Members Bibliography
(This compilation includes only the published journal articles, book chapters, and books in the areas of relational sociology. Only Relational Studies in Sociology members are included in this listing).

Anheier H.K., Rossi G. and Boccacin L., *The Social Generative Action of the Third Sector: Comparing International Experiences;* Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2012.

Archer, M., *Critical Realism and Relational Sociology: Complementarity and Synergy,* in "Journal of Critical Realism", n. 2, 2010, pp. 199-207.

Bellini, P., *Time and Social Identity*, in "Italian Sociological Review", 1, 2015.

Bellini, P., *Active Learning: Relevance, Features and Conditions*, in "Italian Journal of Sociology of Education", 3, 2012.

Abstract. One of the effects of new post-modern culture is identified in the 'de-routinization' process of social life. The lack of concrete points of reference, seems, paradoxically, to force the subject to make is own 'life plans'. The current situation of chaos leads one to carefully reflect on a trend which is often neglected: nothing can be considered human if it is (or remains) purely mechanical. Even in education, the 'active learning' involves the fostering of 'interactive' school relations between teacher and student and of dialogue techniques so as to make younger generations more and more skilled at pinpointing their problems, questioning themselves and thus enabling them to 'open up' to the riches of their relationships in life, as a whole. Our study is founded on the conviction that a social institution (such as a school) is human only when its members find their bearings with one another in an 'over- functional' way. The 'activity' can be based on a correct and organic formulation of educational relations so as to regenerate social capital which can be regarded as the vital resource for the survival of a civilization.
Key words. Active learning; Authority; Dialogic relationship; Educational social capital.

Boccacin, L., *Partnership sociali e terzo settore: indicazioni dai dati del Censimento Istat sulle Istituzioni Non Profit/Social Partnership and Third Sector. Indications from ISTAT Survey on Italian Non-profit Organizations*, in "Sociologia e politiche sociali", vol. 18, 1 2015, pp. 77-102.

Abstract. Data from the ISTAT survey on Italian Non-profit Organizations (NPO) show the relations and the networks of relations between different organizations that contribute to positive outcomes in terms of services provided at the local level. Among such relations, increasingly important for the Italian context is the social partnership. This is an equal collaboration between third sector organizations, public agencies (mostly at the local level), and enterprises. Social partnerships are founded on mutual relations, established voluntarily, in which resources, capabilities and risks are shared for the achievement of a multi-dimensional project which could not be implemented by the single members. Data reveal a moderate propensity of Non-profit Organizations to activate partnerships. NPO's presence in the country is differentiated in terms of services provided and social actors involved.
Keywords: Third Sector; Social Partnerships; Social Services.

Boccacin, L. (ed.), *Third Sector, Partnerships and Social Outcome: The cases of Italy and Ireland*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2014.

Boccacin, L., *Third sector multilevel organizations and their relational outcomes: indications from a quantitative study in Italy*, in "Italian Sociological Review", 4 (1), 2014, pp.53-80.

Abstract. Social capital and social partnerships are interpretative categories which offered a scientific background for a quantitative research study conducted in Italy on 110 nationally-based prosocial multilevel organisations. Empirical data show a significant correlation between the existence of social capital and the emergence of social partnerships. The final results of this inquiry highlight the capacity to create social capital,

the differences between bonding and bridging social capital, and the role and meaning of both types of social capital within the associative sphere and in the production of services.
Key-words: third sector, social capital, partnerships, social relations

Boccacin, L., *Families' Needs and Social Partnerships: Networking Processes and Outcomes*, in E. Carrà (ed.) *Frail Lives Risk and Vulnerability: Educational Practices and Social Interventions,* special issue of *Italian Journal of Sociology of Education*, Vol.5, 3, 2013, pp. 5-18.

Abstract. The paper analyses social services resulting from social partnerships among public, private, third sector that meet the families' needs, combining care and work and promoting welfare. Qualitative sociological investigations carried out in Italy between 2006 and 2010, offer findings concerning the connection between the implementation of family services and the activation of social partnerships. From a methodological point of view, twelve case studies, consisting of six-seven in-depth interviews, were developed. The studies reveal the existence of some practices that are innovative with reference to the fixation of networking processes and the modality different stakeholders use to satisfy families' needs.
Keywords: Social partnerships, Social Relations, Care, Family Services, Welfare Innovations.

Boccacin, L., *Third Sector and Social Partnership in Italy. A Sociological Perspective*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2005.

