

## *English summaries\**

(in alphabetical order)

M. Bonolis, *Il problema dell'inclusione come «problema» di teoria sociale (The Problem of Inclusion as a «Problem» of Social Theory)*

The theme of social inclusion can not be address in sociology without initially considering the definition of the concept of *citizenship* as formulated by Alfred Marshall. Given this introduction, duly argued philologically, Ralph Dahrendorf's contribution is considered. The latter makes Marshall's definition operational in terms of «subjective rights». Four categories of request for inclusion are thereby identified. Two are endogenous: a) through loss of *inclusion*; b) through risk of *exclusion*. Two are exogenous: c) through migration dynamics; d) through cultural change. These four types are considered in light of the work of Amartya Sen and Lawrence Friedman, with particular consequentialist attention (in the sense of Weber's «ethics of responsibility») to the repercussions that inclusion programs determine within institutional and non-institutional areas of reference. The article's layout is also inspired by the principle of Weber's «technical critique of values». The question is: which socio-cultural «costs» involve specific and different social policies of «inclusion»?

R. Conte, *Società artificiali. Il caso delle norme (Artificial Societies. The Case of Norms)*

This article is inspired by Joshua Epstein's generativist paradigm, according to which to possibility of explaining a phenomenon and of influencing its process of existence depend on the availability of instruments that can artificially reproduce it, or in other words *simulate* its «generation». «Agent based simulation» possesses the requirements that enable the development of a similar cognitive program. The essay describes this instrument's characteristics, from the

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modeling to the cellular automaton used in biology, of which the «agent based simulation» in an exemplary heir. The second part of the article focuses on applications of generative simulation, with reference to the interpretation of interdependant dynamics in complex situations as useful resources for sociological analysis of micro and macro phenomena.

L. Fassari, *Reti, culture e mutamenti del lavoro. Uno sguardo radicale sull'università (Networks, Cultures and Changes in Labor. A Radical Overview on University)*

The essay approaches the theme of the university crisis by focusing on the institution's reflective and discursive characteristics, and not the idea of a post-modern university that is defined by fragmented knowledge and conformity to market values. The goal is to focus on elements of analysis that have had minor consideration within the present debate on university, in which priority is given to a logic of fulfillment of policy objectives. The challenges the system faces, however, are of much broader range, including the consequences of cognitive capitalism, communication technologies, and the «singularizing» of experiences.

S. Poli, *Perché gli anziani ci amano (...nonostante tutto): l'anzianità poliedrica tra rappresentazioni stereotipiche, complessità identitaria e risorse nascoste (Why Seniors Love Us (...nonetheless): Stereotypic Representations, Identity Complexity and Hidden Resources of a Polyhedral Seniority)*

The progressive aging of the population throughout European countries calls for a revision of the role and the conditions of seniors. The goal of this essay is to underline the deeply polyhedral characteristics of seniority and old age in modern society, by discussing the results of a qualitative and qualitative study conducted in Genoa's metropolitan area, where there is a tradition of singular dynamics of aging of the population. This contribution identifies and distinguishes multiple senior profiles on the basis of the system of values, the condition and lifestyle of seniors; it underlines the need to rethink their role in society, increasing their range of opportunities and capabilities and removing commonplace misconceptions, in favor of a perspective that respects the life cycle and promotes active citizenship for a very relevant part of society.

F. Truglia, *La casualità della casualità. Informazione, probabilità e previsione nell'approccio soggettivista (The Randomness of Randomness. Information, Probability and Prediction in the Subjectivist View)*

It is now tradition in literature to associate the probabilistic theory to the spread of gambling. Both probability theories and gambling can be seen as one of the consequences of the secularization process that began in the middle of the seventeenth century with the end of the religious wars and invested different areas of private and public life.

While statistical and mathematical aspects were formalized in the 1930s, there has not been a systemization at a conceptual level. The issue of how to interpret probability remains open.

This essay focuses on the main schools of thought (classic, frequentist, subjectivist and logicist) taking into consideration the historic context in which they developed and the instances they represent.

Particular attention is given to subjectivism and to B. de Finetti's work.

The last paragraph is dedicated to the *Bayesian Theory* which represents a way to think of inference, rather than a formula to calculate probability. The essay concludes with two applications of Bayes' Theorem to electoral data of 2008.

P. Vezzoni, R. Vignera, *Equivoci e illusioni su identità e modernizzazione (Misunderstandings and Illusions on Identity and Modernization)*

The theme of identity as a source of representations of self and social relations is at the center of the contemporary sociological debate on dilemmas of modernization and has often been considered as the analytical framework within which such unresolved issues could be caught in their most emblematic profiling. Some of these controversial issues will be taken into account in the present essay through a comparison between the social sciences and the biomolecular sciences perspectives, both increasingly involved in the clarification of the most common misconceptions regarding the immutability of this set of signs and its progressive dissolution.