

Book Review - Profiles

Lorenzo Picarella, *Criminalità in rete. Dalle piattaforme illegali alle cybermafie*, Donzelli, Roma, 2025

In the digital era of Web 4.0 and the platform society, cyberspace plays an increasingly central role not only in shaping social interactions, politics, occupations, and business but also in criminal activities. In recent years, investigators and cybersecurity experts have observed both a rise in cybercriminal operations conducted by structured groups and a growing online presence of traditional mafias. In light of these developments, can we speak of cyber-organized crime? This volume seeks to answer this question by examining, from both a sociological and legal perspective, how organized crime is evolving in the digital age. The study is based on a diverse body of empirical evidence, including judicial investigations into online communities of pedophiles, cryptomarkets, hacktivist networks, phishing groups, organizations providing illegal streaming services, companies engaged in the theft and commercialization of confidential information, and mafia clans involved in the gambling industry. The resulting landscape is highly heterogeneous, making it challenging to encapsulate these different phenomena within a single conceptual framework. At one end of the spectrum, there is an emerging form of platform-based criminality that operates entirely online, exhibiting unique characteristics and raising new interpretative dilemmas. At the other end, traditional mafias – though increasingly interested in cybercrime – remain fundamentally anchored in the physical world.

Mariella Popolla, Daniela Bagattini, *Violenza maschile sulle donne. Il ruolo dell'assistente sociale tra sfide e opportunità*, Genova University Press, Genova, 2024

The book aims to provide future social workers with a valuable tool for understanding and developing intervention strategies regarding male violence against women. Current literature rarely presents this issue in an organic and coherent manner from the perspective of social services. Instead, it often relies on techniques and tools from other disciplines that are not directly applicable to the specific needs of social work. Social services increasingly play a crucial role in coordinating pathways for individuals seeking to escape violence, connecting various professionals, and mobilizing resources available in local communities. Addressing violence requires continuous training, which should be fostered through participation in a community of practice. Additionally, it is essential to engage in dialogue with various stakeholders in the community who are involved in addressing gender-based violence, particularly those at Anti-Violence Centers.

Elia A. G. Arfini, *Che cos'è l'intersezionalità*, Carocci, Roma, 2024

The concept of intersectionality was introduced in 1989 by U.S. jurist and activist Kimberlé Crenshaw and is today essential for understanding how various forms of inequality, such as gender, race, class, sexuality, age, and ability, interact with one another, shaping social identities and systems of oppression and privilege. This volume explores the roots and implications of intersectionality, highlighting its significance in the humanities, social sciences, and political and scientific discussions. Through a combination of theory, historical context, and case studies, it demonstrates how intersectionality can illuminate the intricate factors contributing to discrimination and inform efforts to promote equity, inclusion, and justice.

Tommaso Frangioni, *Investimento sociale e politiche abitative*, Carocci, Roma, 2024

This volume offers a critical reflection on the reference model underpinning European social policies — the social investment approach — by examining its complex relationship with neoliberalism. It focuses in particular on the temporary emergency housing policies developed in the city of Turin, analyzed through research on local social services and selected third-sector organizations operating in the area. The empirical material is interpreted through an analytical lens that highlights the interplay between discourses and practices through which the principles of social investment have become embedded in the local institutional repertoire, with tangible effects on the implementation of housing policies. At the core of the study is the temporariness of housing interventions, which is explored in relation to processes of responsabilization and activation of beneficiaries. This perspective also opens up a broader reflection on the role of ideas in shaping social policy.