Abstract. Third Sector plays a specific role in the process of promoting a pluralistic welfare, thanks to new forms of social partnerships among third sectors actors, state and market. In this perspective, pluralistic welfare emerges not as sum of different subjects, each dedicated to specific activities and sectors, but as a way of undertaking common actions and fostering relations. The entrance of new players in the welfare systems generates innovative synergies in the answer of the more and more complex social needs. Furthermore, the creation of networks among third sector players and other players of the pluralistic welfare in the production of social services can spread a culture of solidarity and responsibility.

Keywords: Third Sector; Voluntary Organizations, Social Services

Boccacin L., Bramanti D., *Active Ageing: from Individualistic Withdrawal to Social Generativity*, in «Familia», 50, 2015, pp. 111-128

Abstract: The concept of active ageing applies especially to the young old, ie. people aged between 65 and 74 years. Through this contribution we want to support the idea that a) there are different ways of dealing with the transition to the last phase of life, b) and that, if we focus on active young old (65-74 yrs), we can identify a number of ways to live and making meaning of their active ageing. Living longer corresponds in fact to a longer period of cohabitation (actual or "at distance") of at least three generations (grandparents, children, grandchildren) and this enables mutual relational exchanges, whose presence or absence and subjective perception as positive or problematic have to do with the quality of life of older people and all the other generations. By analysing data concerning the 65-74 year old European population gathered through the SHARE's wave 4, we are able to show these different ways of experiencing, embodying and to give meaning to active aging: a) "individualistic withdrawal"; b) "competitive ambivalence"; c) "social generativity". This demonstrate that a) primary relations play a crucial role in enabling young old subjects (65-74 yrs) to give a sense to the transition they are experiencing and can therefore be defined generative; b) these generative relationships (at personal and family life level) give origin to forms of social generativity, thus excluding other forms of active ageing. We conclude, in accordance with the most recent international sociological and psycho-social literature, that active ageing cannot be limited to a generic activism or mainly aimed at the preservation of a vital and meaningful sense of self, nor to a compensatory aspect of the elders' lost social and relational centrality.
Keywords: Active Ageing – social generativity – Competitive ambivalence

Bottero, W., *Relationality and social interaction*, in "British Journal of Sociology", 2, 2009, pp. 399-420.

Bramanti D., *Tackling Adolescent Substance Abuse: Lombardy's Punti di Partenza Project as an Example of LifeSkills Training*, in E. Carrà (ed.) *Frail Lives Risk and Vulnerability: Educational Practices and Social Interventions,* special issue of *Italian Journal of Sociology of Education*, Vol.5, 3, 2013, pp. 19-44.

Abstract: Substance abuse prevention consists in providing a subject at risk with the possibility to act freely from peer-group and drugs market influence by promoting the appropriate skills.
This contribution analyses LifeSkills Training, a program for the prevention of substance abuse, as implemented in the Lombardy region, Northern Italy. Parents and teachers involved in the training were interviewed in order to assess the goodness of this practice for schools and families alike. The results emerging from the Italian version of the program show the development of better skills in managing the teacher-class relationship, as well as an increased ability to listen within the parent-child relationship.Although they still need the test of time, these achievements are encouraging. Hopefully, the LST experience will have a follow-up and spread further without disregarding the parents, a problem encountered during the dissemination of the program.
Keywords: prevention, life skills, good practice, empowerment

Bramanti D., *Women Caring for Frail Elderly: Best Practices to Promote Family Reflexivity*, in Carrà E. (Ed.), *Families, care and work-life balance services: case studies of best practices*, Quaderno del Centro Famiglia n. 28, Vita&Pensiero, Milano, 2014, pp. 31-52.

Abstract: The study analyses the conditions of women who work and care for their elder parents, in Italy, with specific emphasis on detecting best practices for frail elderly and their families, able to support the care-giving function.
The study will highlight the consequences of care work on women's careers and their job commitment, the use of flexible forms of family-work conciliation, as well as decision-making processes on whether to keep up the job or to resign. Hence, it becomes crucial to devise and implement policies and interventions that aim at caring for the elderly in a family-friendly perspective.
Eight projects have been selected / identified as potential good practices and have become the subject of in-depth case studies. The quantitative analysis has allowed to sketch the profile of female caregivers in Italy, and the qualitative study has highlighted some major findings concerning the case studies. Finally, the research gives indications to professionals working alongside families and policy makers.
Keywords: Working Women Caring; Frail Elderly; Best Practices

Canto Milà, N., *A Sociological Theory of Value: Georg Simmel's Sociological Relationism*, Transcript-Verlag.

