

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

Four hundred giant cities as the top of the world, by Mattei Dogan

One of the most important social changes during the last decades is the accelerated multiplication of giant cities and their growth in all continents, and mostly in the developing countries. The territorial nations are progressively becoming metropolitan states, in which mega-cities and metropolises dominate the economic, social, cultural and political life in many international spheres. The globalization of the world mainly develops in and through the major cities, among which an intensive network of communication of goods, people, and ideas is developing. Social change is visible in many domains but the metropolization of the world is probably one of the most significant and well-documented changes in the last decades.

What are the regional and global implications of the involvement of local players in future governance?, by Chadwick F. Alger

In recent years globalisation and the problems of global governance have given rise to a great many analyses, studies and research projects. In this context, however, the author laments the lack of consideration devoted to the growing involvement of local players on the global scene. His paper seeks to rectify this by looking at two main features: the growing presence of local players in local and global organisations, and their integration into international governmental organisations. It emerges from his overview that local players may be perceived to use five different types of response to the challenges presented by the dynamic changes to which they are subjected, which bear witness to an “impressive learning process” as well as fresh challenges and decisions.

The role of organisations in the formation of metropolitan area networks and city systems. Intercity hierarchies in five North Italian regions, by Alberto Gasparini

The author proposes a reconstruction of intercity networks, starting from the role played by organisations (and user flows). Networks have a structure and function which vary according to whether they are established by economic, cultural and service organisations, or whether the city equips itself with resources and organisations which attract tourists and commuters. The organisations explain the formation in the city of “social cities”, and are configured as operators which link the needs and populations of “social cities” to the satisfaction of these needs and the integration of the city as a whole. Economic organisations make it possible to observe

where and how a city forms a part of a metropolitan area (orientated towards outward expansion - extroverted cities), and cultural and service organisations allow us to observe where and how a city forms part of a city system (orientated towards internal integration - introverted cities). The results of the research - carried out on cities in the regions of Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige and Friuli-Venezia Giulia - show that there are cities which are both introverted and extroverted (Milan, Verona, Modena, Treviso), others which are mainly extroverted (Venice, Ravenna, Trento, Rimini, Bolzano), others again which are mainly introverted (Bologna, Parma, Padova, Trieste) and still others which are neither.

Metropolitan transformations and formal and informal networks between Mediterranean cities, by Antida Gazzola and Fabio Poggi

This paper begins with a presentation of the distinctive characteristics of what is termed the Latin Arc - the large area of the Mediterranean encompassed by a line sweeping from Palermo to Barcelona, taking in the many highly developed urban settlements along the coastlines. It goes on to set out the debate current among many researchers regarding the formation and transformation of metropolises, embracing the concept of on-line metropolises as the latest stage in the development of great urban centres in what is now a context of consolidated modernisation. Having described the situation in France, Spain and Italy, the authors conclude that in the Mediterranean area, as in others, the process of economic globalisation has resulted in a spatial recomposition of human activities and settlements, favouring the creation of formal, informal and mixed networks, of which the first are based on the work of official bodies and local administrations, the second on commercial and friendly relations, and the third on the meeting of public and private networks.

The rise of the Aerotropolis, by John D. Kasarda

Big international airports, in this author's view, generate large volumes of commercial and financial activity which in turn lead to a new urban form: the Aerotropolis. Today we are witnessing a progressive and significant concentration of increasing volumes of business related to air transport, in and around airports and along the transport routes which radiate from them. On a par with a traditional metropolis, made up of a central city and a surrounding suburban territory, the Aerotropolis is composed of a city-airport and a commercial territory functionally bound to it, a territory which may extend to a radius of 15 miles. Citing a great many examples of Aerotropolises, and listing their strengths and weaknesses alike, the author stresses the need for organic planning of this new type of settlement - involving airport management staff, development agents, and local authorities - where functionality and economic efficiency go hand-in-hand with environmental protection and aesthetic values.

The quest for big events: Turin and the 2006 Winter Olympics, by Chito Guala

In this paper, the author sets out a synthesis of some results from a survey still under way on the 2006 Winter Olympics, assigned to the city of Turin and the nearby

Alpine valleys. He reflects on the future of the Piedmontese capital with a view to the impact the Games will have on the city and its metropolitan area and in the light of the service-orientated transformations of the economy in relation to the present decline of industry in the area. He proposes alternative development models and cites the cases of other major cities in the world where upgrading plans have been pursued.

Passengers, goods and environmental sustainability, by Romeo Danielis

On the basis of four analytical coordinates (the formation of urban systems; individuals' relations with the urban fabric; types of access to goods and services; new forms of conflict), the author sets out to show the dynamics which distinguish the evolution of models regarding use of the territory and the services located in it. Italy is at present in a particularly important phase of transition, bound as it is to traditional-local types of models and practices, though the way remains open for a range of hypotheses and scenarios.

Transmigrants. A new approach to migration in the age of globalisation, by Giuseppe Scidà

The author sets out to show how the combination of three processes which are shaping planetary social change - globalisation, the "mobiletic" revolution and the growth of spatial mobility - is associated in certain cases with a small but significant proportion of migrants whose morphological characteristics are sufficiently new to warrant a neologism - transmigrants. Following a discussion of the methodological problems thrown up by the attempt to define this new phenomenon, the author presents the results of a number of studies carried out abroad in the hope that research of this type may also be undertaken in Italy, where it has hitherto been lacking.

