

Department of Sociology and Social Research

Newsletter



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Interview

From 12nd to 14th November 2019, Nairobi hosted a summit to mark 25 years since the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which recognized that reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality are critical to sustainable development. Patrizia Farina was invited to be part of the Italian delegation as expert on female genital mutilation. The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Resolution 54/134). Issue 2/2019 of the newsletter starts with an interview with Patrizia Farina also with the aim of celebrating this day.

Patrizia Farina: the issue of women sexual and reproductive health



Patrizia FARINA is Full Professor of Demography at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca. After completing her MA/BA she attended a specialization course in Chinese language at the Foreign language University of Beijing. In 1994 she completed the PhD in Demography at University La Sapienza of Roma. She has been member of the Board of the National Institute of Statistics, and member of SISTAN until last June. She is member of national and

international organizations and serves as reviewer for several scientific journals.

Amongst her most recent publications:

- Farina P. (2019) The Consequences of China's Demographic Slowdown, ISPI online, <http://hdl.handle.net/10281/222418>
- Ortensi L.E., Farina P., Leye E. (2018) Female genital mutilation/cutting in Italy: an enhanced estimation for first generation migrant women based on 2016 survey data in BMC Public Health, vol. 18 (1)
- Pecorella C., Farina P. (2018) La risposta penale alla violenza domestica: un'indagine sulla prassi del tribunale di Milano in materia di maltrattamenti contro familiari e conviventi (art. 572 c.p.), in Diritto penale contemporaneo, Vol. 2

- Di Brisco A., Farina P. (2018), Measuring Gender Gap from a Poset Perspective, in Social Indicators Research, vol. 136, pp.1109-1124

Looking at your publications, you have at least two fields of research...

It is right. China has long been my main interest and even now, I published articles on China to addressing the original demographic transition that this country has offered, and the challenge it still offers. Particularly, I focused my research on birth control policies carried first on a voluntary then following coercive approaches. Now I am very interested in studying whether and how the Chinese Government will be able to implement the New Population Policy the “Two-child”, going to the opposite direction compare the past 30 years of strict reduction of natality.

Your interest for Chinese population isn't closed within Chinese borders...

I have also dealt with the Chinese migration in Italy. Some colleagues and I wrote a book that traces the history of the community established in Milan from the end of the First World War to the mid-1990s. I occasionally returned to reflect on Chinese community settlement and its change. Nowadays the Chinese migrants are an economically stratified group as is the Italian society, it maintains a strong identity but the solidarity networks – probably the most distinctive trait of the first generation of Chinese migrants – have weakened.

You are the coordinator of the most recent summer school in China for students of our University. What is the purpose of this initiative?

The main task of the summer school, organized with the financial support of the Department of Sociology and Social Research, is to help students understanding a huge country of growing importance in the world. The knowledge of our students often does not cross the European Borders. China is something far from their understanding unless they came across Chinese and migrant population. Two weeks represent a short period, but that is a fruitful experience for our students, a starting point to increase interests for this country. Actually, from two editions at least one of participant has planned to study in China for a period. One is now in Chengdu at Interclub Academy; another will leave soon to Hangzhou University for a course of specialization in psychology.

Your research has also developed around the issue of the sexual and reproductive health.

Yes, this is the most recent and even most important area of my research, strictly connected to gender-based violence. In the field of sexual and reproductive health, I deal with female genital mutilation (FGM), a traditional practice that includes all procedures that intentionally alter female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice affects 200 million girls and woman living predominantly in African countries, Yemen, Iraq and Indonesia. It can cause short- and long-term health complications, increase risk of HIV transmission, depression, birth complications, infertility and, in the worst cases, death. The reasons why female genital mutilations are performed include a mix of factors within families and communities. In general, FGM is often considered part of raising a girl, and a way to prepare her for adulthood and marriage. Besides, FGM aims to ensure premarital virginity and marital fidelity. It is associated with cultural ideals of femininity and modesty, which include the notion that girls are clean and beautiful after the removal of body parts considered unclean and unfeminine. That is why the issue is rooted in the gender-based discrimination.

Which are the main trends in female genital mutilation that you have been studying?

