

English Summaries

(in alphabetical order)

F. Battistelli, *Risky Metaphors: The Pandemic as War (or War as a Pandemic?)* (Metafore rischiose: la pandemia come guerra o la guerra come pandemia?)

During the coronavirus pandemic, the most commonly used metaphor to describe the catastrophe was war. By connecting an unknown concept to a familiar one, metaphors clarify meanings but also reshape them, especially in politics, where their purpose is to persuade. During the pandemic, conservative and populist leaders displayed contradictory behavior: they downplayed the phenomenon and tolerated protests while emphasizing military rhetoric. Progressive leaders, on the other hand, were verbally more restrained but implemented strict restrictive policies. The war metaphor, while effective in amplifying notions of aggression and suffering, is inherently incongruent. Unlike war, the pandemic is not a threat to be addressed *ex post* but rather a danger (originating in the biosphere) and a risk (exacerbated by human actions) – a human responsibility to be prevented *ex ante*. A realignment of priorities from threats to dangers and risks is crucial today, especially when war is much more than a metaphor.

A. Decataldo, M. Novello, *Alternative Uses of Paradigms in Mixed Methods Research* (Usi alternative di paradigmi nella ricerca Mixed methods)

While the community of scholars using mixed methods attempts to move away from the so-called Paradigm War, a binary (quantitative vs. qualitative research) perspective on paradigms remains dominant in the mixed methods field and in the social sciences at large. With this proposal, we aim to discuss viable alternatives to traditional uses of paradigms, in an effort to overcome the typical duality of their use in sociology. We build on two main concepts – paradigms as heuristics (Abbott, 2004) and as toolkits (Maxwell, 2011) – to deconstruct the idea of paradigms as monolithic systems of ontological, epistemological, methodological and axiological beliefs that are consistent with one another. By focusing on alternative

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uses of paradigms, we introduce a reflection on creative ways of adopting tools from ontology and epistemology for methodological purposes, as we refuse to adhere to traditional concepts of paradigms or to join the Paradigm War.

C. Felaco, S. Acampa, *Algorithmic Affinities: The Role of Algorithmic Awareness on the Tinder Dating App* (Affinit  algorithmiche. Il ruolo della consapevolezza algoritmica nell'app di incontri Tinder)

Algorithms play an active role in the digital platforms we use daily. Dating apps like Tinder employ advanced algorithms to analyze personal data and suggest partners, significantly influencing users' romantic opportunities. This study examines Italian Tinder users' algorithmic awareness through semi-structured interviews, exploring their perceptions and understanding of profile selection mechanisms. Initial findings reveal a partial and often inaccurate awareness that gives rise to beliefs and assumptions shaping how users interact with the platform and their ability to critically reflect on the unexpected outcomes of algorithms.

R. Galdini, S. De Nardis, *Villages and Surroundings: An Experience of Italian Return Migration in Sicily* (Borghi e dintorni. Un'esperienza di migrazione italiana di ritorno in Sicilia)

The article examines the phenomenon of the abandonment of historic villages in Italy, which are often economically, socially, and territorially fragile but hold valuable resources in terms of cultural heritage (CH). Growing interest in these areas has recently led to initiatives for their enhancement through cultural tourism strategies or innovative, place-based practices. In a village in the province of Agrigento, a group of young people chose to return to their roots, initiating a social experiment in micro-entrepreneurship that connects digital work with the promotion of CH. Their goal is to foster development and create a diversified offering of goods and services for the community and the surrounding areas.

N. Stepanenko, O. Bazov, T. Ohanisian, T. Duiunova, D. Dontsov, *Effectiveness of international legal instruments in the protection of children in conflict zones* (Efficacia degli strumenti giuridici internazionali nella protezione dei bambini nelle zone di conflitto)

Today, 183 active armed conflicts have been recorded in the world. This is an absolute record for the last 30 years. The international community is currently witnessing an increase in the number of military conflicts that directly affect innocent children's lives. The need to protect these rights requires constant attention and effective action by the international community. The importance of studying this issue is also due to the complexity of classifying modern military conflicts and identifying participants, which complicates the process of protecting children. The topic is particularly relevant in the context of global challenges, such as the war in Ukraine and Israel, where children's rights are violated on a daily basis.

Ensuring effective protection of children's rights in such circumstances is critical to preserving their well-being and health. The development of new approaches and strategies to protect children's rights in armed conflict is necessary to respond to current challenges. For these reasons, the issue of protecting children's rights in armed conflict zones deserves a priority place on the international agenda. The purpose of the article is to analyze the effectiveness of existing international legal mechanisms for the protection of children's rights in conflict zones and to identify ways to improve the protection of children's rights in combat zones. The study is based on a historical overview of the development of international child rights law, analysis of specific cases of child rights violations, and a critical assessment of existing international norms and agreements. The article contributes to the understanding of the issue of child protection in conflict zones, emphasizing the need to update existing mechanisms and develop new approaches for more effective protection. The authors present a number of their own approaches to understanding the stages of formation of international law on the protection of children's rights. The authors also provide their own classification of current challenges in the field of child protection during armed conflict, based on the analysis of the war in Ukraine and Israel.

F. Tramontano, E. Ticci, F. Bettio, *Between emergency and normality. A mixed method analysis of intimate partner violence in Tuscany during the Covid-19 pandemic* (Tra emergenza e normalità. Un'analisi mixed method della violenza da partner in Toscana durante la pandemia di Covid-19)

Was the experience of intimate partner violence (IPV) different in the perception of victims during the Covid-19 pandemic? How does this advance our understanding, and what policy lessons can we learn? Using a mixed method approach, we address these questions based on 59 semi-structured interviews with IPV victims during lockdown in Tuscany (Italy), a high-income country particularly affected by the pandemic. By combining thematic analysis with basic statistical information, we find that the experience of IPV during lockdown worsened or did not improve for the majority of interviewees. Partners resorted to new forms of abuse, controlling behaviour in particular. Traditional coping strategies weakened in the face of new stressors like the presence of children confined in closed, often restricted spaces, lack of privacy, thinner support networks and prolonged exposure to perpetrators, with amplified effects for women having fewer resources: foreigners and the poor or less educated. Rather than prioritizing new policy solutions, interviewees asked for long-demanded provisions concerning income, logistics, psychological and legal support to be made enforceable and effective during emergencies as well as in 'normal' times. The overall findings offer a comprehensive view of continuity and change in women's experience of partner violence in times of emergency.

B. Turco, *Homestay as a New Social Practice: Between Responsibility and the Choice for Coexistence* (L'homestay come nuova pratica sociale tra responsabilità e scelta di co-esistenza)

This article, based on the author's doctoral research, traces the development of homestay practices in Italy. Initially emerging from isolated projects tied to internal and external needs in the post-World War II era, homestay resurfaced in 21st-century Europe through grassroots initiatives following large migratory flows and, most recently, during the 2022 emergency response to Ukrainian refugees organized by the government. The article, starting with an overview of reception policies, focuses on the motivations that led some citizens to deviate from institutionally imposed practices, opting instead for homestay solutions.