Summaries

DOCUMENTS

The Stubborn Town. A research on Informal Settlements in Seven Brazilian Metropolis, by *Anna Conigliaro Michelini*

The essay sums up the results of a research, «Methodology and Experiences of Urban Informal Settlements Clearance», carried out between 1993 and 1995 in some representative Brazilian towns.

At the beginning of 2000, poverty in the urban areas is growing inexorably. It takes the shape of a clandestine town spreading in the empty space, decayed or deserted, out of the official control.

It's the Stubborn Town (from a well-known favela in Recife, here taken as a sort of symbol) that's been standing up for decades to the attempts of removing and ejecting by the authorities, with the stubbornness of reality. There, millions of people on the fringes of the economic system, are creating some complicated strategies of survival which, in the total absence of the State initiative, are able to answer to some basic needs as house, work and the access to some basic services.

The present essay analyses the different emergencies of the phenomenon, by considering the challenges and methodology exploited to face the problems in the latest time.

Urban Environment, Social Mobility and Ecological Problem in a Favela of Salvador Bahia, by *Eduardo Paes Machado e Fatima Cardoso*

This article examines the social spatial and sanitary characteristics of working poor people's settlement in Salvador, Brazil. It argues that the lack of housing projects for the lower classes has driven them to occupy public land illegally. It describes worker's efforts to expand their living space through the construction of stilt sustained houses and landfills over flooded land. It focuses on both internal and external space organization, based on construction type, social activities and, lay's concept of pollution. It concludes that residents' impotence in solving the problems created by the lack of infrastructure, has made them respond in individual ways which, in turn, have produced social tensions and worsened environmental degradation.

Marginal people of third millennium: the social conditions in a favela of São Paulo, by *Paolo Ricci*

The starting point of this essay is that the integration of the informal city does not applying to it the rigid rules of the formal city. The case study of Heliópolis, through a sociological research, try to recognize and value the role of the marginal population. It is common link the situation of marginality with the emerging of a double process of inclusion/exclusion. In this context it seems necessary to give a different meaning to urban relationship, in which the marginal subject is situated and not separated. In particular, an accurate knowledge of reality point out the importance of encouraging the land tenure regularization as right to the city.

For a debate in Social Science. Origin, function and change of militar industrial city, by *Silvano D'Alto, Magda da Passano, Gian Franco Elia, Antonio Parisella*

Laudatory contributions regarding the presentation of Franco Martinelli's book on city life in La Spezia during the Second World War and the Resistance. The methodological innovation recognize to Martinelli constis in the emblematic attempt to fit a discipline as sociology in the knowledge of extremly poliedric process, variegated and difficult as the process of historical reality.

Polisemy of Social Capital, by *Massimo Pendenza*

The subject of this article is the reflection about variety and polisemy of the social capital. As from its first definition, given by J. Coleman (1988), the work goes through those two studies' traditions again (both of American origin and present in Coleman's work) that have utilized and studied this concept more than other traditions: the republican one of civic virtues (in part represented by *communitarians* and *anarchical-communitarians*) and the network analysis one (particularly in the social resources theory and in the *job research*'s theory). The first tradition utilizes the concept of social capital as a synonym of civil society, whereas the second describes it as an individual's property, that is the quality and the quantity of the social relationship at individual's disposal for his instrumental purposes. The consequence of this co-existence is a certain ambiguity in the concept of social capital because it is indifferently referred both to the individual's characteristics and the social structure's ones (with social structure sometimes considered as *Gemeinschaft* otherwise as *Gesellschaft*). On the contrary, in this work, social capital is defined as an eminently local and communitarian resource and an expression of co-operation and trust among individuals inside the social structure. Social capital is a measure of the social integration and the most puzzling aspect is its expansion beyond local borders.