Globalisation, resistance and new urban scenarios, by Maria Golinelli

Among the complex phenomena related to globalisation, the author reveals the existence of a growing "globophobia", which has thrown up a vast resistance movement based on an awareness of the increasing risks underlying globalisation as a whole. In a general review of the many motivations behind the anti-global movement, it is emphasised that it is a heterogeneous whole that contains all the potential to be a multi-faceted expression of civil society, a society that has become aware of the need to change the forms of dissent and intensify relations with its own social contexts.

The effects of globalisation on the development of alternative tourism: Reality tours and social networks, by Moreno Zago

By means of online interviews and documentation, the author analyses the participation of tourists and the involvement of cities, organisations and peer groups in actions of social sensitisation. Attention is traditionally focused on how host communities organise themselves to deal with the impact of laissez-faire tourism. Here, the perspective is reversed. The starting point is provided by a) the increase of responsible and sustainable travel as the response to a need for personalised travel and

a rejection of tourism which fails to respect the environment and communities visited, and b) the development of solidarity-based Reality Tours, which originated in the 1970s, mainly in the United States, with the aim of spreading awareness of difficult human predicaments. The objective is to understand the relations tying these tourists to the communities visited and the organisations promoting this type of travel after the conclusion of the experience, and the role of cities in supporting and setting up international solidarity networks in which the tourist is the linking actor.

Children and the urban environment: From the home to the metropolis, by Enrico Maria Tacchi

The city as a less-than-ideal environment in demographic terms (zero growth and an increasing elderly population) and the transformation of family typologies place children in situations in which they are not always able to express their full potential, both in a micro-social (home, district) and macro-social perspective (the city and its territory). It is also the case, however, that the advent of prosperity, the multiplication of social networks and early socialisation through nursery school are replacing the traditional lateral relations that distinguished childhood for centuries. In this framework, children become smoothly integrated into a globalistic dimension through experience of a plurality of macro-social environments which enhance their adaptability and control in complex situations.

Perceptions of urban insecurity. Reflections in the margins of a research project, by Alfredo Agustoni

This article is the account of part of a survey carried out in six areas of the city of Milan. Designed to investigate perceptions of the quality of life, it involved about 70 qualified informants (social workers, parish priests, local police, tradespeople, etc.). There emerges a picture in which the areas in question, despite a tangible presence of muggers, drug-pushers, addicts and other factors, tend to be characterised in terms approaching normality. This almost gives the impression that interviewees have a tendency to explode the identity stereotype of a “bad area” associated with their place of residence.

Reading cities in the digital age: topographic images and spatial representation in the dynamics of power, by Saskia Sassen

Starting from a distinction between the topographic image of the key features of a city and their interpretation as political, economic and cultural spatial dynamics, the author focuses on the role of the city in the global and digital age. Economic globalisation and digitalisation have contributed to the production of a new concept of space within the urban context, a concept based mainly on deterritorialised cross-border networks and territorially-rooted locations. This leads to the observation that cities are becoming crucial spaces for an understanding of the various dynamics of power, here defined as the dynamic of opposition. This depends on the fact that on the local level there are both spatial and global elements and at the city level there are

mere local and minor elements which can connect themselves (especially via internet) with those of other cities thus becoming new and important actors.

Reinforcement and peculiarities within the localisation process, by Zdravko Mlinar

On the basis of two fundamental assumptions - that if a local player opens up to a transnational level, this modifies the power of the population and the local authorities, and that the diversities of the local dimension are giving way to an ever-increasing uniformity - this paper develops a number of general alignments concerning relations between the global and the local. Using data from research on Koper (Slovenia), the author illustrates changes based on the reinforcement of local initiatives and the emergence of groups whose roles are progressively burgeoning on the strength of the increasing connectivity in the local and international context.

Quality of life and city networks in Europe: problems and research scenarios, by Giampaolo Nuvolati

The author poses questions on the concept of the quality of life in relation to the frequently contradictory development of urban areas and shows how a number of features of the quality of life are often not properly explored. He advances two possible scenarios for the development of research into urban systems. The first is based on the collection of expanding social indicators with which to reconstruct mapping system designed to gather data on the quality of life and economic and infrastructural development, and the second is the construction of networks by means of which local administrators should be able to exchange experiences.

"The garden of the crossing paths": local identity, social capital, governance and networks as innovative factors of local development, by Enrico Ercole

The author analyses the important innovations that have been and still are at the centre of local development, in order to highlight the factors that have done most to make this change possible - endogenous and exogenous features alike, a combination of a range of factors. He underlines the importance of relational factors in which a range of players, such as agents of change and opinion leaders, play a primary role, but he also dwells on features related to the learning - spontaneous or deliberate - which significantly affects the construction of the innovative process. By way of a conclusion, attention is focused on a series of factors that may favour innovation, such as social capital, networks, governance and social identity - all of which have played and still play an important role in rural areas.

