

Book Review - Profiles



Citation: doi: 10.13128/cambio-24954

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Data Availability Statement: All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

Competing Interests: The Author(s) declare(s) no conflict of interest.

J. Dagnes, *Ai posti di comando. Individui, organizzazioni e reti nel capitalismo finanziario italiano*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2018, pp. 192, ISBN 9788815279194.

In this sociological research on the assets of Italian financial capitalism, the author explores an invisible network linking groups and companies that are – apparently – in competition with each other. This study, in particular, is focused on a network of 60 managers and professionals simultaneously present in various boards of companies listed on the Stock Exchange. The book exposes some features and the structure of this network, showing how the most relevant companies under the point of view of economic performances tend to connect with each other, creating a net able to direct the Italian financial market. Through in-depth interviews with the select group of “big linkers”, Dagnes investigates the importance of personal relationships and individual career strategies in determining the functioning of corporate bodies, decision-making processes and the balance of power among different actors involved.

Chambost, M. Lenglet, Y. Tadjeddine (eds.), *The making of finance. Perspective from the social sciences*, London: Routledge, 2018, pp.308, ISBN 9781138498563.

Relying on a variety of theoretical frameworks drawn from the social sciences, the contributions included in this book offer a critical perspective on the dominant paradigms used in contemporary financial activities. Contributions presented in this volume are from authors working within the ‘social studies of finance’ tradition, a research programme emerged twenty years ago with the aim of addressing a diversity of financial field-works and related theoretical questions. The whole set of contributions let the reader shift attention to different areas that are representative of contemporary financial realities. Through different detailed studies of financial employees (traders, salespeople, intermediaries, investment managers, financial analysts, investment consultants, etc.) and financial instruments (financial schemes and contracts, financial derivatives, socially responsible investment funds, as well as market rules and regulations), the contributors analyse ‘finance in the making’, by shedding light on the structuring of banking and financial systems, on their capacity to prescribe action and control, on their modes of regulation and, more generally, on the process of financialisation.

M. Colucci, *Storia dell'immigrazione straniera in Italia. Dal 1945 ai giorni nostri*, Roma: Carocci, 2018, pp. 243, ISBN 9788843093014.

The author provides a historical reconstruction of foreign immigration in Italy, starting from 1945 up to the most recent and current transformations of the phenomenon. The volume shows the quantitative dimension of foreign migrations to Italy highlighting the changes and evolution over time, the rooting in the territory, the policies adopted by institutions, the controversies that have arisen in the public and political debate, the impact of immigrants on local societies. Colucci takes different sources in order to retrace the history of foreign immigration: from social investigations to political debate, from personal testimonies to the statistics, from institutional archives to newspapers. What comes to light through the book is the multifaceted profile of a great transformation, that is essential to know as crucial step for a better understanding of the Italian today society.

E. Kraus (ed.), *Tight Knit. Global families and the social life of fast fashion*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018, pp. 314, ISBN 9780226558073.

Krause offers a revelatory look into how families involved in the fashion industry are coping with globalization based on long-term research in Prato, the historic hub of textile production in the heart of metropolitan Tuscany. She brings to the fore the tensions – over value, money, beauty, family, care, and belonging – that are reaching a boiling point as the country struggles to deal with the same migration pressures that are triggering backlash all over Europe and North America. *Tight Knit* tells a fascinating story about the heterogeneity of contemporary capitalism that can interest social scientists, immigration experts, and anyone curious about how globalization is changing the most basic among human conditions: making a living and making a life.

S. Bertolini (a cura di), *Giovani senza futuro? Insicurezza lavorativa e autonomia nell'Italia di oggi*, Roma: Carocci, 2018, pp. 216, ISBN 9788843093274.

The representation of young Italians as “bamboccioni” - recurrent in the media and revived in the speech of some politicians - does not account for the complexity of the interaction among many cultural, institutional and economic factors affecting the transition to adulthood. The contributions of this volume provide a composite picture of the multiple current challenges faced by youth, between the desires of a desirable job and the need for autonomy. Through the analysis of quantitative data and the collection of almost 400 interviews in nine different European countries, the book explores these issues focusing on the peculiarities of Italian society, such as the late exit from the family of origin and the efforts of youth to build a career in an increasingly flexible labor market. The analysis of the Italian situation opens up a final discussion on policies to support young people and on the need to guarantee the new generations the possibility of building a better future.

S. Floriani, P. Rebughini (a cura di), *Sociologia e vita quotidiana. Sulla costruzione della contemporaneità*, Nocera Inferiore: Orthotes Editrice, 2018, pp. 172, ISBN 9788893141710.

This book focuses on “sociology and daily life”, referring to everyday life as an epistemic, theoretical and methodological key issue, and not as a simple area of interest for the social sciences, ie the sociology of everyday life. The book intends to revisit the theme “daily life” beyond its more consolidated research fields, linked to the phenomenological, interactionist and dramaturgical perspectives, investigating in particular the reconceptualization and the renewal of more conventional themes for the study of daily life - such as space-time coordinates, housing, the ordinary, routines and common sense - but also more collateral issues such as material culture and the relationship with objects, social change and the possible, the symbolic sphere, the role of Eurocentrism, cultural pluralism and the perspectives developed by postcolonial studies.

L. Wirth, *L'interazione sociale. Il problema dell'individuo e del gruppo*, Calimera: Kurumuny Edizioni, 2018, pp. 60, ISBN 9788885863330.

“Social interaction: the problem of the individual and the group” (1939) is an essay analysing the work carried out

during the “American Journal of Sociology” Symposium on “The individual and the group”, highlighting from different points of view one of the main problems for the sociological theory. Wirth’s work on social interaction has tended to capture his interest in how people develop relationships with other people and/or influence others or are influenced by them, in relation to an identity that is not given once for all but is built continuously. Wirth does not draw a definition of unequivocal and definitive social interaction. The readers can instead note how the dimension of the relationship cannot be detached from the meeting between an ego and a group, and from a specific social and cultural context. The context is an organized construction of values, norms and sanctions that allows actors to recognize themselves in a group and in a specific relational context, without which there would be no interaction, reciprocity and relationship.