories, good practices and local initiatives. The afternoon was dedicated to the working groups, each coordinated by an academic coordinator from each university. The aim was to reflect on three topics of interest: quality of life (by the Politecnico), mobility (by Milan-Bicocca) and identity of neighbourhoods (by IULM).

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Living the urban environment means interfacing with a multidimensional context, made up by embedded social, architectural, technological and environmental factors. Milan is a city in constant ferment, in fact there are many projects in progress involving neighbourhoods with the aim to trigger deep transformation processes. These actions are closely associated with the great topic of quality of life, because the shape and characteristics of places are not indifferent to human life, but

they influence it especially in the well-being. The peripheral universities of the city of Milan play a crucial role in stimulating the quality of life of the territory on which they insist. But what does the presence of a peripheral university settlement mean in concrete terms today, in relation to the impact it has on the quality of life of residents? What are the desires that emerge from the population to improve the well-being and quality of life? Like every big city, Milan has to deal with the great density of daytime population, especially of city users, which flows into the capital every day for work and to take advantage of other services. To meet this demand, mobility services must always be up to standard and urban governance must constantly pay attention to the quality of the transport offered. If, on the one hand, public transport should adequate mobility networks to the inner city, the headquarters of the main players in the service sector, on the other hand, the periphery must not be put aside. The literature has demonstrated that mobility services are very powerful vectors of urban transformation; so, how can public transport improve the peripheral urban environment and ensure effective connections with the central areas of the city?

The city and its neighbourhoods are constantly changing over time, not only because of major urban regeneration processes that change the physical landscape, but also because of that immaterial change made up of different social relationships and cultures that meet and sometimes conflict. Neighbourhoods, by definition, are microcosms within which multiple processes of social and cultural innovation occur. When we see the places in which we grew up changing, both physically and symbolically, we risk feeling lost and the attachment we had to the neighbourhood as we had

experienced it to a certain extent, is now questioned. How have university settlements on the outskirts of Milan contributed to offering a new urbanistic and symbolic landscape in the lives of citizens? What impact they had on the definition of local identity?

The outcomes from the afternoon's session work has highlighted a lot of strengths in the neighbourhoods on the quality of life, mobility and local identity, but also underlined the critical issues on which the work of all stakeholders must focus to turn them into opportunities and source of well-being for local citizens. In general, what emerged was the positive impact that the three most recent university settlements in Milan's history have had on the peripheral urban territory; it was highlighted that they are key players in directing urban regeneration interventions, especially in the peripheral areas of the city. Although all the operators at the tables recognized the positive presence of the three universities in Bicocca, Bovisa and Barona, they were also agreed that these centres of innovation and knowledge can do much more to spread prosperity in the neighbourhoods. In conclusion, It was recognized that the universities have begun a process of renewal, but this is not a completed process and much still needs to be done to fully enable the potential of the universities in the peripheral territories.

On may 30, the last day of URBANA 2019, has seen three exploratory walks in the three districts, guided by the academic representatives of the three universities involved. It was a very appreciated event by the participating public, because it allowed to get lost in some areas of Milan and to know little aspects usually unobserved on our daily life.

Finally, the launch of the "3B" network (Bicocca, Bovisa and Barona) is the most tangible result of the entire initiative, as a mutual commitment for the three university actors involved in URBANA to a greater sharing of synergies and expertise in order to keep this debate alive in the city of Milan and offer a scientific contribution to the city, especially for the peripheral urban areas.

Luca Bottini

Department of Sociology and Social Research

Giampaolo Nuvolati
Head of Department

Alessandra Decataldo
Egidio Riva
Editors