

PROFILES

L. Antonucci, *Student Lives in Crisis: Deepening Inequality in Times of Austerity*, Bristol: Policy Press, 2016, pp. 224, ISBN: 9781447318248

In the greatest social change of the last twenty years, about half of Europe's young people now attend university. Their lived experiences are however largely undocumented. In this book, L. Antonucci takes into account six cities and three European countries - England, Italy and Sweden - to provide the first ever comparison of the lives of university students across countries and socio-economic backgrounds. Contrasting students' resources and backgrounds, this work exposes the profound social effects of austerity and the financial crisis on young people.

D. D'Andrea, E. Donaggio, E. Pulcini, G. Turnaturi (a cura di), *Felicità italiane. Un campionario filosofico*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2016, pp. 224, ISBN: 9788815267139 .

This book introduces an in-depth and broad discussion on happiness, starting from the explicit refusal of two specific "temptations": on one hand the widespread tendency to have a sort of "operating instructions" about how to be happy; on the other hand the desire to find an answer to the metaphysical question "what is happiness?". In seventeen short essays, the book presents a sample of what makes us happy today, taking into account where people (Italians, in particular) seek happiness. Ranging from love to religion, from fashion to politics, from food to the smartphone, from the home to drugs - to mention only some of the addressed issues - the authors provide an inventory of the expectations of happiness, including old stereotypes but also some surprising new items.

L. Gilliam, E. Gulløv, *Children of the Welfare State: Civilising Practices in Schools, Childcare and Families*, London: Pluto Press, 2016, pp. 304, ISBN: 9780745336046

This book explores the civilizing projects of children's institutions. By combining sociologist Norbert Elias' concept of civilising with a detailed ethnographic study of everyday practices in schools, day care institutions and families, the authors offer an original anthropological and sociological contribution on children, education and the welfare state. Focusing on Denmark, a country characterised by the extent of time children spend in public care, the book looks at the extraordinary amount of attention and effort put into the process of upbringing by professionals and parents. Investigating a sequential range of children's institutions, the authors analyse the ideals of proper conduct and examine how children of different age, gender, ethnicity and social backgrounds experience and react to these norms and efforts.

S. Loyal, *Bourdieu's Theory of the State. A Critical Introduction*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 153, ISBN: 9781137583499

This book critically examines Pierre Bourdieu's theory of the state by assessing its theoretical and empirical value. The author expertly situates Bourdieu's work within the context of both classical and modern theories of the state, providing a comprehensive frame of reference. Loyal discusses Bourdieu's theoretical limitations and projects how his theory of the state might be utilized in the future.

A. Marradi, a cura di, *Oltre il complesso d'inferiorità: Un'epistemologia per le scienze sociali*, Milano: F. Angeli, 2016

The debate among sociologists, psychologists and political scientists on the unit or the difference of method between natural sciences and human and social sciences has lost the importance it had in the past. The editor of this volume posed the issue during the first Latin American Congress of Methodology, inviting colleagues to debate and take position. The result was this anthology, whose curator submit the project to the scientific community to formulate a social sciences epistemology, in the vocabulary and in the method not dependent from the natural sciences.

Rattansi, *Bauman and Contemporary Sociology. A Critical Analysis*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017, pp. 304, ISBN: 9781526105875

This is the first single-authored critical engagement with the major works of Zygmunt Bauman. The author sheds light on key themes in the sociologist's work, exposing serious weaknesses in Bauman's interpretations of the Holocaust, Western modernity, consumerism, globalisation and the nature of sociology. The book shows how Eurocentrism, the neglect of gender issues and a lack of awareness of the racism faced by Europe's non-white ethnic minorities seriously limit Bauman's analyses of Western societies. At the same time, it points to Bauman's insistence on the need for sociologists to take a moral stance in favour of the world's poor and downtrodden.

P Scotton, E. Zucchi (eds), *Tracing the Path of Tolerance. History and Critique from the Early Modern Period to the Present Day*, Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016, pp. 185, ISBN: 9781443897648

In the globalized, postmodern world, the production of encounters and crashes between dissimilar cultures, ways of life, and systems of values has drastically increased in number. More and more frequently, they originate harsh conflicts, exhibiting the existence of alternative and apparently incompatible ways of living and thinking – culturally, religiously, economically and politically speaking. In this context, words as tolerance and intolerance have been put at the heart of the political debate. However, what is the real meaning of these political concepts? Why did they originate and how did the developed over time? Do they still represent a valid resource for comprehending our current societies and dealing with them? Through the different voices of several scholars in the humanities, this book traces the history of tolerance since the wars of religion to the contemporary age, combining historical reconstruction with a theoretical and critical analysis of the idea and practice of tolerance in different epochs and places.