Carrà, E. (ed.), *Families, care and work-life balance services. Case studies of best practices*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2014

Abstract:
Under what conditions can a family service be considered a good practice? This volume assumes a relational outlook to answer this crucial question. In this perspective, personal social services must be relational and reciprocal, i.e. on a provider-user-provider sharing basis. Social problems, in fact, have a relational origin, as they arise from lack of agency capability by relational networks. Thus, the actual definition of any problem to be tackled must involve all stakeholders. Their dialogue must accompany the whole process, through constant control of the effects of the decisions made, to redefine the size of the interventions, if needed, and/or involve other network subjects as make themselves available. Out of the large number of studies on good practices, this volume gathers seven of the most recent. The essays are grouped in two sections: the first collects four case studies of good family-work reconciliation practices; the second includes three case studies on difficult family transitions. Summarising the findings of all the illustrated case studies, a personal and family services practice is good if it re-generates family, community and general social capital by increasing relationship networks and the trust circulating within them, as well as reciprocity and a cooperative orientation.
Keywords:
Good Practices, Family Services, Work-Life Balance

Carrà, E. *Good practices for frail families care and intervention: a case study on an innovative foster care service*, in Carrà, E. (ed.), *Families, care and work-life balance services. Case studies of best practices*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2014, pp. 99-118

Abstract:
Nowadays, the area of family frailty is rapidly expanding, specifically for families with underage children. A broad examination of the international literature shows that the response to the needs of the frail families is more effective when families themselves play an active role in the intervention. However, such kind of services are still few. Accordingly, it is very important to identify and analyse innovative solutions, which adopt a relational and family perspective. The study outlined here was carried out in Piedmont, a region of Northern Italy: it is a recognition of good practices among interventions on vulnerable families, aimed at improving parenting skills in order to prevent their children's removal, or promote the reintegration of out-of-home minors into their own families. Among the practices considered, a particular one was chosen for a case study of a preventive intervention on families at risk. The intervention, named "Dare una famiglia a una famiglia" (Give a Family to a Family) is a new kind of foster care in which one family gives its support to another, more vulnerable, family. The service has attracted particular interest as an innovative experience, not yet used or indeed known outside Italy. This case study was analysed by applying the **"relational quality" model** already tested in a number of studies on care services.
Keywords:
Good Practices, Relational Intervention, Foster Care, Family At Risk

Carrà, E., *Residential care: an effective response to out-of-home children and young people?*", in "Child & Family Social Work", 19 (3), 2014, pp. 253-262.

Abstract:
The ever-growing number of out-of-home children in Italy over the last decade has urged an assessment of the available care services. Although foster care is spreading rapidly, many young people are still housed in residential facilities. Reflection on residential care quality has intensified at both a national and an international level. This paper presents the results of a study on residential care facilities for children and young people in the region of Northern Italy (Lombardy). Four dimensions of 'quality' are considered: efficiency, effectiveness, participation in planning and intervention, and empowerment of children and their family relationships. The combined effects of these dimensions are defined as **'relational quality'**. The results show that residential care facilities are generally good, while Social Services resources often appear inadequate for interventions aimed at birth families (efficiency). The well-being of children in residential care facilities is high, even if they tend to move from one facility to another, rarely returning to their birth family (effectiveness). The involvement of children and their families at different stages of the care path is limited (participative approach). Finally, the most critical element is the failure to properly involve birth families (empowerment).
Keywords:
Child Care Policy And Practice, Evaluation Studies, Family Social Work, Residential Care

Carrà, E., *'Putting Family First': a Sociological Analysis of Doherty's Citizen Professionalism and Participatory Approaches*, in "Italian journal of sociology of education", 5 (3), 2013, pp. 127-146.

Full text: http://www.ijse.eu/index.php/ijse/article/view/212/198
Abstract:
This article proposes a critical analysis of W.J. Doherty's lecture on Citizen Professionalism, also published in this review. Citizen Professionalism is described as a participative or community approach, whose specific features include the strategic role assigned to families in the solution of social problems. In this sense, Citizen Professionalism has an educational task crucial to today's need to learn how to be citizens with a cooperative attitude. In fact, whilst market competition has boosted individualism, an excess of State welfare has fostered a tendency to delegate. The purpose of the article is to show how the reasons for the effectiveness of community approaches, and Doherty's in particular, can be demonstrated through sociological theory: rather than being evidence-based only, this it is founded on the centrality of human and corporate agency to the process of social change and to building personal and social well-being. This argument is supported by M. Archer and P. Donati's sociological theories.
Keywords: Citizen Professionalism, Relational Sociology, Morphogenetic Theory, Community-Based Approaches, Participatory Approaches

Carrà, E., *Un osservazione che progetta. Strumenti per l analisi e la progettazione relazionale di interventi nel sociale*, LED, Milano, 2008.