For what concerns the global picture, decades of actions of international agencies, governments, civil society, communities, and individuals accelerated the secular decline of FGM. Also, among migrant population the tendency to abandon the practice is clear. However, the social norms that

support the practice are still widespread, especially among less educated and more segregated people. Therefore, we need to reinforce the movement that starts from women, engaging stakeholders, religious leaders and anyone who has a word that matters in the community. Many researches published in recent years also suggested that the empowerment of women could accelerate the abandon of such habits.

You mention migrations. Is FGM widespread in Italy, too?

The feminization of African migration flows to Italy led to an increased presence of women with FGM. We do need to know how many mutilated female migrants live in Italy, which kind of mutilation they are affected, how much they support the practice to set appropriate health assistance and policies to protect girls. To this aim several projects tried to estimate the prevalence of women and girls with FGM in Italy, the last of which have been granted this year by the Department of Equal opportunity of the Italian government. We'll present the results in the next months.

Recently you have attended the Nairobi+25 United Nations Summit as member of the Italian delegation...

I have been invited to be part of the Italian delegation as expert on FGM. The Conference of Nairobi organized by UNFPA had a special meaning. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, where the Programme of Action, which set out to empower women and girls for their sake, was adopted. Since then the progress has been remarkable, but too many women and girls are still "left behind". Over 9,000 participants from 170 countries came with a shared purpose to "accelerate the promise of 1994". By the end of the Nairobi Conference, over 1,250 commitments were made by governments, including Italy, donors, businesses, non-governmental organizations, civil society and other actors to support the goals called the "three zeros": zero maternal mortality, zero unmet needs for family planning and zero tolerance towards gender-based violence, including FGM and early marriage. It has been a great honor for me to participate at the Conference. Above all, learning from people engaged every day on issues that I teach in the "comfort zone" of the classroom has made me more aware of the subjects of my teaching.

Can we trust data collected using web surveys? Assessing the quality of an Italian non-probability online panel

Chiara Respi

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ResearchGate https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Chiara_Respi

Abstract: This thesis sits in the survey-methodology field and explores the challenging concept of data quality when using online panels as a sample source in the survey industry. Over time, sample surveys implemented different techniques to overcome various challenges. In particular, high costs, need for timely data delivery, and under-coverage (in the case of telephone surveys) are the main drivers of the development of online panels in survey research, from the 1990s on. Online panels are large pools of registered people who agreed to take part in web-based research in exchange for some form of incentive. They have the advantages of: i) reducing both costs and time devoted to data collection and delivery, and ii) providing a sampling frame of registered individuals who consented to participate in surveys. The main objective of this thesis is to empirically assess the quality of primary data collected from an Italian non-probability online-panel survey, comparing the estimates obtained from this web survey to those obtained from a probability-based survey conducted by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), used as benchmarks. In particular, the thesis is focused on: i) under-coverage and self-selection bias in different samples (i.e., the Internet population, panel members, and web survey respondents), ii) nonresponse bias, comparing the characteristics of web survey respondents to those of non-respondents, iii) data quality, comparing the estimates obtained from the web survey to those obtained from a probability-based reference survey, and iv) a weighting adjustment to remove bias.

Keywords: online panel, self-selection, nonresponse, measurement error, weighting

Visiting scholars

PHD CANDIDATES

From 1st November to 15th December 2019 the Department of Sociology and Social Research has hosted Lisa Stadtler, PhD student at ILS – Research institute for Regional and Urban Development in Dortmund (Germany). Lisa has been working on her doctoral thesis entitled “The employers’ influence on work-related multilocal living”, which is focused on knowledge workers in the German city Stuttgart, who have a work-related residence in Stuttgart and another residence outside of Stuttgart. Milan has been used as the second case study for Lisa’s research. Matteo Colleoni has been supervising Lisa’s research while in Milan.

Book Reviews

SOCIOLOGIA DELLE RELAZIONI INTERCULTURALI

[Sociology of intercultural relations]

Ilenya Camozzi

il Mulino, Bologna, 2019



The book *Sociologia delle relazioni interculturali* aims to shed light on the complexity of intercultural relations starting from the analysis of some key concepts at the core of intercultural relations (e. g. culture, cultural diversity, belonging), and the study of social practices that foster everyday intercultural dynamics. Special attention is devoted to the interplay between social structure and cultural processes, to social actors' subjectivity and agency.

