

Summary

The «Meridiana» co-editors and vice-directors resignations open a discussion on the review's future.

Salvatore Lupo
The Moro's ghost

The new Marco Bellocchio's picture *Buongiorno notte* provokes these Salvatore Lupo's short afterthoughts upon the Moro case – that is to say his seizure, imprisonment and killing – and on the important meanings of these facts in the recent Italian history.

Antonio Nicita
*International commerce and global consent:
kicking away the world ladder*

Recent failure of the Wto conference in Cancun has shown the emergence of a pervasive opposition to the unique view of the so-called Washington Consensus. The author examines recent developments in international commercial agreements in the light of a recent work by H. Chang. Chang suggests that economic evolution of now-developed countries differed dramatically from the procedures that they now recommend to poorer nations, attempting to «kick away the ladder» by which they have climbed up thereby preventing poorer countries to follow. This old story seems to be still in place.

Angela Barbanente
*Spatial images and possible territories
in the southern Adriatic region*

This paper explores multiple meanings of spatial images in the field of urban studies and how these images are linked to possibilities for territorial change. Two case-studies are investigated, which refer to significant processes under way in the Southern Adriatic region. They stimulate reflections on the illusions of shared visions and the risks of univocal visions in planning practice, and thus on the

need to encourage multiple visions that recognize the plurality of possible world-views and local experiences in contemporary societies. In the final section, the paper elaborates on the role of spatial images as resources in governance contexts and the need of creative efforts to develop shared images of the transfrontier Southern Adriatic region in order to construct a space of co-existence in a «region of difference».

Cristina Bianchetti
The adriatic city

Seen from above the Adriatic city appears as an indifferent portion of a vast agglomerate that borders the western Adriatic coastal area and continues along Emilia. Seen at close range, at very close range, the Adriatic city appears to be made of soil, earth, patch. Seen from the practices the Adriatic city has other configurations. First and foremost, an extraordinary density of space is evident. There is a density of practices as well as a density of things that arise due to a juxtaposition and overlay of gardens, garages, sheds, backyard workshops and dwelling places for the self, one's children and one's parents. This paper tries to describe these densities, alternations, ambiguities and oppositions. It tries to describe this skill in order to utilize what one has, or more simply how to best signify (via the organization of personal space) what one actually is or can do.

Emilio Cocco
Identities and Migrations in the Adriatic Region. Two possible Keywords to Read Development Problems in a Frontier Area

The author tries to define a theoretical path to approach the complexity of development's processes in the Adriatic region, which is nowadays undergoing simultaneous trends of integration and conflict in the frame of an increasing globalization/localization tendency. The twofold relation between migrations and identity-making strategies is pointed out as suitable reference point to describe and interpret actual problems occurring in the Adriatic region, whose sustainable and integrated development is bound to its frontier character. In this perspective, the author suggest to deal with many of the old and new social trends in the context of a symbolic and physical space of encounters, clashes and shifts of people and borders. Thus, only considering the Adriatic as a specific frontier area, it would be possible to tackle properly the issue of development and to avoid the historical risks of isolation and colonisation.

Franco Botta and Michele Capriati
The value of proximity. Balkan's transition and Adriatic regions development

The paper analyses the development opportunities coming from the relationship between Italian Adriatic regions and Balkan countries. The authors suggest that policies arising from complementarities of production, local development and proximity, should be explored. Moreover, the study shows recent economic

changes taking place in Countries in transition which concern income, exports and imports, and direct foreign investments from Italian regions to Balkan countries. The conclusions point out that these changes have influenced the local development models of Italian Adriatic regions.

Giovanna Morelli and Valeria Del genio
Finance and development of SMEs along the Adriatic ridge

The enlargement process of the European Union towards Central and Eastern European countries represents a new stimulus for the Italian enterprises, especially for the ones along the Adriatic ridge. The aim of the paper is to analyse paths of development for the small-medium enterprises (SMEs) through the identification of possible factors that may substantially improve the conditions of their access to finance. We propose a synthetic critical appraisal of the main characteristics of the Italian productive system focusing on small enterprises and, in particular, on the artisan ones, and on related implications between credit market and growth. Moreover, the existing interrelations between local development and opportunities driven by the financial markets through traditional channels and innovating instruments are investigated. A particular emphasis is given to the guarantees system devoted to SMEs in their relationship with the banking system. An empirical survey on a 500 sample of enterprises localized in three provinces of the Adriatic ridge (Treviso, Teramo and Lecce), especially focused on financing opportunities in the perspective of EU enlargement, concludes the paper.

Pasquale Iuso
The Italians ways in the balkans

The twentieth century, Italy and the Balkans, crossing ways and the courses plaite together. Cultural, political, wars and the confront events link together around different cultures qualifying the relationships but also the connections in an original and never the same synthesis.

Pablo Sánchez León and Jesús Izquierdo Martín
*Autistic Microeconomics: a manifesto for non-utilitarian
hermeneutics in the study of rural history*

This text poses severe criticisms to the pervasiveness of utilitarianism and individualistic perspectives in the study of rural history, and offers an epistemological and theoretical alternative to conventional microeconomics applied to historical interpretation. First, it deals with some relevant theoretical weaknesses of intentional rationality, and reviews the inconsistencies inherent in the theory of public goods. It then emphasizes the relevance of other kinds of rationality – namely, expressive and procedural rationalities – which need be taken into account when trying to understand the recurrence of cooperation and costly collective action in the rural economy and peasants politics. It finally outlines other non-utilitarian traditions available and proposes epistemological pluralism as a means to supersede the current utilitarian orthodoxy.

Giovanni Rizzoni

*Testing the majoritarian system: Government and
Opposition in Italy after the general election of 2001*

The article discusses the Government-opposition relationships in the Italian parliament after the general election held in April 2001. For the first time since the adoption in 1993 of the new electoral laws (3/4 of the seats allocated in single member constituencies according the first-past the post system) the government is supported by a large majority of seats in both Chambers. On the basis of these new conditions, is the Italian system approaching the Westminster model, with the Government in strong control of the parliamentary agenda? The data are not unambiguous. On one side, the share in the legislative production of the bills initiated by the government has increased and the planning of the parliamentary agenda on the basis of the government priorities is much more effective than in the past. Some habits of the old proportional system are however still alive: the parliament modifies extensively even the most important bills initiated by the government, while the government keeps enacting a large number of decree-laws that «compete» with the legislative production of the Parliament. On the whole, a new and more rationalised system of the Government-Oppositions relationships is still under construction.