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## Abstracts

edited by Dorothy L. Zinn

Patrizia Panarello

*Stereotypes and Identity Self-Representations: The Ethnographic Case of a Southern City*

Based on a theoretical perspective that sees social reality as a construction, the result of interactions and transactions among politically and socially situated actors, this piece – the product of three years of research – is an attempt at analyzing the scenarios within which specific urban identity imaginaries are constructed, as well as the modalities through which these imaginaries become embodied identity practices. Indeed, this article invites a critical reflection on the obvious and natural way of understanding identity and belonging through the analysis of a specific case: demonstrating how the inhabitants of Messina produce and reproduce identity stereotypes and self-representations. The ethnographic approach, together with recent Southern Italian historiography, suggests that what we are looking at is a model that refers to an ideology produced within specific historical processes. The article then deals with the theoretical, methodological and epistemological problem of how to conjugate the disenchantment of the ethnographic gaze, the dilemma of the researcher faced with her own cultural intimacy, and the inevitable optimism that always comes with educational and formative action for an aware and active citizenship.

Domenica Borriello

*Visual Representations: The Intriguing Charm of Campanian Votive Paintings*

This article examines the various ways in which Campanian votive painting is distributed in specific geo-cultural areas and the need for preservation and valorization of those votive *corpora* that have a history of display of noteworthy importance. Particular attention is paid to paintings that “stage” salient aspects of maritime culture. The analysis highlights the specificity of the pictorial language of the maritime ex voto, the rituality shared on board by seamen and the symbolism related to this. The author carries out a careful analysis by crossing the iconographic documentary source – the pictorial ex voto – with other documentary sources: archival (maritime memoirs, ship logs, accounts of miracles), oral (memoirs of shipowners, captains, devotees) and bibliographic. This essay demonstrates the complementarity of the different documentary sources as well as their particular specificities.

Zaira Tiziana Lofranco  
*The other Sarajevo*

This sequence, which contains photographs shot in 2006 and 2007, documents the controversial existence of the Serbian city of Sarajevo (later, East Sarajevo – *Istočno Sarajevo*) that developed following the conflict for territorial secession from the majority Muslim-Croatian Sarajevo. The images record cultural and political aspects that pervade public spaces and attempt to promote the identification of the inhabitants with the newly-formed city, but they also demonstrate the way in which daily interactions within the city's space is conditioned by historical factors, as well as by structural asymmetries existing with the city of Sarajevo, from which it is unable to sever all ties.

Sibilla Tieghi  
*An Investigation of a Begging Rite in the Ferrara Countryside*

This article deals with the Ferrarese *Vècia* feast, a typically agrarian begging ritual that took place on winter nights from the end of December until Epiphany. Within an anthropological study, this event appears extremely interesting – it is a “thick” theme, a hybrid performance in which some of the fundamental themes of folkloric studies are intertwined, often in an unexpected way. Despite this, the feast has never received the attention it deserves, not even on the part of local scholars and folklorists. It has often been erroneously associated with the rites of “Sega la Vecchia” or “Brusa la Vecchia”, while from the archival research and ethnographic study presented here, it is instead viewed as a peculiar rite-spectacle of the Ferrara area linked to the propitiation of the fields and to the release of negativity on the part of the peasant community. Today its practice has been relocated from the fields to dialect theater, maintaining intact its value: a quality that underlines the importance that it has for the collectivity.

Rocco Scotellaro  
*Un dio contadino [A Peasant God]*

Written in 1950, the essay *Un dio contadino* developed out of a period Rocco Scotellaro spent in Locarno, where he had gone to study and gather documentation on landholding consolidation in Canton Ticino, and from the relations he had – together with his friend Rocco Mazzarone – with Italian emigrants. This piece was published in February of that year in the Swiss periodical *Journal* – many of whose readers were Italian emigrants – in an issue devoted to carnivals in Italy, with two specific references treated: the “masks” which, mimicking a herd in transhumance, traditionally open the Tricarico carnival on January 17; and the figure of Saint Anthony the Abbot, whose cult in Tricarico can be traced back to the Middle Ages. The essay was recently rediscovered when a copy was found in the private archive of Rocco Mazzarone.

Simonetta Scarpa, Maria Cristina Talà  
*«Lazzareni» and «Matinate» in Sannicola*

In Sannicola, a small town in the province of Lecce, begging songs are still practiced during the Easter period. The *lu Lazzaren* song, with a slow and sad rhythm, is performed on the eve of Palm Sunday and narrates the stages of the passion. The *Matinate*,

with a happy and festive rhythm, are performed on the eve of Easter Sunday, and they express the joy of Easter and the end of Lent.

Antonella Iacovino

*Recent Ethno-anthropological Museums in Basilicata*

The considerable Lucanian wealth of ethnographic museums and collections has been enhanced in the last few years by important initiatives in terms of collection, conservation and valorization of ethno-anthropological objects. In particular, this piece examines three museums: the Museo del Giocattolo Povero e del Gioco di Strada [Museum of Simple Toys and Street Games] created in Albano di Lucania (province of Potenza) in the wake of an educational project of recovering toys and games from folk tradition; the Museo della Civiltà Rurale [Museum of Rural Civilization], established in Vaglio di Basilicata (Potenza) by the local ACLI association, which has also catalogued nearly all of the objects displayed; the Museo Antica Noja [Old Noja Museum] located in Noepoli (Pz), inaugurated in July 2008 at the initiative of some of the members of the local tourist board of this small town in the Val Sarmiento.

Valerio Bernardi, Eugenio Imbriani

*On the Concept of "Natural": Some Considerations Regarding Two Recent Books by Francesco Remotti and Filippo Trasatti*

Two books, one written by a philosopher, Filippo Trasatti, and the other by an anthropologist, Francesco Remotti, were published simultaneously with the same title, *Contro natura* [Against Nature]. The two books have a common theme in their discussion of the idea that some human practices – in particular, the exercise of sexuality and the institutions of family and marriage – are seen to be acceptable in that they, unlike others, are natural.