Table of contents: Introduzione. - I. I significati della cultura. - II. La costruzione delle differenze etnoculturali. - III. Le configurazioni dell'appartenenza. - IV. Culture globali, sguardo cosmopolita e forme di transnazionalismo. - V. Razzismi vecchi e nuovi. - VI. La comunicazione interculturale. - VII. Splendori e miserie del multiculturalismo. - VIII. Pratiche di cittadinanza: associazionismo e partecipazione dei migranti. - IX. I «nuovi» soggetti delle relazioni interculturali: le donne in movimento e i figli delle migrazioni. - X. Consumo e differenza culturale. - Riferimenti bibliografici. - Indice analitico.

Publications

Sonia BERGAMO

with G. Parisi and P. Jarre

Harm reduction in Italy: the experience of an unsanctioned supervised injection facility run by drug users

in *Drugs and Alcohol Today*

19(2), 59-71, 2019

Letizia CHIAPPINI

with P. Törnberg

Selling black places on Airbnb: Colonial discourse and the marketing of black communities in New York City

WPS Working Paper n. 40

available at <https://urbanstudies.uva.nl/content/working-paper-series/working-paper-series-no.40.html?origin=%2Bq1hThT4TCOhbrnggQ2NMA&1572016255299&1574786672700>

Book Review

John Cheney-Lippold, *We Are Data: Algorithms and The Making of Our Digital Selves*, New York, New York University Press, 2017

In *LQ The Lab's Quarterly*

4, 229-232, 2018

Sebastiano CITRONI

Gramsci's Civil Society and the Implicit Dimension of Politics. A Case-Study

Partecipazione e conflitto

12(2), 487-512, 2019

Igor COSTARELLI

with R. Kleinhans and S. Mugnano

'Thou shalt be a (more) responsible tenant': exploring innovative management strategies in changing social housing contexts

in *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*.

2019. Online first <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-019-09680-0>

Forme variegate di mix socio-abitativo a Milano

in *Autonomie locali e servizi sociali*

3, 405-420, 2018

Alessandra DECATALDO

with A. Fasanella and B. Fiore

Italian Doctorate holders in Political and Social sciences. Career options, job growth and salary

In International Review of Sociology: Revue Internationale de Sociologie

29(3), 409-425, 2019

available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/03906701.2019.1672350>

with A. Amico and G. D'Alessandro

The interaction of meso and macro contexts with students' careers. Three applied analyses

in The Central European Journal of Educational Research (CEJER)

1(1), 10-21, 2019

available at <https://ojs.lib.unideb.hu/CEJER/article/view/3650/3603>

Raffaele MATACENA

with P. Corvo

Practices of food sovereignty in Italy and England: short food supply chains and the promise of de-commodification

in Sociologia Ruralis

2019. Online first at <https://doi.org/10.1111/soru.12283>

Cautious Entrepreneurship: Strategies and Business Orientation of Small-Scale Farmers in the Alternative Food Economy

in A.J. Vasile, A. Grubor and D. Privitera (eds)

Handbook of Research on Agricultural Policy, Rural Development, and Entrepreneurship in Contemporary Economies

IGI Global, 2020

Emanuele POLIZZI

with M. Bassoli

All smoke, no fire? Sharing practices and political investment in two Italian cities

in Italian Political Science Review

49(3), 1-16, 2019

Per quale Terzo settore è pensata la riforma? Nodi, rischi e sfide applicative

in La Rivista delle Politiche Sociali

2, 227-244, 2019

with I. Pais and T. Vitale

Governare l'economia collaborativa per produrre inclusione: attori, strumenti, stili di relazione e problemi di implementazione

in A. Andreotti (ed)

Governare Milano nel nuovo millennio

Bologna, Il Mulino, 2015-238, 2019

Emilio REYNERI

Gli immigrati nei mercati del lavoro europei

in M. Lazar, M. Salvati and L. Sciolla (eds)

Europa. Culture e società

Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Roma, 588-595, 2018

I centri pubblici per l'impiego

in FONDAZIONE ASTRID and CIRCOLO FRATELLI ROSSELLI (eds)

Nuove (e vecchie) povertà: quale risposta?

