

*English summaries**

(in alphabetical order)

M. Bonolis, *Il processo di individualizzazione e le sue ambivalenze* (Beck, Boudon, Schluchter) (*Individualization Process and Its Ambivalence*)

The theme of modernization has been dominated for years by dualistic settings that have struggled to explain certain evidence of the contemporary world. The origins of this line of thought lie in the romantic aspects of classical sociological theory, which in the long run has made this discipline unable to answer the challenges of the late twentieth century and the new century. Many studies are still lost in the conceptual sea of the Durkheimian notion of anomie. This paper notes Parsons' attempt to overcome these difficulties, but rebuilds alternative thinking lines to the work of this author, moving from the contribution of the institutionalist theory of progress by Karl Popper, and Robert Nisbet's and Charles Wright Mills' thesis. Particular attention is devoted to the latest developments in a theory of cultural individualization that moves away from the Parsonsian perspective, and draws directly to the evolutionist component of Weberian analysis of rationalization process of western societies. It shares the contributions of Raymond Boudon, Ulrich Beck, Wolfgang Schluchter. The focus of this theory is on the ambivalence of the modern state, the inevitability of its paradoxes and the irreversibility of its ethical dimension.

G. D'Ambrosio, V. Pastori, *Omogamia o complementarietà? Analisi delle scelte coniugali in Italia* (*Homogamy or Complementary? Analysis of the Marital Choices in Italy*)

The aim of this paper is to focus on social homogamy within the Italian context. Specifically, using information derived from *Survey on marriages in the year 2014* by Istat on the educational level, the employment status and the so-

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cial class of the spouses, it was possible to analyze and describe the marital choices in Italy. In this occasion we can note, therefore, that the Italian model of mate-selection is mainly between people that have the same social, economic and cultural background.

L.G. Fassari, *Oltre il realitysmo. Una mappa dell'esperienza mediale contemporanea (Mapping Contemporary Media Experience)*

This article concerns *media mediation*, a deeply important issue today. The field has been intensely studied and recently enriched by significant empirical contributions. Analyses are often marred by apocalyptic nuances or emphatic representations, or by an excess of empiricism. The essay's aim is to draw a map of aesthetic forms with which to interpret the media experience. The map is composed of heterogeneous disciplines, but the main question remains sociologically pertinent, linked to the tensions arising from the dual tendencies of rationalization and *subjectivation*, which in opposition define modernity itself. The result is to point out the irreducible ambivalence of the media experience, but with hope that the map can provide a tool of orientation that distinguishes between *symbol* and *simulacrum*.

D. Maddaloni, *Tra warfare e welfare. Una prospettiva ecologico-evolutiva sull'ascesa e il declino dei sistemi nazionali pubblici di protezione sociale (Between Warfare and Welfare. An Ecological and Evolutionary Perspective on the Rise and Decline of Public National Social Protection Systems)*

One of the most important changes in the history of modern societies – particularly those in Western Europe – has been the emergence, consolidation and recent decline of public national welfare systems. The aim of this essay is to present an ecological-evolutionary and an historical-comparative perspective, in order to better understand of these processes. In the first section of the paper we will define the conceptual system and the theoretical model that are at the basis of our argument. In the following three paragraphs, we will try to apply the system of concepts and the theoretical model previously defined to the analysis of the history of the Welfare State.

S. Mauceri, *L'avvento dell'era dei Mixed Methods. Nuovo paradigma o deadline di un dibattito? (The Advent of Mixed Methods Research. A New Paradigm or just the Rnd of a Debate?)*

In this paper, the author draws on the fortunate idea of *Mixed Methods Research* to explore the possibilities in social research of escaping the prevailing practices of a divisive paradigm. In the years following the golden age of empirical sociology tension has grown concerning the boundaries between approaches, with each periodically claiming autonomy and methodological superiority. The aim of this article is to identify the inherent risks of splitting approaches, as well as the hidden pitfalls of certain integration perspectives. An appeal is made to culti-

vate the idea of integration between quality and quantity with a clear awareness of the lessons of the past and of the limitations of relying entirely on triangulation.

L. Sabetta, *Una certa idea dell'azione sociale: leggere insieme Merton e Bourdieu (A Certain Idea of Social Action: Reading Merton and Bourdieu together)*

This article intends to juxtapose (in an unprecedented way) the Robert K. Merton sociological approach to that of Pierre Bourdieu, within a «systematics» framework, and with the aim of overcoming canonic oppositions. The analysis is not proposed as schematically comprehensive: a detailed reconsideration of each consonance between Merton and Bourdieu will not be provided, nor are all the inevitable differences which run between the two authors examined. The specific interest is restricted to the action theory: the attempt is to envisage a basic pattern (*a certain idea*), shared by Merton and Bourdieu, that can cut across the established positions, with a specific heuristic value (the hypothesis).

E. Zapponi, *Modernizzazione e primitivismi Il caso della rappresentazione della mulatta cubana (Modernization and Primitivism. The Representation of the Cuban Mulatto Woman)*

The article concerns processes of cultural resistance and colonialism in late modernity, specifically in Cuban contemporary culture. In this context, in which the transculturation process between the «old world» (Europe) and the local culture are a fundamental part of identity, the occidental primitivist vision is elaborated and readapted in Cuba. This ability to «play» with the «exotic» is analyzed by the author focusing on the representations of the Cuban mulatto woman, a central figure in Cuba's culture and a connecting link between black and white cultures. The study of iconographic and literary sources on the Cuban mulatto woman enables reflection on the conquering logic of a triumphant modern Europe, as well as on the various answers and narrations opposed to this same modernity.