

## *English summaries*\*

(in alphabetical order)

L. Carrera, *Camminare nella città tra velocità e flânerie (Walking in the City between Speed and Flânerie)*

Walking is probably the most natural of human activities. However, walking in the city or, better, to experience a city walking through it is considered an unusual practice. The road has been progressively removed as a space of experience or it has been limited to its place of transit of cars in the stricter logic of the modern movement. Walking through the city, however, can be the tool to experience the city itself, to (re)discover the landscapes and to build new landscapes. The virtuous synthesis between different modes of walking in a city, however, need to be found: *walking* has to find and retrieve the sense of discovery of the *flânerie* and *strolling*.

G. Cersosimo, *L'immaginazione urbana di Anselm Strauss (Urban Imagination in Anselm Strauss)*

After nearly fifty years from its first publication, this paper proposes an analysis of the author Anselm Strauss, known for his *Grounded Theory*, but whose work as an urban sociologist remains mostly unknown. His urban remarks outline urban imagery, a recurrent symbolization produced by individuals in their interaction with urban spaces during everyday life.

M. Colafato, *Sociologia e letteratura della pratica Zen (Sociology and Literature of Zen Practice)*

This article begins reminding the reader of the importance in Sociology of Religion of some of the leading figures, characterized by their being intellectually and biographically on the border between worlds and cultures, and by their

\* A cura di Melina Rosenberg.

acting as embodiments and mediators. One such figure, in Buddhism, is that of Shunryu Suzuki. Suzuki, soon renamed «Suzuki-roshi», is portrayed as loyal to the teaching of Master Dogen Zenji, the founder of Soto Zen school and, at the same time modern, eager to test the spirit of Zen in the middle of a «counter-culture», made of pacifism, anti-war protest, over-indulgence, rebelliousness towards discipline and social rules. Suzuki's proposal appears to be non-sectarian, open to discussion and dialogue, characterized by trust in an idea of religion as one extended to all aspects of every-day life, without hierarchies and preferences.

F. Fanizza, *La città «indifferente» (The Affectivity of the Cities in Transition)*

During the last few years, several Italian city-planners have considered the concept of urban transition as something aprioristically able to produce new social practices. The aim of this article is to analyze the effects of transition in the metropolitan area of Bari (a large town in Southern Italy) where most of the recent public works have ignored the need for empathy. In particular they have not considered the way to capture the citizens' imagination which is essential for distribution of affectivity into human relationships as those with public institutions. This thesis takes its cue from the results of recent studies regarding the negative effects on the affective tone produced by the botulinum toxin used in plastic surgery, and argues that public works are performed according to an aesthetic view that does not consider the value of beauty as sociability.

H. Jeřábek, C. Lombardo, E. Nerli Ballati, J. Schenk, *In Search of Mechanisms. The Role of the Agent-Based Model in connecting Analytical Sociology and Classical Social Research: the Case of Merton's Theory of Homophile Values*

Thanks Analytical Sociology, the concept of mechanism occupies a central place in contemporary sociology. Its intuitive and spontaneous use, however, characterized a part of empirical social research in the past, especially that developed by Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Robert K. Merton at Columbia University in the 1940's and 1950's. In this article, our aim is to explore a possible connection between these two research traditions, using the methodological tool of computational simulation. Specifically, the article discusses two hypotheses formulated by Lazarsfeld and Merton: the hypothesis of gratification, resulting from the duration of social interaction, and the hypothesis of formation of new social ties after a friendship breakup. Therefore, we implement four scenarios, each representing a specific combination of hypotheses. The results allow us to clearly observe four different emerging social patterns that are generated from the micro level by the interaction between individual agents who follow the mechanisms inspired by the original formulation of the theory. Through these

simulations, we can examine the unexpected effects – on a system of action – caused by the introduction of Lazarsfeld and Merton’s hypotheses.

S. Poli, *Condizione degli anziani, attivazione sociale, processi d’invecchiamento (Talent and social activation in ageing processes. Empirical evidences from a Genoese case study)*

Considering the diffused ageing processes of population, the International Monetary Fund has recently stressed on the «longevity risk» (2012) deriving from a potential increase of just three years in average longevity scarcely bearable for the national welfare systems as well for the entire international economy.

In a different perspective, the article explores the dimension of elderly social talent, proposing a predictive model that, considering different generative factors, shows the multifaceted complexity of contemporary older people, deepening the mechanisms behind their social activation processes and re-evaluating, beyond persistent cultural stereotypes, elderly people as collective resources and not in terms of mere social cost.