English summaries[*]

(in alphabetical order)

Dario Colombo, Enrico Gargiulo, *Tra partecipazione e privatizzazione: i discorsi della programmazione sociale in quattro grandi città italiane* (*Between Participation and Privatization: Social Planning in Four Italian Major Cities*)

This article analyzes the social planning program contained in the programmatic documents of four major Italian cities: Genoa, Milan, Rome and Turin. These documents are explicitly aimed at facilitating the participation of the entire citizenry to decisions concerning social policy. Notwithstanding the intentions declared by the authors of the documents, the kind of participation promoted by the Plans seems to be reserved to a scarce number of stakeholders, rather than open to all citizens. This article aims to show how the rhetoric of participation contained in the documents analyzed, are not supported by adequate instruments for the involvement of the entire citizenry, and could ease the process of privatization of social policies.

Loris Di Giammaria, *Territorializzazione della politica e meccanismi sociali: criminalità e voto nelle Italie elettorali* (*Geographic Distribution of Politics and Social Mechanisms: Crime and Vote in the «Voting Italy»*)

This essay presents data that support the hypothesis according to which some sections of the Italian territory are especially immune to deviant phenomena, and in particular illegal environmental activities tied to eco-mafia. These geographical segments are characterized by a significant presence of political forces of local/independent inspiration, or otherwise connected to the expression of the specific territory. The areas that present this «territorial vocation» seem to express a particularly defensive inclination. The general tendency to

vote for local political parties appears to be systematically inversely correlated with the incidence of environmental crimes.

Emilio Gardini, *Memorie «regionalizzate». Spazio/tempo e narrazioni (*«Regionalized» memories. Space, Time and Narrations*)*

What is the value of narrations to sociological research in their interaction with the categories of «time» and «space», and where does this relationship stand in the construction of the paradigm of knowledge? Time and Space are the frame of reference not only to social actions but also to the narrative encounters between interviewer and interviewed. The essay investigates this relationship through a first theoretical analysis with the notion of «regionalization» used by Anthony Giddens in the theory of structuration. Through the analysis of segments of interviews conducted throughout two studies, the results of the theoretical analysis will be compared to the empirical results. The aim of the essay is to contribute elements of reflection to the ongoing debate on the use of verbal sources in social sciences.

Francesca Rizzuto, *Giornalismo e vetrinizzazione sociale. Le derive della logica spettacolare in Italia* (*Journalism and Social «Showcase». The Causes of the Logic of «Spectacle» in Italy*)

The article focuses on the development of a television market model in Italian journalism in the last two decades, characterized by the success of the "entertainment" frame in both TV and print news. The use of a spectacular framing and commercialization of news has its roots in the American popular journalism of the 1800s, but is today connected to the more recent of a «Showcase» (or «display window») communication model. Each place is or can be a stage, and the traditional definition of news is revised: journalism does not present news objectively, but it offers dramatized reconstructions of parts of reality, focusing on the visual impact of the events and on the narrative strategy used to create and «tell a story that entertains». This emotional reporting represents a turning point in news coverage of reality and the perception of social issues, going from objectivity to myth, tragedy and feuilleton.

Francesca Sacchetti, *Identità, alterità, distanza. Le prospettive di Alfred Schütz e Bernhard Waldenfels* (*Identity, Otherness, and Distance. Perspectives of Alfred Schütz and Bernhard Waldenfels*)

The essay focuses on a relational concept of identity that implies as its essential constitutive moment the confrontation between «self» and «other». Alfred Schütz's reflection on the theme of social personality revolves around the idea according to which the self presents «from the beginning» a naturally ascribed social dimension: the construction and sharing of a common sense necessarily implies a comparison with the other, in this context understood essentially as alter ego. The idea of «radical otherness» developed by Bernhard Waldenfels indicates that «identity», and «experience» in general, is constitutively

marked by a «gray area» not attributable either to the sphere of «self» nor that of «other». The other is configured as a presence-absence which asks the «self» for acknowledgement and acceptance, implying thus a «practical» dimension of our being rooted in the world along with other individuals as the original form of the self-other relationship.

Francesco Giovanni Truglia, *L'Italia incantata. Geo-statistica della diffusione dell'astensionismo, elezioni politiche 2008 e 2013* (*The Enchanted Italy. Geo-statistics of the Diffusion of Abstention in the Political Elections of 2008-2013*)

The abstention of a large part of the voting population could be a symptom of a «genetic mutation» of the representative democracy. In this study, using data results of the 2008 and 2013 elections, we analyzed the geographical distribution of this behavior. Traditionally, electoral studies use values expressed as a percentage that tends to «cancel out» the effects of abstention on electoral results. This «neutralization» seems less effective if we consider abstention not only in terms of its impact but also as an electoral strength.