

*English summeries**

(in alphabetical order)

M. Bonciani, *La qualità della vita a Roma in prospettiva salutogenica (The Quality of Life in Rome in a Health Perspective)*. This contribution lies in the opening between the interest of social research for a deeper understanding of phenomena tied to the quality of life, and the need to intervene in public health as well as identify priority areas of action for the promotion of peoples' health and quality of life. The pilot study carried out in Rome in fact aimed to test a survey instrument on the quality of life from a health perspective. It analyzed the interaction between the environmental dimension, the social-economical and the psycho-sociological ones and their impact on the quality of life of people who live in urban areas. The purpose of this first contribution is to consider what might influence the promotion of wellbeing, in relation to different levels of human action (macro, meso and micro). The results underline a prominent influence of the psycho-sociological dimension on the perception of individual quality of life and a less substantial influence of the socio-economical one. The absence of a relation with the macro factor, which ecological data of the Municipalities of Rome characterizes as an element of urbanization of the territory, needs further investigation. This can be obtained through a sample survey that guarantees the representativeness of the Roman population.

M. Bonolis, *Fecondità e rilevanza del concetto di «ritardo culturale». Una nota su Ogburn (Relevance and Fecundity of the Concept of «Cultural Lags». A note on Ogburn)*. William F. Ogburn's theory of «Cultural Lags» has suffered from misinterpretation and simplification in sociological literature. As a consequence it has been considered outdated, notwithstanding the fact that it is a structural interpretation of social change and not, perfunctorily, a description of two «cultures». The author, already conscious of such misinterpretations, presented a brief essay, published two years before his death, on suggestions and more specific hermeneutic statements regarding the theory. These uncover its usefulness as a conceptually versatile instrument, extremely important for the understanding of a series of phenomena that appear deeply rooted to the processes of globalization, with particular reference to dynamics of encounter among different historical and cultural configurations.

* A cura di Melina Rosenberg.

E. Campelli, *Elogio della vaghezza. Riflessione quasi epistemologica sul tempo presente (Praise for Vagueness. An almost epistemological reflection on the present times)*. Numerous forms of vagueness and indeterminateness characterize linguistic interaction of daily life, as well as conceptualization and language of the social sciences. This is a problem that logicians and philosophers of science and language have faced repeatedly, in the attempt to eliminate this undesirable trait or limit the damage caused to the achievement of truth. Endeavoring to overturn this perspective, the essay aims to show the fertility and productivity of this insurmountable margin of vagueness, both from a point of view of scientific creation and from that of safeguarding the fundamental critical state of thought and knowledge.

G. Cersosimo, *L'etica in sanità: empowerment, partecipazione e informazione dei cittadini. Quali sviluppi? (Ethics in Health Care: Citizens' Empowerment, Participation and Information. Roads to development?)*. The article underlines how techniques, rules, rights and ethics constitute, or could, a set of requirements and conditions needed to give shape to a legitimate clinical experimentation on human beings and, in particular, on subjects considered vulnerable. The article focuses on the relation between doctors, researchers, bio-ethic experts, lawyers, pharmaceutical promoters and citizens. It presents the heterogeneous knowledge and interests in ethical issues regarding health care, with overlapping of equity and equality in terms of access to clinical experimentation, as well as citizens' difficulty in comprehending clinical experimentation and its effects. Finally, the study conducted with the focus group technique leads to a model that allows citizens and non-specialists to talk about participation and responsibility regarding clinical experimentation.

C. Coluccia, *Modelli interpretativi per lo studio dei processi di disaffezione degli studenti dal sistema universitario (Interpretative Models for the Study of Disaffection of Students from the University System)*. The article provides a description and a conceptual analysis of some of the main and most accredited interpretative models in international literature on the phenomenon of university dispersion. The study, without the pretention of being exhaustive, should allow identification of guidelines and points of reference to understand the complexity of the phenomenon and to reflect on how to solve some of the conceptual and methodological problems currently present in Italy. In particular, reference is made to the institutional surveys on the quality of the training processes and on their results, which represent the official source of evaluation of the health state of our university.

F.G. Truglia, *La città in-visibile. analisi statistica spaziale della localizzazione degli stranieri nel comune di Roma (The In-visible city. A Spatial Statistical Analysis of Foreigners' Location in the Municipality of Rome)*. This contribution is aimed at building a sort of social geography of multicultural cohabitation in the municipality of Rome and identifying ethnic locations based on a series of statistical indicators – some of which unpublished – with the use of certain instruments of spatial statistical analysis. The study is articulated on two levels. The first examines the urban areas and offers a horizontal overview of foreigners' spatial distribution. The second takes into consideration units of analysis referred to different administrative divisions (City, Municipality, urban area). This is a vertical analysis that takes into account the specific aspects of a certain urban area compared to the city and municipality of reference.