

Book Review - Profiles

B. Sorgoni, *Antropologia delle migrazioni. L'età dei rifugiati*, Roma: Carocci, 2022, pp. 204, ISBN 9788829013630.

Who is considered a refugee and what distinguishes yesterday migrants from today refugees? Instead of taking these categories as taken for granted the book analyzes their origin, the multiple uses and the different political and symbolic meanings they have assumed over time. Adopting an anthropological perspective and making use of many researches already produced on forced migration, in the South and in the North of the world, the author critically reflects on the legitimacy of keeping the alleged types of mobility separate from each other (regular/illegal, voluntary/forced, economic/political), on the effects that these distinctions have on our understanding of reality and, above all, on the impact they have on the life of those who migrate.

J. Soss, R.C. Fording, S. F. Schram, *Disciplinare i poveri. Paternalismo neoliberale e dimensione razziale nel governo della povertà*, edizione italiana a cura di S. Busso ed E. Graziano, Milano: Mimesis Edizioni, 2022, pp. 582, ISBN 9788857580838.

This book, translated into Italian for the first time, deals with the transformation of the government of poverty in the last forty years in the United States, focusing on how welfare works today and how it affects people's lives. Through a careful analysis of its historical evolution, the authors highlight how the racial question still plays a central role within this system. They use various data sources to explain origins, forms and consequences of a new mode of governance of poverty that is both neoliberal – aligned with market principles – and paternalistic – based on telling the poor what is best for them. The study illustrates this new model moving from the federal level to the state and county level, up to analyzing the ways in which street-level bureaucrats manage individual cases, often through sanctioning practices.

V. Fidolini, *Uomini e diete. Cibo, maschilità, stili di vita*, Torino: Rosenberg & Sellier, 2022, pp. 122, ISBN 9791259930545.

How do food choices support gender identification processes? What links exist today between the ways of being male and the dietary practices adopted by men? Through the study of dietary regimes (vegetarian and vegan diets, fasting, reduction of meat consumption), combined with body and health care techniques, the volume questions contemporary processes of construction of masculinity in adulthood, in France and in Italy, also by exploring the asymmetries that characterize the role of men and women from the point of view of food choices. The author proposes an original empirical research which explores today's lifestyles, social inequalities in access to consumption and the unexpected intertwining of food, food choices and reconfigurations of masculinity.

A. Minello, *Non è un paese per madri*, Roma-Bari: Editori Laterza, 2022, pp. 160, ISBN 9788858148433.

As is known, Italy is a country where few children are born, the number of childless women is increasing, in addition to the fact that one becomes a mother always later in age. Why has a dimension of life that should be simple become so complicated? To answer this question, it is necessary to consider both the cultural and structural aspects that condition the choices of Italian women. As a cultural factor, the myth of motherhood exerts a strong pressure in relation to an ideal of perfection and to role expectations. Among the structural aspects, the lack of childcare services, an unequally distribution of parental leave and the job uncertainty. In this book, thanks to a

rich presentation of data, the issue is explored and some proposals are put forward to overcome the demographic crisis and to imagine a society in which professional and private life are more easily reconciled.

B. Aragona, *Algorithm Audit: Why, What, and How?*, London: Routledge, 2022, pp. 98, ISBN 9780367530914.

Seeking to increasing the social awareness of citizens, institutions and corporations with regard to the risks presented by the acritical use of algorithms in decision-making, this book explains the rationale and the methods of algorithm audit. The author provides a systematic overview of the subject, supplying readers with clear definitions and practical tools for the audit of algorithms, while also taking account of the political, business, and vocational obstacles to the development of this new field. Thi book can constitutes a crucial resource for students and researchers across the social sciences and humanities, as well as for professionals and policymakers, with concerns about the social consequences of algorithmic decision-making.

A. Bogner, S. Mennell, *Civilisations, Civilising Processes and Modernity – A Debate. Documents from the Conference at Bielefeld, 1984*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022, pp. 295, ISBN 9783030803780.

In 1984, Norbert Elias convened a major conference on Civilisations and civilising processes at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (University of Bielefeld). This book will make available, for the first time in one place, the papers presented by the conference speakers – the most distinguished and influential scholars in historical sociology and world macro-history – and, even more interestingly, the transcripts of discussions at the symposium. This highly informative encounter between various leading scholars of humanity's global social history has never before been published, although it was completely recorded on paper and in tape recordings. Its publication in one volume should be an important event for all students of the long-term structural transformations of humanity.