Full text: http://www.ledonline.it/ledonline/carra_2/analisi-progettazione-relazionale-sociale.pdf
Abstract:
The book aims to document the greater effectiveness of a planning and intervention approach which focuses on the relationship between subjects and promotes their activation in the process of identifying and achieving the goals. The awareness of the complexity and riskiness of contemporary living, argued in the first part, reinforce the necessity to multiply the points of view by designing and working in a network, as to reduce the uncertainty of social action. In the second part the volume offers a comprehensive overview of the main instruments used by the relational analysis and planning. As the final words of the book suggest, the adoption of a relational perspective in the observation planning and implementation of social interventions can promote the realization of "good practices" in the strong sense, that is "ethically good", aimed at a "good life" model; practices which are able to regenerate the social bond and the relational structure of society, damaged and eroded by the prevailing individualism.
Keywords:
Morphogenetic Theory, Relational Sociology, Social Planning, Logical Framework, Social Risk, Networking

Carrà, E., *Buone pratiche e capitale sociale. Servizi alla persona pubblici e di privato sociale a confronto*, LED, Milano, 2008.

Full text: http://www.ledonline.it/ledonline/carra-welfare/carra-welfare.pdf
Abstract: The core of the volume is that the quality of services to person and the possibility to consider them as "good practices" depends on their ability to generate and regenerate the social capital of the users and their networks of relationships. From the perspective of relational sociology, social capital consists of mutual relationships based on trust and cooperation, which are a good in itself and not a mere instrument to achieve other goals. These specific characteristics make more likely that social capital generates itself in social private organizations, in which individuals generally act on the basis of a spirit of solidarity, and their help is centered on the relationship of trust between the provider of the service and the user. On the contrary, it is difficult that social capital develops in public or market organizations providing standardized services, where the role takes precedence over the person, and where bonds between people is functional and instrumental. Through the analysis of the results of two studies – on public and social private Youthful Aggregation Centers of the city council of Milan and on professional foster care of the Province of Milan - the starting hypothesis is only partially confirmed: social capital may also be the unexpected effect of any action brought by public bodies that through a participatory approach manage to release the work of social networks. Whereas, social capital may find it hard to increase where subjects of social private fail to fully promote the empowerment of the recipients of its services.
Keywords: Good practices, Social capital, Human Services, Relational sociology.

Crossley, N., *Towards Relational Sociology*, Routledge, London, 2010.

Crossley, N., *Relational sociology and culture: a preliminary framework*, in "International Review of Sociology: Revue Internationale de Sociologie", 25:1, DOI: 10.1080/03906701.2014.997965.

Dépelteau, F., *Relational sociology, pragmatism, transactions and social fields*, in "International Review of Sociology: Revue Internationale de Sociologie",25:1, DOI: 10.1080/03906701.2014.997966.

Dépelteau, F., Powell, C. (eds.), *Conceptualizing Relational Sociology: Ontological and Theoretical Issues*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2013.

Dépelteau, F., Powell, C. (eds.), *Applying Relational Sociology*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2013.

Fuhse, J., *Theorizing social networks: the relational sociology of and around Harrison White*, in "International Review of Sociology: Revue Internationale de Sociologie", DOI: 10.1080/03906701.2014.997968.

Fuhse, J., *The Meaning Structure of Social Networks*, in Sociological Theory, vol. 27, 2009, pp. 51-73.

Fuhse, J., Muetzel, S., *Tackling Connections, Structure, and Meaning in Networks: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Sociological Network Research*, in Quality & Quantity, vol. 45, 2011, pp. 1067-1089.

Fuhse, J., Mützel S., (Hrsg), *Relationale Soziologie. Zur kulturellen Wende der Netzwerkforschung*, VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden, 2010.

García Ruiz, P., *El concepto de reflexividad en la sociología del consumo: algunas propuestas*, Revista Española de Sociología (RES), 2009, vol. 12, pp. 85-102.

García Ruiz, P., *No soy yo: soy mi red social*, in X. Bringué y Ch. Sádaba, *Nacidos Digitales. Una generación frente a las pantallas*, Instituto de Ciencias para la Familia, Rialp, Madrid, 2009, pp. 193-210.

