

*English summaries**

(in alphabetical order)

G. Amendola, *La città tra sistema ed esperienza (The City between System and Experience)*

The city of Modernity has been analyzed over the centuries both as a system and an experience. On the one hand, there is the idea that the city is a system with its historically structured organization and its own operating rules. In such a perspective, citizens are considered as actors playing well defined roles in a dominating and unchangeable urban system. On the other hand, the experience-based approach puts people and their practical and emotional experience at the very center of the analysis. The two approaches have quite different practical and operational outputs: the city as a system approach uses city functionality as the main evaluation and operational criterion. For the experience-based approach, the quality of urban experience and people's happiness are the north stars of urban government and design.

F. Comunello, S. Mulargia, *Tra risposte protocollate e «social sensing». L'uso dei social media per la comunicazione d'emergenza nelle istituzioni locali italiane (Bureaucratic Procedures and Social Sensing: the use of Social Media for Emergency Communication by Local Italian Institutions)*

The goal of this paper is to explore the ways in which local Italian institutions use social media for emergency communication, and related barriers. Results highlight a multifaceted scenario, where different channels and communication strategies are at stake. The most frequently described barriers are related to: lack of resources; the need to communicate with older citizens; the role of Institutions; the trustworthiness of citizen-generated data. In general terms, most of the described barriers appear to be related to *cultural* factors.

* A cura di Melina Rosenberg.

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P. di Padova, *Teorie dell'azione, sistemi di interdipendenza e meccanismi generativi. Prospettive di sviluppo nello studio della mobilità sociale (Theories of Action, Systems of Interdependence, and Generative Mechanisms. Possible Advances in the Study of Social Mobility)*

So far, research on social mobility has not succeeded in showing how this phenomenon emerges from actions, interactions, and interdependencies placed at the micro-level of actors. As a result, there is a gap between the huge accumulation of empirical findings on the one hand, and the lack of theory-building on the other. To foster advancement in this field, this article suggests the adoption of a research program consisting of (a) a specific version of the theory of action, (b) a specific way of conceiving sociological explanations, and (c) a set of research tools and strategies able to grasp causal processes usually overlooked by sociologists.

P. Laurano, *Max Weber: per una sociologia dell'islam (Max Weber: for a Sociology of Islam)*

The paper aims to reconstruct the thought of Weber on Islam, focusing on the concept of predetermination, the role of law, the characteristics of eastern cities and the relationship between social structure and religion. This essay reviews the analyses of several scholars who considered Weber Orientalist, Eurocentric, and unable to capture the elements of modernity and complexity of Islam that bring it closer to the Western and capitalistic cultural universe. Finally, this paper offers a reading of the Maghreb revolutions in 2011 through Weberian categories.

V. Lo Presti, *Positive thinking e sviluppo locale: quali approcci per la promozione dell'innovazione nelle aree interne (Positive Thinking and Local Development: Approaches to Promote Innovation)*

This paper is a theoretical and methodological reflection on the use of «positive thinking» approaches to promote skills in the design and evaluation of local level intervention (Casavola, Tagle; 2004). The «positive thinking» approaches, which focus and highlight *positive* experiences and identify shared and participated «successes» within the communities, can represent an innovative response to the needs in the poorest areas of our country, finding meaningful and practical ways to express their potential and existing practices in such, promoting the strengthening of citizens' socio-cultural identity and strengthening *capacity building*. The paper includes a theoretical section and an empirical case study.

S. Nobile, *L'orologio e la gabbia. Società dromologica ed esclusione sociale (The Clock and the Cage. Dromological Society and Social Exclusion)*

Acceleration is an essential feature of late modernity. It impacts people's lives, with consequences that are not always manageable. The article tries to demonstrate how acceleration supports neoliberal capitalism as a mechanism capable of producing social exclusion and causing subtle forms of social Darwinism. In the first section, the essay shows the transformation of the acceleration process over

time (from the first Industrial Revolution to the present); it then identifies the main elements of the «dromological society». Finally, it focuses on specific aspects of Acceleration, starting with the implications of language.

R. Rauty, V. Romania, *Etnografia, biografia, teoria sociologica: conversazione con Paul Atkinson (Interview of Paul Atkinson)*

Paul Atkinson, professor at Cardiff University for more than 40 years, is one of the main and internationally renowned ethnographers. An interactionalist, founder of the magazine *Qualitative Sociology*, author of numerous contributions on interactionism, ethnography, active in many universities, and supporter of studies built on a direct, continuous and long-term presence in the field. Often in Italy for both business and pleasure, we interviewed him during a visit at the University of Salerno.