

Book Review - Profiles

A. Genova, *Disabilità. Tra barriere istituzionali e violenza simbolica*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2023, pp. 280, ISBN: 9788815383815.

The book explores the link between the processes of social construction of disability and welfare services. The author shows how the rights of people with disabilities are blurred as both in school as well as in residential or home assistance services an aid, guarding, biomedical, paternalistic logic still prevails with the effect of perpetuating a symbolic violence as pervasive as not very visible. The volume offers a sociological perspective that outlines the new challenges for the Italian welfare system in face of the paradigm shift introduced with the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

K. Hoskins, C. Genova, N. Crowe (eds.), *Digital Youth Subcultures Performing 'Transgressive' Identities in Digital Social Spaces*, London: Routledge, 2023, pp. 208, ISBN: 9780367672157.

This book draws together both empirical research and existing literature to examine transgressive subcultural activities and engagement in digital social spaces. Authors explore how young peoples' subcultures arise online and they are experienced, taking into consideration the influence of class, gender and ethnicity and/or their intersections on young peoples' engagement and behavior in digital social spaces. In addressing these objectives with a focus on European contributions, the text provides a holistic understanding of the purpose of digital social spaces in shaping young peoples' identities and self-perceptions.

F.R. Lenzi, *La sede dell'identità. L'Europa come laboratorio in Norbert Elias*, Roma: Carocci, 2023, pp. 238, ISBN: 9788829018857.

The book traces the biographical and intellectual profile of Norbert Elias through the history of the twentieth century in an interweaving of experiences that progressively define the great themes of his research. The old continent is the laboratory in which the process of civilization – the central nucleus of his thought – is expressed in a progressive sense but also the context in which it can stop definitively. Elias's latest works give us back the image of a vigilant conscience that presages the imminence of a catastrophe if Europe is not able to decode and deal with the historical knots that cross it with awareness and responsibility.

R. Siza, *The Welfare of the Middle Class. Changing Relations in European Welfare States*, Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2022, pp. 156, ISBN: 9781447359999.

In many European countries, processes of individualisation have contributed to transforming the middle class into a multitude of people, a sort of 'middle mass' with an unstable social identity and radical activism. The different "worlds" of European welfare states seem progressively less able to manage this new kind of middle-class activism. This book is an essential contribution to ongoing public and academic debates on the unpredictability of middle-class attitudes and on their changing relations with the welfare state. Identifying key trends in the literature, it considers the impact of recent welfare reforms on the needs and preferences of the middle class.

P.-A. Taguieff, *Complottismo*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2023, pp. 136, ISBN: 9788815383662.

In recent years some dramatic global events such as the pandemic, the war, the economic crisis have been accompanied by a relevant diffusion of conspiracy theories consisting of a set of dubious or false explanations that

oppose the official theses. However, beyond the effective presence of individuals or groups who act in secret to carry out a project of domination or exploitation, there seems to be a shared and growing difficulty in giving meaning to traumatic events. In this volume, the author shows how conspiracy stories respond to a need for sense and coherence: that of an invisible and diabolical enemy explaining all the misfortunes of people.