García Ruiz, P., *La ciudadanía en las sociedades complejas: nuevas formas de relación social*, en R. Alvira et al.,*Sociedad civil. La democracia y su destino*, Eunsa, Pamplona 2008, 235-259.

García Ruiz, P., *Políticas familiares y formas de subsidiaridad: hacia una ciudadanía de la familia*, Revista Empresa y Humanismo, 2008, vol. XI, nº 1, pp. 109-138.

Garcia Ruiz, P., *Presentación y estudio introductorio,* en Donati, P.,*Repensar la sociedad. El enfoque relacional,* Ediciones Internacionales Universitarias, Madrid, 2006, pp. 9-47.

García Ruiz, Pablo, *Comunidades de marca: el consumo como relación social*, in "Política y Sociedad", 2005, vol. 42 n. 1, pp. 257-272.

García Ruiz, P., Lluesma, R. Carlos, *Reflexive Consumers: A Relational Approach to Consumption as a Social Practice*, in M.S. Archer, *Conversations about Reflexivity*, Routledge, London, 2010, pp. 221-242.

Haesler, A., *Relation. Aspekte eines kritischen Interaktionismus* in St. Moebius & Chr. Papilloud, eds., *Marcel Mauss und die Folgen,* Constance, Universitätsverlag, 2005, pp. 328-356.

Haesler, *Symbolisme et reconnaissance. Arguments pour une théorie sociologique de la relation humaine*, in "Simmel Studies", 1, 2002, pp. 7-39.

Jallinoja, R., Widmer, E. (eds.), *Families and Kinship in Contemporary Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Maccarini, A.M., E. Morandi, R. Prandini (eds), *Sociological realism*, Routledge, London, 2011.

Martelli, S., *Sports mega-events (2002-2010) and Italian TV audiences. Inside an emerging social configuration: The SMS triangle*, in "European Journal for Sport and Society" 2014, 11 (3), 227-252.

ABSTRACT: In the last decades a new social structure emerged in many European and Western societies: the SMS triangle; it is shaped by relationships of dependence and interdependence among Sports, Media, and Sponsor companies. This paper offers theoretical and empirical observations about this new social configuration, using some findings about its dynamic centre: the TV audiences of sports mega-events, such as the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cups, and the Olympics and Paralympics (2002-2010) – and in one country: Italy. These findings corroborate the known differences in exposition to these sports mega-events, and also show surprising exceptions, such as the Eris Effect in the female choices. Furthermore, these findings also corroborate the hypothesis of the sports subcultures in Italy.
KEYWORDS: relational theory in sociology, mass media, sponsor companies and their investment, sporting audiences, sporting mega-events.

Mazzucchelli S. *Moms & work: A complex relationship,* in Rossi G., Mazzucchelli S. (Eds.), *The transformations of family Relationships in Italy*, Special Issue of the Journal of Comparative Family Studies, Vol XLV, n.2, Spring 2014, pp. 261-273.

ABSTRACT: This paper analyses the complex relationship between motherhood and work, a topic ambiguously dealt with in much of the socio-economic literature and current European policies. A relational perspective, on the other hand, can identify the distinctive elements of this issue, avoiding the reduction of motherhood to the procreative choice and its regulation by purely functional policies focused on workfare and individual rights. This relational framework, supported by relevant statistical findings and international literature, can thus provide an insight into the many-nuanced "new female identity".
KEYWORDS: Motherhood, work, procreative choice, female identity

Mazzucchelli S., *Families, care and work facing the challenges of a globalized world: the role of companies,* in Carrà E. (Ed.), *Families, care and work-life balance services: case studies of best practices*, Quaderni del Centro Studi e Ricerche sulla Famiglia n. 28, Vita&Pensiero, Milano, 2014, pp.75-97.

