

English summaries^{*}

(in alphabetical order)

R. Cavallaro, *Perché non amiamo gli anziani. Quattro tesi e un'ipotesi (Why We Do Not Love the Elderly. Four Theses and a Hypothesis)*. Although literature is extensive, the elderly population does not seem to have received real interest by scholars, nor has there been a truly convinced desire to approach and solve the inevitable problems that characterize this age (retirement, illness, solitude, imminence of death, etc.). But what is worse, the elderly do not seem to be «object of love» for their children or close family either. Two scenarios have been explored. The first relates to the privileged familiarity, developed in time, with the elder who should be cared for, and whose presence in one's own emotional life is often ambiguous. The second refers to a new phenomenon: the present generation of fifty/sixty year olds who find themselves again in the role of children whose parents are eighty or older. The combination or clash of these older generations can make the loving care of an elder parent a hard task, easier to delegate to others (retirement homes or care takers).

P. De Nardis, L. Alteri, *Tra disinformazione e controinformazione: il futuro (e il passato) del giornalismo investigativo (Between Disinformation and Counter-Information: the Future – and Past – of Investigative Journalism)*. This essay focuses on journalism as a profession, offering considerations on an activity that never as before has to balance between information and disinformation, between in depth investigation and mystification. Being a journalist in a war zone, or in front of a laptop, through the perils of the web. But also being a journalist in the relationship with one's Director, under the Editor's pressure, dealing with the needs of investors for advertisement spaces and sponsorships. Finally, being a journalist in the relationship with the readers. This essay offers an excursus in journalism, from «embedded» to «state of exception», through the ways (semantic ways included) that mass media presently structures information.

V. Iranzo, *Kuhn sobre la elección de teorías. Una discusión desde la metodología de la ciencia actual (Kuhn's Theory-Choice. A Discussion on the Methodology of Current Science)*. According to Thomas Kuhn, theory-choice is guided by a set of shared values.

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However, scientists differ concerning the way these values are interpreted. They also differ about the respective weight given to those values. Kuhn's conclusion is, then, that theory-choice is an inherently subjective decision. By taking into account recent methodological practice, this essay argues that subjectivism can be minimized. Model-selection and Bayesian inference are subsequently considered. Criteria for comparing models show that values are not independently pursued while Bayesian inferential apparatus can be applied so that subjective factors are partially neutralized.

B. Sonzogni, *Modellizzazione e simulazione nelle scienze sociali. Questioni teoriche e operative nella costruzione di modelli ad agenti (Modeling and Simulation in Social Sciences. Theoretical and Operative Issues in building an Agent-based Model)*. This study stems from the central issue: «Does simulation consent prediction?». It outlines the process of model building at the basis of simulation procedures in social sciences, and aims to demonstrate how a specific type of social simulation, agent-based simulation, can be considered a useful instrument able to reproduce social phenomena and their complexity. In particular, through an excursus on theoretical and methodological implications of the concept of emergency, central in the epistemological debate on agent-based simulation, the possibility of bringing together micro and macro – two different levels of analysis often considered opposites – is strongly underlined. Sociology classics that consider it possible to harmonize these two levels are considered and, from a «Coleman Boat» perspective, the study demonstrates that micro and macro are not opposites, but very simply they are distinct levels of analysis, consequent to each other. From this point of view, agent-based simulation is represents an instrument able to offer the possibility of building models that include both of the above mentioned terms.

F.G. Truglia, *L'autocorrelazione spaziale e spazio-temporale. Struttura spaziale dell'astensionismo in Calabria, elezioni politiche 1992-2008 (Spatial and Time-Space Autocorrelation. Spatial Structure of Absenteeism in Calabria during Political Election between 1992 and 2008)*. Since the '90s, local issues have been playing a growing part in forming political consensus and in political mobilizing strategies. This study analyzes the «weight» of the territorial dimension using Statistical spatial analysis methodology, in particular the univariate and multivariate versions of the Moran index, to explore global and local autocorrelation. In presenting these statistics, certain critical aspects of operationalization of space emerged, known as Modifiable areal unit problem (Maup). Considerations and possible interpretations were advanced based on Moran statistics. This essay concludes with the presentation of a case study where, starting from the political elections of 1992-2008, the aim is to analyze the spatial and time-space dynamics that mark the absentee geography in Calabria.

Roberto Vignera, *Identità fluida e indeterminismo genetico (Fluid Identity and Genetic Indeterminism)*. Determination of characteristics and boundaries of identity is often a starting inquiry point for social sciences, with a background of strong ideological argumentations and violent ethical and cultural challenges. Its social anchors, which Zygmunt Bauman considers presently indistinct and continuously redefined, could not make it appear more natural, predetermined, and more important not negotiable. However, this thesis, as the symmetric one of Neo-Darwinist matrix affirming how identity characteristics are guaranteed by biomolecular components, are objectionable, in light of controversial acquisitions matured in the fields of behavioral genetics and neurosciences.