Il Mulino, Bologna, 239-256, 2018

Le basi sociali del populismo. Un commento

Stato e mercato

1, 141-148, 2018

Una forte ripresa dell'occupazione, ma poco qualificata e il ruolo delle politiche del lavoro

in Politiche sociali

1, 121-124, 2018

Le due grandi crisi del mercato del lavoro italiano: Gli anni Trenta del XX secolo a confronto con gli anni Dieci del XXI secolo

in Annali di statistica,

XIII (2), 83- 94, 2018

Disuguaglianze economiche, qualità della vita e struttura occupazionale

in Quaderni di rassegna sindacale

3, 189-200, 2018

with I. Fellini and R. Guetto

Poor Returns to Origin-Country Education for Non-Western Immigrants in Italy: An Analysis of Occupational Status on Arrival and Mobility

in Social inclusion

6(3), 34–47, 2018

Emanuela SALA

with D. Zaccaria and A. Guaita

Survey participation to the first Wave of a longitudinal study of older people: the case of the Italian InveCe.Ab study

in Quality and Quantity

2019. Online first <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-019-00944-z>

Serena VICARI HADDOCK

with G. Anselmi

Milan makes it to the big leagues: A financialized growth machine at work

in European Urban and Regional Studies

2019. Online first <https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776419860871>

YOUNG TALENTS AWARD

Alessandra Gaia, Research Fellow at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, has been awarded with the third place at the 2019 edition of the Young Talents Prize ([Premio Giovani Talenti dell'Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca](#)). The Young Talents Prize, established by the University of Milano-Bicocca with the support of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, is a recognition of the quality, originality, and impact of the scientific production of young researchers. The prize is addressed to research fellows and lecturers younger than 36 years old and it aims at favouring their training through international mobility. Alessandra won the award in the category “Law, Economics, Statistics, Political sciences and Social Sciences”. The jury motivated the award signalling the value of her methodological work, oriented to the improvement of data collection techniques, through experimental research. Also, the jury valued Alessandra’s active participation to international research groups. The award ceremony has taken place in Aula Magna on December 17th, on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the Academic Year 2019/2020.

SUMMER SCHOOL “RETHINKING THE CULTURE OF TOLERANCE” EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AFTER THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Sarajevo, East Sarajevo and Mostar, 16-22 September 2019

The International Summer School “Rethinking the Culture of Tolerance”, as a joint program of the University of Milan-Bicocca, the University of Sarajevo and the University of East Sarajevo, started its second three-year cycle in September 2017.

The sixth edition of the School, titled “European integration after the fall of the Berlin wall”, organized in cooperation with the University of Milano, the University of Mostar and the “Džemal Bijedić” University of Mostar, took place in September 2019 at the University of Sarajevo, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. Dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of the revolutionary year 1989,

the School examined problems and contradictions faced by the evolving European societies, with a focus on the post-communist countries involved in the process of EU integration over the past three decades.



Twenty-four lecturers and thirty participants came from sixteen different countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, Russian Federation, India and Iraq. Two public artistic events - “RISE AND FALL”, Multimedial exhibition by Jim Marshall and Matteo Ceschi, and “AWAKENING”, Art mural composed by Rikardo Drušić - were organised by the Summer School in cooperation with the EU Info Center in Sarajevo and the Historical museum of B&H, enhancing the visibility and outreach of the project.

The Embassy of the Republic of Italy in Bosnia-Herzegovina supported the School with the Patronage for the sixth time, with the particular commitment of the Ambassador H.E. Nicola Minasi. Special



thanks of the Scientific Committee go to Prof. Maria Cristina Messa, former Rector of the University of Milano-Bicocca, for providing regular sponsorship to the School over the past six years.

