

NA 3-2010

Editoriale: La comunicazione informativa bidirezionale/The bi-directed informative communication (*D.P. Errigo*)

Editoriale: The Challenge – Re-orienting Process: Order from Noise (*M.R Astolfi*)

WCSA - World Complexity Science Academy: First Conference (*the WCSA President*)

WCSA - First Conference: Presentation

WCSA - First Conference: Abstracts

IACR (International Association for Critical Realism) - Annual Conference 2010: Presentation
La Sociologia come scienza sistemica complessa (*A. Pitasi*)

Realismo Critico Archeriano, Costruttivismo e nuova Teoria dei Sistemi: verso un linguaggio condiviso?/Archer's Critical Realism, Constructivism and new Systems Theory: towards a shared language? (*S. D'Alessandro*)

Abstract

Is it possible to offer a koiné between different paradigms? Can the rift between individual agency and structural dynamics be mended? Is it feasible to build a meta-reflexive bridge between micro and macro? Reflexivity and morphogenesis, two key concepts in the work of Margaret S. Archer, can become metaphorical pathways between Critical Realism, Constructivism and New Systems Theory. In Archer's thinking, "no reflexivity; no society", differences in people's paths through life derive from human reflexivity, a faculty which is realised through internal conversation, where people continuously think over their situation and redefine their interests and plans. Reflexivity acts as mediator between societal structure and personal agency, explaining the different ways in which we "make our way through the world" (Archer, 2009). Archer's reflexivity classification shares interesting points of contact with Luhmann's systems theory, which proposes its own reflexive sociology – here, of course, the term reflexive is used with other meanings – starting from a different path, but reaching conclusions analogous to those of Archer. Reflexivity and morphogenesis, albeit used with different meanings, characterise and substantiate a great many contemporary authors who are driven to a new conceptualisation of social phenomena, a need which consciously enters the same process of social theory revision that transversely involves other authors beside those already cited: Touraine, Giddens, Bauman and Beck. Reflexivity and morphogenesis seem, therefore, to be a hyphen which can hold together macro and micro instances of numerous paradigms: from Constructivism to New Systems Theory (Buckley, Luhmann), to the Deterministic Chaos theories (Prigogine), to Critical Realism.

Senso sistemico e senso relazionale: il contributo del realismo critico alla global governance (*I. S. Germano*)

Abstract

Globalization increasingly mobilizes the whole heritage of cultures in time as it no longer depends on the governance patterns and forces consolidated to reflect on the concept of meaning in sociology. The sense takes on a meaning, in some ways, the conventional focus on individuals more and more individualized in continuous self-adjustment of the system environment, such changes without order and cancellation of culture. The point of the characteristic is a highly improbable event. The critical issue concerns the relational-posting from the set of relationships and ethical responsibility, aimed at the common good relationally generated, for which it can operate the way to investigating the human relationship, as an active agent, and reflective. The analysis tool will be critical sociological realism that puts the "why" of life experience of people, in light of ultimate concerns.

The «systemic communication» between Social and Media Systems – Theoretical aspects in the Niklas Luhmann's work (*M. Infante*)

Abstract

The communication process is currently invading and pervading the public sphere, the transmission of cultural models, the political participation and the relation between countries. Why are we registering this enormous development of communi-

cation technology? Which is the logic at the base of this social process? Through the works and thoughts of Niklas Luhmann, we define the nature of the communication process, the medium as system, the individual as a Psychic System, and their relation. We use the conceptual frame of cybernetics (observation of second order, cognitive construction), cognitive evolution biology (autopoiesis, double contingency, systemic evolution) and information theory concepts (information, code and encode, noise) in order to analyze the role and function of Media System. Finally, we show how the reduction of complexity operated by the Media System permits the communication between the Social Systems through Media System and his influence on society. Based on the last media research debates, this paper proposes a new lexicon (expectation, communicative event, social systemic meanings, self-observing) for understanding media.

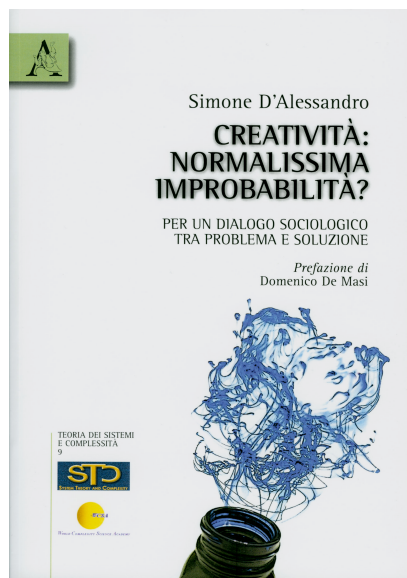
The self-employment programs and gender inequalities: the ambiguities of activation in Italy (G. Marini)

Abstract

The activation policies in Italy have followed a “substitution welfare” path. In the second part of the 90s Italian reforms were aimed to rise the employment rates, especially for women. By doing so the activation labour policies have been reckoned as the main way to help new outsiders and weak workers to get a job. As a result, the Italian way to flexicurity has been developed as a dual system based on strong employees from one side, and weak workers from the other side. Basically only the latter were asked to risk. This assumption of self-reliance justifies the choice of the evaluation of the self-employment and entrepreneurship programs (Measure7) as the most risks-taking policy. It is assumed that the Italian context cannot adopt the same policies of other countries wishing to have the same impacts and that similar programs foster totally different impacts: in favour or against the goal of gender equality. This new implicit contract between citizens and welfare state looks to be ambiguous and based on the commodification of labour force. Primary data concerning attitudes are discussed in order to understand if and how women are pushed to become self-employed.

Recensioni:

Creatività: normalissima improbabilità? (a cura di G. Marini)



Simone d'Alessandro

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