

[Recommendations]

Micol Bronzini, *Nuove forme dell'abitare. L'housing sociale in Italia*, Roma: Carocci, 2014, pp. 272, ISBN: 9788843073467.

The text of Bronzini - with a final contribution of Francesco Minora dedicated to the comparison of the collective actions of institutions in France, Italy and United Kingdom - want to address the issue of housing difficulties in our country, starting from its historical, economic and social roots. During the seven chapters of the book, the focus is on the emergence of the problem in the current times of exacerbated estate speculation and economic crisis, and analyzes the current shift of attention from “policies for house” to “policies for living”, up to investigate innovative solutions of social housing, that - with the specificities of the Italian model - are recently developing in several areas of the country.

Bruno Grancelli, *Imprese, mercati e regime amministrativo. Le architetture del capitale in Russia*, Milano: Franco Angeli, 2014, pp. 144, ISBN: 9788891706812

Based on the author's own research and evaluation, and on a review of co-evolutionary literature, the study addresses the co-evolution of institutional and organizational change in Russia. Because the reconstruction of the markets in Russia seems to be a very political and institutional process - and shortly social - the analysis focuses just on systemic transformation, especially in the aspect of big capital's architecture produced by the intertwining of relationships between political and economic elites. These relationships are analyzed in order to highlight the formation of entrepreneurship, and local development of small-size enterprise. Concluding, the book focuses on changes in state-business relations, but also with the aim of seizing the implications, yet little explored, for the forms of entrepreneurship, the spread of local environments and development.

Donatella della Porta, Alice Mattoni (editors), *Spreading Protest. Social Movements in Times of Crisis*, Colchester (UK): ECPR Press, 2014, 324 pp., ISBN:9781910259207.

Donatella Della Porta and Alice Mattoni edit this volume of great relevance on the origins and especially on the diffusion mechanisms of protest movements against austerity that spread around the world in the period from 2008 to the present. The numerous contributions hosted in the book reconstruct a convincing comparative picture of the populist protests which reacted to the dramatic economic crisis of 2008. This volume is not a simple collection of essays on the different national realities, but it offers to the scientific discussion a rich material for a renewal theory on how collective movements arise and establish themselves in an age of globalization.

Aline Sierp, *History, Memory, and Trans-European Identity: Unifying Divisions*, London/New York: Routledge, 2014, 204 pp., ISBN: 9781138786936

This volume is the first important book of a young researcher at the University of Maastricht, published on a central theme for the symbolic construction of Europe: the possibility of a transnational memory. Starting from the historical cases of Germany and Italy, Aline Sierp investigates the possibility of a European memory culture, as founding a common identity which can overcome national historic divisions. The author's position is between a positive evaluation of the processes of creation, preservation and transmission of European values, and the ascertainment of the persistent difficulties to developing a common historical memory: however, indispensable premise to proceed on the road to European unity.

Georg Simmel, *Il mediatore*, edited by Annalisa Tonarelli, Roma: Armando editore, 2014, pp.79 ISBN: 978-88-6677-812-7.

The reflection proposed by Simmel on the figure of the “mediatore” (mediator) addresses two different levels. The first concerns the contribution that the extract from the book *Sociology*, published in this volume, it may have for the understanding of sociology formal, and the contribution that it offers to the study of social dynamics. The second aspect is part of a perspective both more pragmatic and more topical. At a time when, even as a result of recent normative measures, the mediator takes on increasing importance in the extra-judicial settlement of the conflict, the need to equip these new figures with an adequate training emerges clearly: in the mediation the technique must be accompanied and completed with theoretical and epistemological assumption. Simmel’s reflection, as usual, offers a contribution easily accessible, yet extremely effective: the formal analysis of the dynamics of relationships is so universal to result a key tool for the activities of the mediator as well as of those social worker who has to manage conflicting dynamics.