

Book Review - Profiles



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G. Belloni, A. Vesco, *Come pesci nell'acqua. Mafia, impresa e politica in Veneto*, Roma: Donzelli, 2018, pp. 210, ISBN 9788868437343.

The authors retrace the history and geography of the the mafia presence in Veneto, in order to shed light on contextual factors favourin the meeting between members of the organized crime and the political and entrepreneurial fabric of this North-East Italian Region. The interactions between Mafia groups, economy and politics in this region are structured in peculiar forms and strongly depend on some widespread entrepreneurial practices. The authors take into consideration four different case study to show how these practices are made particularly evident by the dynamics of exchange between mafia actors and economic actors. In this perspective, the mafias become a useful point of observation to frame the broader transformations having characterized the local economic and political system during the recent financial crisis.

R. Sennett, *Costruire e abitare. Etica per la città*, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2018, pp. 364, ISBN 9788807105357.

With this volume, Richard Sennett completes his trilogy concerning the role of *homo faber* in society. In this case the analysis is centered mainly, but not only, on the urban context. The author's gaze lingers on the urban scene, considered in the dual and differentiated definition of *cit * and *ville*, and on a whole series of concatenations, which only at first sight may seem distant and marginal, in the typical style of the American sociologist. Throughout the book Sennett opposes the city, seen as an open and healthy laboratory, to the closed community: an open city is a city «that is already in us and waiting for us» whose ethics (and strength) appears based on the multiplicity, heterogeneity of experiences and on the richness of meanings.

E. Pugliese, *Quelli che se ne vanno. La nuova emigrazione italiana*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2018, pp. 160, ISBN 1609788815274847.

In his last book, Pugliese investigates the causes and trends of Italy's negative migratory balance. In addition to considering the impact of "brain drain" among younger generations, the author shows that the difficulties of a demographic change are due to migratory movements that also affect other sectors of the population. Many industry and construction workers have been pushed by the recent economic crisis to look for jobs in other European countries, but the emigration of retirees to low-cost destinations is not negligible. At the territorial level, one of the regions with the highest

number of emigrants is Lombardy, which is an historical area of immigration, and in the Southern Italy, where unemployment rates continue to remain high, there is a real “demographic tsunami”.

B. Górnicka, *Nekedness, shame and embarrassment. A long-term sociological perspective*, Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH, 2016, pp. 195, ISBN 9783658159832.

Barbara Górnicka introduces an historical and sociological analysis of the problems surrounding naked bodies. She discusses on why people have connected nakedness to feelings of shame, highlighting the often very complex and paradoxical emotions that have been associated with nakedness in the Western world for centuries. The book takes into consideration also reasons at the basis of perception of nakedness as sexual and erotic. Furthermore, referring to the classic works of Elias, Goffman, Freud and others, the author presents a theoretical explanation of the evolution of the nakedness concept over time.

M. D’Eramo, *Il selfie del mondo. Indagine sull’età del turismo*, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2017, pp. 256, ISBN 9788807105272.

In this book, Marco d’Eramo wonders about the economic and social phenomenon of tourism, “the most important industry of the new century”, an activity that is omnipresent in the life of a large mass of people, moves capital, redesigns the architecture of cities and affects our existence in society. With his research the author traces the origins of the tourist phenomenon, observing its evolution up to the present day. The birth of the age of tourism relives through the voices of the first big globetrotters and arrives up to the current tourist industry, in which tourists make up the market and cities compete to win a slice of it. Tourism is presented as the problem of modernity: people, in every moment of their lives, move in search of an authenticity of the places that their same own research activity renders inaccessible and inauthentic.