

*English summaries**

(in alphabetical order)

I. Acocella, *Strumenti di ricerca su processi di esclusione sociale (Research Instruments for Social Exclusion Processes)*

Sociologists are by now aware that poverty affects many social spheres and not only economics itself. In the same way, widespread analytical approaches do not consider poverty a static condition but rather a process in stages with beginnings, delays and ends. For this reason, the term «social exclusion» is gradually substituting the term «poverty». Considering these aspects, this article reflects on new analytical instruments that allow a multidimensional and dynamic interpretation of this phenomenon through the identification of elements that contribute to its comprehension and to a possible combination of such aspects oriented towards the identification of Ideal Type states of the social exclusion process.

R. Di Gioia, *Nel nome del campione rappresentativo: il Cati e il vitello d'oro (In the name of the representative sample: Cati and the Golden Calf)*

Cati sampling presents problems of growing significance regarding telephone coverage and lack of answers: though such issues are too often ignored or left unmentioned, they pollute both the casualty of the extraction process and actual representativeness of the. Furthermore, budget limitations lead to the creation of fixed databases of subjects who have already given their full availability to be contacted in the future and are incorrectly identified as panel surveys. Researches are conducted on self-selected groups which can hardly be defined as «representative samples», therefore making it impossible to infer the results to the population considered.

E. Fabbriatore, *Per una riflessione sul concetto di «contenuto empirico» (Reflecting on the Concept of «Empirical Contents»)*

This article reviews the basic stages of a debate that aims to redefine the concept of «empirical contents» on the basis of Feyerabend's negotiated proposals against a bad philosophy of science. From Duhem-Quine's thesis to Lakatosian Methodology, through epistemological relativism, «empirical contents» and «theoretical growth» seem to be tied to the

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same conceptual structure. Actually, through the indications advanced in *Against Method*, these two components hold a meaning to be rediscovered far from any form of methodological reductionism.

G. Losito, *Interazione sociale e interazione con i testi mediali (Social Interaction and Interaction with Media Texts)*

It is possible to find many points in common between social interaction and the interaction of each user with media texts when referring to theories of social action, according to the emphasis put on the processes the actors involved use to attribute meaning. These points in common may support the theory by which the media public plays an active role, substantiated in different dimensions: the selective exposure to media and the cognitive processes involved in their use, the semantic autonomy in the processes of comprehension and interpretation and of revision and collective re-interpretation in relations with others. The reference to the theories of social action may also represent an opportunity to contribute a more visible theoretical base to research on media, which in turn might lead to a more widespread acknowledgment of their scientific relevance and of their pertinence and identification for sociological study.

F. Mattioli, *Teoria dell'azione e modello di rete: il «luogo» della sociologia scientifica (Theory of Action and Network Model: Scientific Sociology's «place»)*

Thinking about the theory of social action is not possible without considering research; otherwise, the risk is to propose simple opinions or mere ideologies.

Both the classic theories of action of macro orientation, and neo-utilitarianism theories of a micro perspective offer an unsatisfying picture of the relation between individual action and social system. Only beginning with Goffman and ethnomethodology has there been a particular interest in a meso dimension, able to suggest new theoretical and research horizons given the complex, uncertain, contingent and «hazardous» society, which cannot be described by «omni-comprehensive theories». In particular, the theory of social network, meso in origin, proves to be an approach deeply tied to field research and able to offer interpretative instruments of complex interaction between social action and its social determinants. It is able to explain, for example, the apparent present contradictions of the difficult relationship global and glocal.

Antonio Scaglia, *Max Weber: l'agire sociale e la Scienza di realtà o Wirklichkeitswissenschaft (Max Weber: Social Action and the Science of Reality or Wirklichkeitswissenschaft)*

Meaningful social action (*sinnhaftes Handeln*) is the concept on which Max Weber bases comprehensive sociology. The connotation of the meaning of individual and social action and Ideal Type conceptual forms are to be read according to the criteria expressed in the *Essays on the Theory of Science (Wissenschaftslehre)*. In these writings Weber distinguishes between the «science of laws» or regularity and the «science of reality» or *Wirklichkeitswissenschaft*. The latter not only determines the goal, form and object of scientific knowledge, it also identifies meaning and meaningful causative connections for the explanation and comprehension of historic personalities. Sociology is not therefore a theory and Ideal Types are an instrument to use and modify in order to understand concrete historical events, as put into practice throughout Weber's extensive works.