

superficially.

(Giulia Mascagni)

[Segnalazioni]

Chiara Saraceno, *Coppie e famiglie. Non è questione di natura*, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2012, pages 140, ISBN: 978-88-0710-487-9

Starting from the assumption «There is nothing less natural than the family», i.e. the hypothesis that the family is a social institution and as such the focus of particularly attentive and stringent regulation, Saraceno devotes her reflection to an analysis of the wide range of transformations that affects couples - from legal to social, with related repercussions and discontinuities of viewpoints and practices - and the increased responsibility which single individuals find themselves obliged ever more frequently to take on because of the retreat (and decline) of the welfare state.

Vicky Cattell, *Poverty, Community and Health. Co-operation and the Good Society*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, pages 195, ISBN: 978-02-3001-997-3

The author examines the dynamics of the loss of social capital, the breakdown of social networks, and the weakening of local communities, in order to highlight their likely repercussions on health, well-being and happiness, especially for the socio-economically disadvantaged.

Luc Boltanski, *On Critique: A Sociology of Emancipation*, Cambridge-Oxford UK: Polity Press, 2011, pages 191, ISBN 978-07-4564-964-1

In this book - a translation of *De la critique. Précis de sociologie de l'émancipation*, (Paris: Gallimard, 2009) - Boltanski deals with the problem of the new epistemological basis of a sociology that is both critical and oriented toward personal autonomy.

Colin Crouch, *Europe and Problems of Marketization: from Polanyi to Scharpf*, Firenze: Firenze University Press, 2013, pages 66, ISBN: 978-88-6655-336-6

The result of a *Lectio Magistralis* delivered by the author for Reading “Cesare Alfieri” 2012, the essay analyzes the risks posed to the construction of a true European democracy by the separation between policies drawn up at the EU level and social policies that are devolved to the national level. This paper anticipates the publication in August, 2013 of Crouch's *Making Capitalism Fit for Society*, Cambridge-Oxford: Polity Press, 2013.

John Scott, *Conceptualising the SocialWorld: Principle of Sociological Analysis*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, pages 333, ISBN 978-05-2171-136-4

This book brings together a number of diverse sociological paradigms that are often treated in isolation or regarded as contradictory or incompatible. Scott argues that theorising in sociology and other social sciences is characterised by the application of eight key principles of sociological analysis: culture, nature, system, structure, action, space-time, mind and development. He considers the principal contributions to the study of each of these

dimensions in their historical sequence in order to bring out the cumulative character of knowledge.

Lucinda Platt, *Understanding Inequalities: Stratification and Difference*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011, pages 204, ISBN 978-07-4564-176-8

This book explores social inequalities and the part they play in people's day-to-day lives. The Author moves beyond the traditionally well-covered areas of gender, race and class, to engage with a wider range of inequalities (income, wealth and poverty; health and disability; housing and geography).