

*English summaries**

(in alphabetical order)

L. Arosio, G. Gatti, *Ricerca di elementi di subcultura in un gruppo di motociclisti italiani mediante analisi etnografica (Looking for Subculture Traits in a Group of Italian Bikers through Ethnographic Analysis)*

In this article a group of Italian motorcyclists is analyzed using the conceptual and methodological tools of the contemporary theories on consumption and the idea of subculture of consumption. The ethnographic analysis, carried out through document analysis, observation and in depth interviews, shows the emotional connection of the subjects with the goods they own, and the role of consumption in the processes of creation of meanings and of construction of their identity. The motorcycle holds values that are shared by other members of the group, and create sense of unity. The subculture concept shows to be an effective tool to study a small group of nostalgic consumers present today in the Italian society, and therefore might be used in the analysis of other emergent phenomena of aggregation that develop both in person and through the Internet.

E. Campelli, *«Tanto peggio per la logica»: note sulla metodologia di Whewell («So much the worse for logic»: Notes on William Whewell's methodology)*

Without any pretense at being an exhaustive overview of William Whewell's thoughts, this essay focuses on a few fundamental points, in which this semi-forgotten author anticipates with great clarity theses that today are shared by many scholars of scientific methodology. The themes highlighted intend to underline Whewell's contribution was ahead of its time, and include: the problem of the difficult delimitation between fact and theory; the critique of the traditional definition of inductive inference and the «invention» of retroduction

* A cura di Melina Rosenberg.

or abduction (as Pierce will call them); a remarkably interesting model of bold conjectures, on which Popper will keenly focus.

M. Colleoni, M. Boffi, *I tempi e le attività della notte degli italiani (Night-time Hours and Activities of the Italians)*

This paper presents the results of a secondary data analysis of the latest survey, conducted during the period 2008-2009 by the National Italian Institute for Statistics (Istat) in Italy, on how time is used. It aims to analyze how night-time hours are used by the Italian population, with attention to the duration and temporal sequence of the activities undertaken. Specifically, it intends to answer questions regarding identification of when night begins and ends and to provide an analysis of the density and temporal sequences of daytime activities.

B. Sena, *L'approccio del case study nella ricerca socio-economica (The Case Study Approach in Socio-economic Research)*

The paper aims to clarify the concept and use of the case study method in social sciences. Even if this term has been long-used in literature, it has always had an ambiguous meaning and this has probably prevented a defined and universally accepted methodology connotation. In Italy this approach has not yet been examined in detail in the field of social research, especially in comparison to the Anglo-Saxon context. This essay aims therefore to fill this gap, with the intent to clarify the main methodological aspects and applications of the *case study* approach.

D. Verderame, *Il cosmopolitismo piantato in terra. Operazionalizzare «l'apertura cosmopolita» (Grounded Cosmopolitanism. Operationalizing «Cosmopolitan Openness»)*

This case study explores participant experiences at the Festival of Europe in Florence, with the aim to answer a series of questions that run through the research agenda on cosmopolitanism. The author begins with an in-depth analysis of the notion of «cosmopolitan openness», still considered vague and indeterminate. Through theoretical considerations, «new» for this field of study, the research highlights two types of cosmopolitan aptitude, «generalized» and «instrumental», and their relation with the sense of territorial belonging («local» and «broad»). The study also analyses the link between transnational experiences and cosmopolitan openness, underlining it's all but deterministic nature.