Book Review - Profiles

The book combines sociological research, both theoretical and empirical, with a critique analysis of the most recent transformations of social bonds. The author shows how the possibilities of reproducing solidarity within our societies also pass through the construction of new forms of sociality. These are understood as a complex of intersubjective relationships that allows the development of self-realization, the attribution of meaning to spaces and places, the elaboration of a reflective social critique, an innovative interpretation of the political sphere that also recovers the utopian dimension. In this view, solidarity can be a response to paradoxical dynamics of reproduction of individual autonomy fostered by neoliberalism.

The book examines how different stages of adult life affect participation in lifestyle sports and in the construction of identity. Drawing on multi-disciplinary perspectives, it explores how gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and location, in combination with age and stage in career, can affect lifestyle sport practices and their social meanings. In particular, this collective volume investigates the concepts of authenticity and identity in subcultural and alternative sports, exploring how individuals develop and maintain lifestyle sport identities. Every chapter presents a cutting-edge case study from around the world, covering different sports and considering key contemporary issues such as professionalisation, sports labor, digital technology and political tensions that contribute to shaping identities of lifestyle sport communities.

The volume offers an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon of femicides in Italy. The authors of different chapters wonder how it is still plausible that a woman is killed for love or jealousy, and what characteristics have the women killed and their murderers. The book is based on more than 400 cases of women killed in Italy between 2015 and 2017, analysing what speeches are held in courts and sentences, what the newspapers say about these stories, how they talk about it in the political-social sphere. A variegated picture emerges, which different spaces of public discourse in which the word “femicide” now resonates as a constant presence.

Why does the Catholic Church maintain the vow of chastity for priests? How do the seminary years transform the relationship with the sexuality of future priests? The author tries to answer these questions through a rigorous analysis of the scientific literature and through dozens of in-depth interviews with priests and people who have left the priesthood. The result is a picture of the intimate and affective life of a priestly class socialized to hide a part of existence instead of living it fully and serenely. Through a rich empirical material collected over years of field work, personal stories of pain, torment, loneliness emerge, but also a system of lies and secrets that produces dramatic consequences for priests themselves and for the whole Christian community.

The author presents a research on young people who, in their family, are the first to attend university. They represent a significant portion of the student population, but in the Italian context they have not yet been the subject of an accurate sociological analysis. The aim of the volume is to understand, through the results of a research based on in-depth interviews, the ways through which young people define, organize and give meaning to their university experience. The author, using conceptual and theoretical tools from different research traditions, provides some keys to understanding the complex mechanisms of differentiation and inequality that involve university students: specifically, the concrete ways in which cultural and social capital are produced, also on the basis of the intertwining of class, gender and racialized identities.


Despite the Policymakers support youth labor market integration, in Europe many young people continue to face unemployment, job insecurity, and the subsequent consequences. Through a theoretically informed empirical investigation and using a mixed-method and multilevel perspective, the authors of this collective volume provide a comprehensive investigation on the causes and consequences of young Europeans’ social exclusion. Drawing on rich pan-European comparative and quantitative data, and interviews with young people from across Europe, this book gives a platform to the unheard voices of young people and suggests crucial new policy recommendations on youth well-being, health, poverty, leaving the parental home, social security.