ABSTRACT: The work-family reconciliation is a fundamental theme in the political debate; the EU is in fact facing a huge dilemma in terms of social policy: It requires to increase employment rates to ensure economic growth and sustainability of welfare systems, while also promoting social inclusion in a context characterized by high complexification, especially in intergenerational perspective.
In this frame and according to a vision of Corporate Citizenship, companies are strategic actors in the process of lifetimes' arrangement. The paper will present the results of a national survey carried out on behalf of the National Observatory on the Family aimed at identifying some company good practices of work-family reconciliation. Italian companies involved in the work-family reconciliation have been mapped with a quantitative methodology; then were identified some promising practices and case studies have been made. Using a complex methodology (both quantitative and qualitative) has been possible to reach an articulated judgment about the case studies analyzed and to highlight interesting elements, dimensions and dynamics of corporate and management culture.
The analyses carried out generally disclose a strong coherence especially with corporate culture and the modality with which these values are translated on a daily basis into the reality of each company and in concretely implemented reconciliation measures; this reveals transparency in company processes and the communication modalities used. Finally the enacted reconciliation programs turn out to be well developed structured and coherent in their constitutive parts (preliminary analysis, *ad hoc* planning capability, realization, *in itinere* evaluation).
KEYWORDS: work-family reconciliation; good practices; Corporate Welfare

Mazzucchelli S. (2011), *Reconciling family-work: the role of Corporate Citizenship*, LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co., Saarbrücken, Germany, 2011.

ABSTRACT: The work-family (WF) reconciliation is a fundamental theme in the political debate; the EU requires to increase employment rates to ensure both economic growth and sustainability of welfare systems, while also promoting social inclusion in a context characterized by high complexification. In this frame is fundamental the contribution of the companies which, according to a vision of Corporate Citizenship, are strategic actors in the

process of lifetimes' arrangement. The book will present the results of a national survey carried out on behalf of the National Observatory on the Family-Department for Family Policies, aimed at identifying some company good practices of WF reconciliation.

Italian companies involved in WF reconciliation have been mapped with a quantitative methodology; then were identified some promising practices and case studies have been made. The survey allowed to highlight the complexity of WF reconciliation and also the bond with the process of structuring of personal identity: WF reconciliation does not implies for people to hold together and harmonize different times but especially to give a judgment regarding themselves as a person in their lives.

KEYWORDS: Reconciling family and work, Good practices, Corporate Responsibility, Corporate Citizenship Company welfare

Mazzucchelli S. (2011), *The Impact of Law 53/00 (Regulation of Parental Leave) on Fathers: a Good Law Disregard in Daily Life*, in Cortini M., Tanucci G., Morin E. (Eds.), "Boundaryless Careers and Occupational Wellbeing", Palgrave Macmillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, pp. 241-255.

ABSTRACT: A fundamental objective of the law 53/2000 (on parental leaves) is the identification of concrete and flexible tools that allow for reconciling contrasting personal and working needs. Overall, this regulatory measure appears innovative from various points of view: this underlies in fact a vision of parenting as an actually shared task, as a co-responsibility and as a relationship between the parents. It seems, therefore, to keep track of the ethics of caretaking and inter- and intra-generational solidarity as well as between the genders. It is clear that the tension disappears at achieving a situation of overall individual and family well-being through reconciliation of work commitments and family responsibilities of the partners. The data on the use of parental leaves while signalling presence of a notable disparity between the genders with respect to resorting to optional abstention from work, show that following law 53/00 entering into effect, not only did the number of those who resorted to the period of leave increase overall, but the number of working fathers who exercised this choice also increased. Such an enthusiastic evaluation is quickly muffled however by the analysis of the data of the latest researches. It would appear in fact that there is an almost complete disregard in daily life of the principles of equality that inspired the new regulation: paternal abstention from work to dedicate oneself to caretaking for children appears still to be a stigmatized behaviour in the company, and the caretaking is judged to be "women's deeds and actions".

KEYWORDS:parental leaves, reconciliation measures, parenting task, care.

Mische, A., *Relational Sociology, Culture, and Networks*, in J. Scott, P. Carrington (eds.), *The Sage Handbook of Social Network Analysis*, London: Sage Publications, 2011.

Morandi, E., *Introductory Outlines to Pierpaolo Donati's Relational Sociology, Part 1,* in "Journal of Critical Realism", n. 2, 2010, pp. 208-226.

Muetzel, S., *Networks as culturally constituted processes: a comparison of relational sociology and actor-network theory,* Current Sociology, vol. 57, 2009, pp. 871-887.

Prandini, R., *Relational sociology: a well-defined sociological paradigm or a challenging 'relational turn' in sociology?*, in "International Review of Sociology: Revue Internationale de Sociologie", 25:1, pp. 1-14 (http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03906701.2014.997969).

Prandini, R., *La sociologia nei limiti della realtà,* in «Sociologia e politiche sociali», 2004, 3, pp. 73 - 105.

Rossi G., 2007, *Family, Work and Welfare Policies: Challenges and Perspectives in East Europe*, in "International Review of Sociology- Revue Internationale de Sociologie", vol. 17, N.2, July 2007, pp. 293-301.

