

PROFILES

D. Arcidiacono, M. Avola, R. Palidda, *Mafia, estorsioni e regolazione dell'economia nell'altra Sicilia*, Milano: Franco Angeli, 2016, pp. 240, ISBN 9788891744135

This book is focused on the diffusion and processes of extortions in a Eastern Sicily area, in times of economic crisis but in a context characterized by recent clear successes in contrasting the Mafia's activities. By making use of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, authors explore different dimensions of the phenomenon of extortion and its influence on the patterns of regulation of the local economy, exploring empirically the mafia's *modus operandi* between orientation to business, exercise of power and control capacity of the territory.

P. Jedlowski, *Memorie del futuro. Uno sguardo tra sociologia e studi culturali*, Roma: Carocci, 2017, pp. 116, ISBN 9788843086313

The book proposes an original reflection on the memory of the future at the intersection between sociology and cultural studies. Individuals and groups can imagine what will happen in the future and they have memories of future ideas imagined in the past. P. Jedlowski through the use of individual and generational stories, examples from literature and cinema explores some representations of things already happened, inviting the reader to compare the current situation and the ways in which the future has been imagined in the past. The current crisis is in fact related to the perception that the future is no longer what it was once: what did we expect and why facts haven't really gone as expected?

N. Gabriel, *The Sociology of Early Childhood. Critical Perspectives*, London: Sage, 2017, pp. 192, ISBN 9781446272992

In this book N. Gabriel introduces a relational approach to the study of early childhood and covers some key issues for a deeper understanding of the importance of young children's experiences in the contemporary society. The author provides an overview of historical and sociological approaches on childhood, arguing that a sociology of early childhood should bring together different disciplines and integrate multi-disciplinary research findings on the lives of young children. Through illustrative examples and case studies, N. Gabriel explains to readers the relevance of some key theoretical concepts emphasizing in particular the importance of play, memory and place.

E. Armano, A. Murgia, M. Teli (eds), *Platform Capitalism e confini del lavoro negli spazi digitali*, Milano-Udine: Mimesis Edizioni, 2017, pp. 144, ISBN 978-88-5753-422-0

The volume takes into account the transformations and configurations of work in the era of platform capitalism, discussing some possible forms of resistance in digital spaces. The authors take on a critical perspective on digitization-mediated processes of value-generation and how their boundaries are socially constructed. Compared to the 1990s, today digital spaces have significantly changed with a multiplication of closed spaces where access to contents is no longer free but subject to different forms of control. In this new framework, the boundaries of work - and the related social practices - are radically redefined: the volume focuses on such dynamics and proposes a discussion of possible intervention lines.

H. Korte (author), S. Ernst (eds), *On Norbert Elias - Becoming a Human Scientist*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2017, pp. 237, ISBN 978-3-658-17352-4

“On Norbert Elias” is focused on sociological, biographical and intellectual background of the genesis of Elias’s process-theory. The book examines and retraces the history of Elias’ most famous and important work “Process of Civilization” in close relation to the historical and biographical context. The book starts with Elias’ childhood and intellectual background and provides a picture of the development of German sociology in early 20th century up to the World War 2.

J. Haut, P. Dolan, D. Reicher, R. Sánchez García (eds), *Excitement Processes: Norbert Elias’s unpublished works on sports, leisure, body, culture*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2017, pp. 322, ISBN: 9783658149116

This book contains some of the most important of Elias’s writings that have remained hitherto unpublished. It contains four papers by Elias himself - “Spontaneity and self-consciousness”, “Fragments on sportisation”, “Boxing and duelling”, “The ‘rediscovery’ of the body” - together with essays on them by leading scholars of the present day with in-depth discussions on the main following topics: leisure and culture; sportisation and modernization; sport, violence and state formation; the body.

L. Brancaccio, *I clan di camorra. Genesi e storia*, Roma: Donzelli, 2017, pp. 146, ISBN: 9788868435813

This book is focused on the processes of formation of some Camorra clans over the period from the Second World War to today. By describing some stories of prominent bosses and families L. Brancaccio sheds light on the complex steps leading to the formation of organized criminal groups. The author draws attention to the social contexts in which leadership and forms of violent entrepreneurship have emerged in connection with the historical conditions and the opportunities structure offered in particular by some legal and illegal markets. He emphasizes the condition of instability of the Camorra groups, the frequent transitions towards new equilibriums, the trend to more complex organizational configurations and to less clear boundaries between organized groups and contexts in which they emerge and reproduce themselves.

