

English Summaries

(in alphabetical order)

P. Atkinson, S. Cataldi, *The sociologist and the sirens: iconography and inspiration of a metaphor thirty years later (Il sociologo e le sirene: iconografia e ispirazione di una metafora trent'anni dopo)*

The paper revisits the 1996 volume *The Sociologist and the Sirens: The Challenge of Qualitative Methods* (Cipolla and De Lillo, eds.), reflecting on the enduring relevance of its central metaphor. While the volume, based on a 1993 conference, set out to explore the tensions between qualitative and quantitative approaches, this article reclaims and further develops that metaphor, interpreting it as a lens through which to understand the challenges and ambiguities inherent in all social research. Beyond methodological binaries, both qualitative and quantitative traditions reveal similar tensions: between subjectivity and rigor, uncertainty and control, sensitivity and formalization. Nearly thirty years later, the sirens continue to symbolize research practice as a liminal, hybrid process – requiring navigation between opposing poles such as emotion and reason, involvement and detachment. In this view, the sirens represent not only the seductive risk of methodological dadaism, but also the generative tensions that shape the sociological imagination, inviting researchers to embrace complexity, inhabit liminal spaces, and engage with the transformative and risky nature of the research encounter.

E. Attili, B. Smargiassi, M. Campanelli, P. Nicolini, *The Neet phenomenon in Italy and Europe: definitions, risk factors, and policy responses. A literature review using qualitative and quantitative approaches (Il fenomeno NEET in Italia e in Europa, definizione, fattori di rischio e politiche attive. Una review della letteratura tra approcci qualitativi e quantitativi)*

The Neet phenomenon, while a relatively recent subject of scientific inquiry, has stimulated increasing debate in recent years within both research and policy discourse. This article provides a review of literature indexed in Google Scholar

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since 2010, the year the European Union introduced the Neet rate as an official indicator to measure the share of young people not in employment, education, or training. The analysis further focuses on the period from 2017 to the present, exploring national and international studies through keywords such as Neet, labor market, school dropout, needs, youth hardship, and educating communities. The review delineates the characteristics of the phenomenon in Italy and Europe, highlighting disparities related to age, geography, gender, citizenship, and educational attainment. The aim is to synthesize the main interpretative frameworks and contribute to a shared analytical perspective for professionals working in the field of youth policy.

A. Baldissera, *Merit: a controversial and rejected idea (Merito: un'idea controversa e rifiutata)*

The idea of merit eludes a firm and precise definition. The concept varies across social groups, cultural, religious and national contexts, and historical periods. Any definition of merit involves an element of evaluation. Even some relevant consequences. For example, on the order of social statuses. This paper examines variations in the meaning, and utilisation, of the term in different cultural and religious contexts – from India to China and many Western countries. In conclusion, a debate on value judgments cannot be resolved scientifically. The social sciences can instead shed light on the consequences of different value orientations and the practices associated with them.

L. Benvenga, *Gambling: a qualitative study in Southern Italy (Gambling: un'analisi qualitativa in una regione del Sud Italia)*

The article analyses pathological gambling (PG) in Basilicata, interpreting it as a social phenomenon rooted in specific territorial contexts. Through a qualitative study based on four focus groups conducted in different areas of the region, the article gathers the representations, experiences, and practices of professionals working in health, social, and third-sector services involved in addressing the phenomenon. The analysis highlights how PG develops at the intersection of socio-economic vulnerabilities, relational proximity, the widespread availability of gambling opportunities, and processes of cultural normalization of gambling, showing how these dynamics take on distinctive features in contexts where reduced anonymity and the weight of stigma influence access to services and the demand for help.

V. della Sala, *Economic sociology and the Olympic Games: a social lens on global economic impact (Sociologia economica e giochi olimpici: una lente sociale sull'impatto economico globale)*

The Olympic Games are more than a global sporting event; they are a profound sociological and economic phenomenon. Viewed through the lens of

economic sociology, the Olympics reveal intricate relationships between social structures, cultural narratives, and financial outcomes. This field of study explores how societal factors shape the economic impact of hosting the Games, from urban development and infrastructure investments to labour dynamics and consumption patterns.

This article examines the Olympic Games as a nexus where economic behaviours are deeply embedded in social and institutional contexts. Key themes include the role of social capital in mobilising public and private investments, the influence of cultural identity and nationalism in shaping economic participation, and the legacy effects on host cities' socioeconomic landscapes. The article also investigates the stratified economic benefits of the Games, highlighting disparities in income, employment, and resource allocation between different social groups.

Using case studies from the recent Olympic Games, the article illustrates how social networks and institutional frameworks mediate economic opportunities and risks. For example, while host cities often anticipate long-term financial benefits, social inequalities may be exacerbated, with marginalised communities bearing the costs of displacement and resource diversion. The global broadcasting and sponsorship deals tied to the Olympics underscore the interplay between cultural production and economic power in a hyperconnected world.

By integrating economic sociology with analyses of the Olympic Games, this research provides a critical perspective on the broader implications of mega-events. It argues for more equitable and sustainable approaches to planning and evaluating such events, emphasising the need to balance economic ambitions with social responsibilities.

S. Mancin, *Exegesis and ideology. For a sociology of Bruno Latour's catholicism (Esegesi e ideologia. Per una sociologia del cattolicesimo di Bruno Latour)*

Despite being a subject of debate, the role played by the Catholic faith in the formation of Bruno Latour's thought remains largely unexplored. This article adopts the perspective of the social history of social sciences to show how religion constitutes an indispensable key to understand the author's early works. After a review of the main positions on the subject, the paper will analyze Latour's first two writings, produced between 1974 and 1975. It will be shown that, despite being contemporary, the two essays possess opposing characteristics that are difficult to understand through a purely internal reading of the texts. Therefore, an interpretation of this contrast will be proposed by considering the social position occupied by the author during those years, and by closely investigating the link between his philosophical and theological interests and the cultural climate of post-conciliar Catholicism.