

Summaries in English of some articles

The Untimely considerations (Unzeitigemässige Betrachtungen) of Nietzsche versus the popular success of Wagner

Giuliano Campioni

The essay deals with the various and complex reasons that led to the separation between Nietzsche and Wagner; it recalls the last attempt of the philosopher to remind the musician to his juvenile ideals far from a religion of the art and from the agreement with the pangermanism of the Reich.

The “genius” is characterized by the relation with the mythical people’s unity and by the extraneousness from the social machinism and the cultural Philistinism. The term “untimely” as an opposing attitude towards one’s own time shall appear as an expression of youthful lack of experience and also of real weakness.

After the break with the music composer the term disappears from the philosopher lexicon because of its ties with the polemical position of Schopenhauer and Wagner who appear more and more updated. And also the term ‘philistine’, central in the critiques of the Untimely considerations, can be only rarely found in less relevant contexts. These issues are at the center of the ‘Untimely considerations’ and are examined in their context and in their gradual crisis.

Public Emotions in an Age of Mass Media

E. Doyle McCarthy

Classical social theories (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel) examined changes in the ways that modern people were connected to one another, to groups, and to their communities and how various types of social groups and communities were integrated or held together. Benedict Anderson and others located the first major changes in modern social relationships with the dissemination of print media (pamphlets, newspapers) in the development of the new nation-states of the nineteenth century; print media allowed for ideas and images to shape people across large geographical areas and to find common influence in these printed images and reports; the new print media effectively changed people’s experiences, identities, and emotions such as the experience of belonging to others and to groups at a distance. Today’s ‘identities’ and ‘communities’ are being changed again by postmodern forms of digital media and technologies: changes in people’s experiences of space and time; their experiences of ‘simultaneity’; the experiences of these as ‘close’ and ‘personal’ topics that have important implications for collective emotions and identities and for the increase of public displays of emotions in postmodern societies: the growth of sports and entertainment spectacles; political campaigns and conventions; the rise of new public forums to engage participants as spectator-performers.

The Power of Loss and Necropolitics. About the Religious Martyrdom as Self-Sacrifice and as an Act of War

Enzo Pace

The figure of martyrdom is a disturbing icon of our times. The self-immolation is not only finalized to fight an enemy but to affirm the submission to a supreme will of a god. Martyrdom

becomes an act of self-murder – in full sense a suicide – which allows effectively killing as many people as possible. In the suicide attack the body blows himself up to hit the enemy. The author of the attack knows that in fact the victims will also and especially unarmed civilians and even people who belong to his religious faith. The transformation of martyrdom as a testimony of faith in the offensive mass weapon in the new contemporary wars can be studied by analyzing not only the senile disease of fundamentalist movements, but also taking up the theme of altruistic suicide, as it has been set by Durkheim and suicide as a power of loss according to Bataille.

Reflections on «La critica sociologica»

Enzo Mingione

In this brief contribution Enzo Mingione remembers his encounters with «La critica sociologica». As a young researcher in the Seventies he published in the journal two articles which have been extremely important in shaping his intellectual and academic profile. The first one was the result of a research on urban social movements and conflicts in Milan. The second one was on social classes in Italy. Later on he continued to read and contribute to «La critica» particularly on topics that have been the objects of his research interest like the transformation of work and the experience of international migrants. The author underlines that the journal has always maintained a high degree of openness to young and critical researchers which has favoured the consolidation of a line of critical studies in Italian sociology.

A life experience that marks scientific identities

Arta Musaraj

Today's scientific environment and particularly that of social sciences faces different challenges which vary from that of defining the field of research, if we consider the tremendous evolution in our society and on human behavior as a consequence of this, up to how to make valid, for the improvement of our communities, the results of this research.

And obviously, the platforms of scientific publications, which become the stage of this performance, are mandated also to be the standards' keeper, not just referring the publication standards, but being the guardian of the scientific dimensions of a work, which claims to be so.

«La critica sociologica» is all of them.

The role of this journal in the reflecting our society's needs and its evolutive processes, by giving voice to communities and nations which seek to progress and keep their identities, the role of those who must articulate needs and foresee developments, but at the same time give solutions with the mind and spirit of the scientist, the major contributions of «La critica sociologica» in shaping the identity of the new millennium' scientific journal, are some of the main issues that this paper addresses.

Ferrarotti, La critica sociologica and the 'Periferie'

Enrico Pugliese

The essays published by «La critica sociologica» offer precious material for the understanding of the city of Rome thanks to the quality of the analysis, the large amount of documentation and the special research approach. Since its beginning «La critica» has been strictly connected to the research work of Franco Ferrarotti and there has been a complementarity between the articles published by «La critica» and the books written by its director. The field research and

also the theoretical work on the city have been devoted to Rome and in particular to its 'periferie', the peripheral boroughs originally inhabited by proletarian and marginal strata. Beside the analysis of the life and culture of this urban population, the work of Ferrarotti and of the contributors of «La critica» analyzes also the relationships between the areas where these people (originally immigrants) live and the areas inhabited by the upper class sectors of the population. Two main aspects characterize this research work: on the one hand the interest for the class structure of the city and of the power relations between center and peripheries, on the other hand a successful effort to give voice to the people (also in a technical material sense though the use of the tape recorder since the beginning in the sixties).

Ferrarotti and «La critica» have produced an unique contribution to the sociological understanding of the city of Roma. Neglected aspect of the social transformation of the country such as peculiarities of the southern Italian immigration in Rome in the fifties and in the sixties are known thanks to their work.