Photos by Matteo Ceschi

PANIMEX INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

University of Milano-Bicocca, 5-6 December 2019

The Department of Sociology and Social Research has hosted the first PAMIMEX international workshop on 5th and 6th December 2019. PAMIMEX is a new international research network that brings together scholars and young researchers from different disciplines (sociology, geography, anthropology, urban sociology, demography) and from different countries (Canada, France, Italy, Mexico, Turkey). The goal of the network is to develop research projects that investigate the transformations of urban spaces linked to both migration processes and the development of new and old informal economic activities in different urban contexts. In particular, the network will develop comparative projects among Milan, Paris and Mexico City. Scholars of the Department of Sociology and Social Research who participate to the PAMIMEX network are Alberta Andreotti, Diego Coletto, Giovanna Fullin, Lema Jaber, Fabio Quassoli and Sara Recchi.

The Milan workshop has envisaged some research meetings and the international seminar “Migrations, the informal economy and the transformation of daily uses and meanings of urban spaces”, which was held on Thursday 5 December 2019.

ASEP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Milan, November 2019 – May 2020

ASEP Colloquium Series is a monthly seminar of the Doctoral Program in Analysis of Social and Economic Processes (ASEP) at the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Milano-Bicocca. It is provided for PhD students, but it is aimed at a wider audience of students, research fellows and professors. In these seminars (6 during an academic year) distinguished scholars and professional experts present and discuss their work in progress, latest research findings, or professional experiences. Below is the detailed programme for the current academic year.

November 26th 2,30-4,30 p.m.

LUCIANO ANDREOZZI (University of Trento)

Bargaining under the shadow of the future. Can reputation be bad for social cooperation?

January 22nd 2,30-4,30 p.m.

JENNIFER C. GREENE (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Engaging with the “mixing” challenges in mixed methods social inquiry

February 20th 2,30-4,30 p.m.

DEAN R. LILLARD (Ohio State University, DIW-Berlin, and NBER)

Intergenerational correlations in the presence of selective dyad attrition: across-country investigation

March 10th 10,30-12,30 a.m.

JEAN PATRICK VILLENEUVE (University of Italian Switzerland)

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Realities and limits of the Open Government agenda

April date to be confirmed

ANITA HARRIS

(Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization)

Title to be confirmed

May 28th 2,30-4,30 p.m.

ANNALISA FRISINA (University of Padova)

On racialization and “the right to look” of young Afro-Italians

GUIDO MARTINOTTI LECTURE

Milan, 28 November 2019

Fondazione Feltrinelli hosted the Guido Martinotti Lecture on “Riflessioni su Milano che cambia” [Reflections on Milan city change]. Stefano Boeri was keynote speaker and Serena Vicari Haddock was the main discussant.



ROUNDTABLE ON “RESEARCH AND EVALUATION”

Milan, 21st January 2020

The Department of Sociology and Social Research is going to host, on 21st January 2020, a roundtable on “Research and evaluation: The practices, politics, and possibilities of mixed methods social inquiry” with Jennifer C. Greene, Professor Emerita at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as keynote speakers. Discussants are Barbara Befani (University of Surrey/University of East Anglia), Giampietro Gobo (University of Milano Statale), Nicoletta Stame (Sapienza University of Roma), and Laura Tagle (Evaluation Unit of Italy’s Department for Cohesion Policies). Roundtable organizers are Alessandra Decataldo, Brunella Fiore and Noemi Novello.

Third Mission

INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Emilio REYNERI

FAMILIES, GENDER AND GENERATIONS

La Stampa, Radio DeeJay, RAI Radio 1, Rai GR1, Rai GR3, Il Sole 24ore, Il Settimanale Nuovo, Fanpage, La Verità, Il Salone dei Pagamenti – Milano Fiera, Xinhua.net, Provincia di Monza e Brianza, La Gazzetta di Basilicata

JOB TRANSFORMATIONS AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET

La Stampa, Repubblica, il Sole 24ore, Rai TG3, Sky TG24, Il Messaggero, Rai Radio3, Radio 24, Rai GR1, La Verità, Il Tirreno, Il Giornale, Acli Bergamo, Eco di Bergamo, Giornale di Monza, Giornale di Desio, Ires-CGIL Emilia-Romagna, Lega Coop Emilia-Romagna, Vigevano Festival della trasformazioni, Repubblica degli stagisti, FOR Fondazione ottimisti e razionali, Tag24.it, Now Festival del futuro sostenibile Como, LiberEtà, Changes.Unipol.it

MIGRATION PROCESSES

Repubblica

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