Rossi G., 2007, *Family, Social Capital and Family Associations*, in "International Review of Sociology- Revue Internationale de Sociologie", vol 17, N.2, July 2007, pp.279-292.

ABSTRACT: Social Capital (SC) is a concept variedly defined and object today of great attention at an international level: it concerns trust among people, the ability to active nets, solidarity, and civic engagement in the public sphere. The SC constitutive character makes it producible only in original and fundamental relationships (in primis the family), where trust is developed and the code of solidarity is current. Nevertheless, the increasing fragmentation and individualization of the family seem to consume SC; rather than to increase it. This leads to the question about the nature of SC today as constituted by the family. Some phenomena, for example family associationism, show that the family is still a patrimony irrefutable for social life: when families constitute family associations, they produce primary and secondary SC.
KEYWORDS: Family, Social Capital, Family Associations

Rossi G., 2008, *The Social Capital in a Multi-Level Third Sector Organization: Sociological Debate and Evidence from a Research Study*, in Anheier H., Rossi G. e Boccacin L. (Eds.), *The social generative action of the third Sector. Comparing international Experiences*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, pp. 279-296.

ABSTRACT: The research focuses on the social capital generated in and by a large, Italian, multilevel organization (often referred to as an "umbrella organization"). Organizations are defined as multi-level when they gather under themselves other associative realities, which are bound together through relations and functions that vary from case to case and with respect to which they represent a superior coordinative level. More specifically, multilevel organizations do not supply goods or services directly but offer support to other groups locally affiliated, thus creating a network of articulated associations on two or more levels. Accordingly, multilevel organizations are internally very highly heterogeneous and differentiated. The research findings show that multilevel organizations create new forms of relationality and are potential generators of a specific form of social capital.
KEYWORDS: Third Sector, Social Capital, Multi-Level Organization

Rossi G., 2010, *Development and dynamics of the family in Southern Europe*, in Kapella O. et al (Eds.), *Family Diversity*, Barbara Budrich, Opladen & Farmington Hills, MI, pp. 317-341.

ABSTRACT: In this paper, I will discuss the development and dynamics of the family in Southern European countries, focusing in particular on its morphogenetic process. In fact, this perspective helps us understand what family diversification means in a global perspective. Certainly, the family is one of the social forms which is and will be even more subjected to the processes of rapid and profound change. In order to understand this change, we have to consider it as a social morphogenesis (i.e., a genesis of new forms), or, to be more precise, as a process with an accurate dynamic. Over time, both of these are describable and observable as a mutual conditioning (in the sense of interdependency) between identifiable, non-randomised factors that, in turn, range within a constraint and resource logic. This process could also develop new forms that are stable over time and settle down into morphogenetic process for long periods. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to understand the outcome of this morphogenetic process by focusing particular attention on the transformation of relationships between gender and generations in Southern European families.
KEYWORDS: Morphogenetic Process, Development And Dynamics Of The Family, Gender Relationship

Rossi G., 2012, *The family-work balance: how to turn it into a virtuous relationship for families and society?*, in Rossi G., Crespi I. (Eds.), *Balancing work and family care: European experiences*, Special Issue 2012, "Sociologia e Politiche Sociali", Franco Angeli, e-book, pp. 51-74.

ABSTRACT: The subject of this essay is to verify empirically whether, and under which conditions, the work-family relationship -- as it is actually experienced in everyday life – can be considered "good" and turn the family into a resource for itself and society. This goal first requires framing such relationship within the identity process at a personal, couple, intergenerational and social level. Any form of reconciliation involves primarily a reflexive and dialogic process of the person and the couple: if decisions are shared within the family and

connected with the possibility of relating to other subjects (primary and secondary networks), the family can be a source of wellbeing for its own members and for society

Rossi G., 2014, *The Complex Relationship Between Values and Couple Patterns*, in "Journal of Comparative Family Studies", vol. XLV, Spring, n.2, pp.173-199

ABSTRACT: One of the most significant changes in family structure is the formation of a couple: until a few decades ago this transition followed precise social norms (engagement, religious marriage, the birth of children), whilst today becoming a couple occurs in different ways. This paper illustrates the results of a cluster analysis of some couple patterns: currently married, separated/divorced, cohabiting, single, LAT. Findings are based on the 4th wave of the 2008 European Values Study involving 47 countries and focused on an Italian sample consisting of 1.519 individuals. The analysis highlights the complex relationship between some couple patterns and a number of factors, such as the importance and meaning of the family, work, religion, friends, marriage, motherhood and gender roles.

