

INTRODUCTION

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One Health opens up a new avenue for the sociology of health, as it enables the discipline to build on its core focus on relationships and its attention to the cultural, structural and power dimensions of society. With this special issue, the Italian sociology of health continues its exploration of the One Health theme, following on from the 2024 publication “One Health as a transdisciplinary field: actors, practices, knowledge”. In this number, the focus is on the implementation of One Health: “From Concept to Facts: One Health Practices for a Public Sociology of Health”.

This work is the result of discussions held within the working group of the Health and Medicine Section of the Italian Sociological Association and the Italian Association of Systemic Medicine and Healthcare (Assimss). It suggests two main paths of analysis. From one side the development of theoretical contributions with the focus on concepts, concerning the transdisciplinary aspects of One Health, and from the other the implementation of One Health perspective discussing some practices. Most of the articles are joint work combining sociological analysis with other disciplines points of view highlighting the contribution of sociological perspectives in developing One Health implementation approach.

The theoretical dimensions is the focus of Maturo’s article highlighting the sociological contribution concerning the epistemological and methodological aspects of One Health. The opening article of Genova, Ingresso, Pristipino contextualises the contribution of health sociology to the One Health approach in Italy within a framework that has been developing for decades around the theme of systemic complexity. Leonardi presents an operational model of One Health based on a systemic approach in the contemporary public policy agenda. Seravesi emphasises the educational approach for the construction of a multisectoral paradigm. Giarelli and De Vogli offer a critical examination of the economic paradigm and the power structures that fuel global health risks

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within One Health perspective. The study by Favretto and Servetti analyses the relationship between the regulatory framework and the implementation of One Health practices. Zaltron, Favaro, Ru and Tomassoni offer a reflection on interdisciplinary dialogue and focus on the processes by which definitions, priorities and solutions relating to health risks are developed as a result of negotiations between different disciplinary perspectives. Russo and Bergamo suggest a reflection on participatory methodologies and their political role in the negotiation of knowledge, authority and responsibility, in the dialogue between epistemic communities that overlap on the One Health theme.

The One Health implementation practices present several case studies discussed from different disciplinary perspectives: most of the articles are the results of a joint work between sociologists and other professionals as general practitioners, veterinarians, medical doctors and other public health experts. Fucci, Taruscio and Mantovani recognise One Health as a transformative framework capable of connecting biological, environmental and social aspects of health in the analysis of the indoor environment as an everyday ecosystem and thus as a structural determinant of health. Balduzzi, Stanco and Peterle apply the One Health approach to prevention practices, recognising the central role of dialogue with local policies. Genova, Coppola and Guzzo explore the implementation of the One Health perspective on the theme of prevention and health promotion through the case study of social farming in organisations practising organic agriculture. Della Valle and Viganò recognise the need to adopt a One Health perspective in post-disaster reconstruction processes, as an integrated process of spatial planning.

This work suggests two short comments on the characteristics of the sociology of health and medicine in Italy in relation to the One Health topic:

1. The Italian sociology of health and medicine plays a vital and active role engaging with other disciplines and operationally building up dialogues and actions aimed at moving from multidisciplinary to transdisciplinary in One Health debate.
2. The Italian sociology of health and medicine demonstrates its role as a public sociology led by the key questions: for whom and for what do we pursue sociology? As Michael Buraway used to say: “The public sociology is what keeps sociological passion alive” and this work dealing with One Health issue is a testimony to the passion and dedication to develop a variety of synergies and fruitful engagements that deserve to be developed not only at national level, but involving international sociological debate, in defending the interests of humanity but also of the animals and of the entire ecosystem because our health is dependent on the health of the entire Earth.