

## **Communitarianism/communitarianisms**

by Luca Plesenti

The paper proposes an analytical reconstruction of the lines of development that, within sociological thought, have been articulated around the concept of community so far. After a critical outlook on classical thinkers, the author analyses the communitarian hypotheses developed in the contemporary literature, setting a general typology of the proposed approaches and appraising their conceptual novelties. The author distinguishes five idealtypes: classical community, territorial community, communicative community, aesthetic community and “neo-communitarian” community.

## **Creating good communities and good societies**

by Amitai Etzioni

Philosophers and ideologues often try to derive their utopias from one moral principle or overarching value – libertarians from liberty and social conservatives from social order. Etzioni argues that a sociological treatment of utopia should include recognition that both of these values cannot be ignored.

## **Stepping into the present: MacIntyre’s modernity**

by Neil Levy

Over the past fifteen years, Alasdair MacIntyre has been arguing that the project of modernity has irremediably failed and urges people to turn to tradition-based modes of thought. Levy concludes that despite itself, MacIntyre’s work might testify to nothing so much as the rational power of forces.

## **The Sandelian republic and the encumbered self**

by Richard Dagger

In *Democracy’s Discontent*, Michael Sandel argues for a revival of the republican tradition in order to counteract the pernicious effects of contemporary liberalism. As in his earlier work, Sandel charges that liberals who embrace the ideals of political neutrality and the unencumbered self are engaged in a self-subverting

enterprise, for no society that lives by these ideals can sustain itself. Sandel is right to endorse the republican emphasis on forming citizens and cultivating civic virtues. By opposing liberalism as vigorously as he does, however, he engages in a self-subverting enterprise of his own. That is, Sandel is in danger of undercutting his position by threatening the liberal principles upon which he implicitly relies.

### **Liberalism and republicanism: friends or foes? A reply to Richard Dagger**

by Michael J. Sandel

In his reply to Richard Dagger's critique of *Democracy's Discontent*, Sandel states that they agree on the fundamentals of republicanism. His criticism is not against liberalism in itself but with the procedural liberalism prominent in the academy and in the political discourse of modern times.

### **Americans as communitarians. An empirical study**

by David Karp

The essay presents statistical data from a sociological survey designed to evaluate the diffusion of communitarian values among the American people. The author underlines the spread of the political ideals elaborated and proposed by the Communitarian Network and calls for further research on this topic.

### **Citizenship in a multicultural and multiethnic society: Is it possible to speak of a common good?**

by Ivo Colozzi

The author introduces the two models with which in modern Europe the nation-states have resolved the problem of the cohabitation within their borders of social groups with different cultures, the pluralistic/federative model and the enlightenment or assimilationistic model and the challenges that the new migratory processes set to both. He discusses, then, the recent debate on the topic between communitarians and liberals, claiming that the positions of both Charles Taylor and Will Kymlicka, are insufficient because incapable to go out of the alternative between neutralism and nihilism. The author affirms the necessity of thinking of a new paradigm of citizenship able to overcome the modern one without losing its positive achievements. What is at stake is the development of an idea of universalism or common good that is not referred only to atomized individuals nor legitimate the cohabitation among different cultures as coexistence of closed ghettos.