

## *English summaries\**

(in alphabetical order)

S. Cataldi, *Quale modello di partecipazione per la ricerca sociale? Riflessività nel rapporto tra ricercatore e attore sociale (Participation Models for Social Research. Reflection of the Relationship between Researcher and Social Actor)*

The article begins with a brief overview of how the relationship between researcher and object of study has been approached in social sciences. The goal is to reflect further on the process of this study and to raise two essential questions: what kind of relationship develops between the researcher and the social actor? And what kind of participation is required from the social actor?

To answer these questions the article proposes identifying four different models of participation, the effects of which are analyzed by rediscovering all the practices that include a particular involvement of the social actor in the research process.

G. Cersosimo, *Salute e disuguaglianze. Percorsi analitici (Health and Inequalities. Analytical Paths)*

The essay mainly analyses the issue of inequalities and differences in health. At present, vulnerable and socially disadvantaged people throughout the world have lower access to healthcare, get sick more often and die earlier than those with a privileged social position. Despite general developments of global wealth and technological progress, inequalities have never grown so exponentially. Increasingly critical are the roles of social capital as well as that of the World Health Organization and of its policy, whose effects can, in the course of the time, reduce health inequalities and re-establish a principle of ethical and distributive justice.

\* A cura di Melina Rosenberg.

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A. Decataldo, M.P. Faggiano, A. Fasanella, M. Maggi, *Effects, contexts, mechanisms operating in a quasi-experimental design*

This action research has been conducted by the Department of Communication and Social Research of the «Sapienza» University of Rome in collaboration with the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA). The aim of the study was to evaluate the efficiency of an information campaign on radioactivity and its risks, implemented by ISPRA, and directed towards students between 14 and 19 years of age in four cities of the Lazio region.

The research was conducted using a quasi experimental design with pre-test, post-test and non equivalent control group and did not follow a behaviorist concept of experiment, which would have proceeded on the basis of a simple stimulus-response pattern. Instead, the experimental variable, considered as the main stimulus, was taken into account together with contextual and dispositional characteristics, which can in theory intervene in the cause-effect relation but cannot be «manipulated» by the researcher.

V. Giordano, *La narrazione della metropoli: Baudelaire, Simmel, Benjamin (Narrating the Metropolis: Baudelaire, Simmel, Benjamin)*

The words of modern narrators help bring to surface the contradictions and conflicts typical of the metropolis, transforming it into a sort of cultural instrument that reads the different languages, images and forms of life that it is defined by. The crisis of perception of space and time, the difficulty of using a language that is able to give meaning, the shattering of personal identity, all make it hard to accumulate experiences and transform them into stories to pass on. The only way to start a relationship with the other and with the world is, as Charles Baudelaire and Walter Benjamin state, the moment of choc, the moment lived and that cannot be transmitted. The urgency is to not become a prisoner of the nostalgia for the past, but to make the irreparable oppositions that affect the metropolis productive.

C. Lombardo, *The Missing Heritage. Lazarsfeld's Contribution to the Development of Analytical Sociology*

In the contemporary scenario of sociological thought an increasingly central role has been played by a theoretical movement called analytical sociology. This is a very important attempt which reconnects to the kind of sociology that Robert Merton and Paul Lazarsfeld tried to develop at Columbia University after World War II. In the Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology, recently edited by Peter H dstrom and Peter Bearman, a middle range sociology is presented, following the Columbia tradition. But, strangely, the Handbook refers only to Merton as founding father of the Columbia tradition, and does not take into consideration Lazarsfeld's contribution. On the contrary, the role played by Lazarsfeld in the beginning of generative models for explaining social phenomena is highly relevant. His attention towards the inter-subjective dimension of decision testifies his interest for phenomena generating mechanisms, also

exemplified by his way of working, which refers to an analytical distinction between the concept of mechanism and that of process; a methodological distinction between causality and mutual effect; a conceptual assumption of different kinds of rationality, i.e. the idea that actors act reasonably and intentionally.

R. Pawson, *Meccanismi invisibili: la lunga strada per il cambiamento comportamentale (Invisible Mechanisms: the Long Road to Behavioral Change)*

What conceptual platform guides a realistic evaluation of programs aimed to change behavior? Change is difficult and happens slowly: the subjects involved vary between hesitation, enthusiasm, reflection, comings and goings. This essay presents a model that is contrary to the mainstream tendency of treating programs as independent units of linear development. To evaluate program results it is necessary to discover the mechanisms that influence people's behavior: these are instead often «invisible» because tacit, too familiar, and therefore taken for granted (including waiting, announcing, filters in selection, and exit expectations). Such mechanisms can be understood by studying the phases, the variations in the implementation, the neglect and «blind alleys». Decision makers should also take into consideration these mechanisms and build programs that reflect paths to change instead of jumping-off points.

N. Stame, *Nota su «Meccanismi invisibili» di Ray Pawson (Notes on «Invisible Mechanisms»)*

This essay is a brief introduction to Ray Pawson's work. His contribution is considered from the viewpoint of the development of the realistic evaluation approach and the in depth study of two pillars: context and mechanism. In particular, the theme of mechanism is addressed in consideration of its broad meaning, and includes mechanisms that at first glance are seemingly counterintuitive, but in fact correspond to the difficult path of program realization.