Rossi G., Bramanti D. (Eds.), 2012, *La famiglia come intreccio di relazioni. La prospettiva sociologica*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano.

ABSTRACT: This volume offers a comparative analysis of a number of topical issues crucial for understanding the transformations currently undergone by the family: inter-generational solidarity, ways of entering adult life and couple formation patterns, the transition to parenthood (particularly, becoming a father), the last transition and the possible ways of supporting the family throughout it, the complex relationship between work and family (also from the father's perspective), the new establishment of family communities, the migration experience as an event affection the whole family. The chosen theoretical approach is based on the analytical and explicative value of relational sociology: the family is thus considered an inter-generational, inter-gender relationship whose life cycle is punctuated by transitions challenging all its members and aimed at setting new forms of balance. Because of the topical issues it treats, this volume can be a useful instrument for both family studies scholars and experienced operators in need of a specific update.

Rossi G., Crespi I., (Eds.), 2012, *Balancing work and family care: European experiences*, *Special Issue 2012,* "Sociologia e Politiche Sociali", Franco Angeli, e-book

ABSTRACT OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE
In a rapidly changing world a multitude of new challenges are emerging and affecting families, companies and the welfare state. In particular, families are facing increasing difficulties in managing their educational, work and care tasks, in the attempt to balance their internal and external requests. The goal of reconciliation measures is therefore not only to support the work-family balance in terms of material aids, but also to find new strategies to improve the quality of the well-being of individuals and families relationships. This special issue is concerned with work-family challenges or, more exactly, it aims at developing new insights into the work-family issues in different European countries. It addresses the "hot issue" of managing care and work in everyday family life within the societal context of policies, cultural patterns, and welfare regimes. In this perspective, different phases of family life and different aspects of social and cultural behaviours are explored. Specific attention is given to effects of past decisions about intimate relations and family instability in a life-cycle perspective, to caring exchanges between generations, to the impact of social policies and their cultural background, to the mismatch between expected and received care in family networks and between ideals and effective family practices. In such a framework, this special issue underlines the limitations of the classical approaches to work-life balance based on family-work spill over. Both work and family imply identity-oriented behaviours which require much more than easy choices and preferences. Addressing family and work reconciliation issues in situations of underemployment and/or precariousness is an increasing challenge faced by many countries in contemporary Europe

Rossi G., Mazzucchelli S., 2008, *Family, work, care and welfare policies in the Southern European countries: between tradition and transformation*, in Strohmeier P., Crespi I. (Eds.), *Family, gender and work in Europe: social policies facing structural and cultural changes*, Special issue of "Journal of Societal and Social Policy (JSSP)", 2008, pp. 32-48.

ABSTRACT: The couple is an area of mediation between the fundamental differences of the human being. The family relationship which emanates from the couple therefore bears in itself its own dramatic character, as the task of mediation is inherently difficult and potentially conflicting. This chapter will focus on the gendered relationship, thoroughly examining the assumptions and transformations of gender identity in relation to paid work, housework and care, as well as of changing gender roles. The world of work has been and continues to be subject to a profound change in structure and also a change in culture and values, thus requiring us to rethink the role and meaning of work vis-à-vis other aspects of our existence. From a morphogenetic perspective, the influence between the two spheres of family and work and the varying levels of reality are of a reciprocal nature. Specifically, our chapter will be articulated as follows: first we will analyze occupational rates, on the basis of gender and throughout the various phases of a person's life cycle. Then we will examine the differences in doing housework and the number of hours spent weekly on housework by men and women across Europe. Finally, we will take into consideration the dominating trends in social policy in Southern Europe relating to care, examining specifically the prevailing measures to foster gender flexibility, the identity of the caregiver, and existing labor models.
KEYWORDS : Family Relationship, Work, Welfare Policies, Gender Identity

Rossi G., Mazzucchelli S., 2008, *Family, Work and Welfare policies: Looking at Central, Eastern and Southern Europe*, in Siyka Kovacheva (Ed.), *Work-Life Dilemmas: Changes in Work and Family Life in the Enlarged Europe,* special issue of *"Sociological Problems, Quarterly Journal of the Institute of Sociology"*, Bulgarian Academic of Science 2008, pp. 60-76.

ABSTRACT: This paper takes an innovative look at work-family policies and, in particular, at the current work-family reconciliation issues, in different European countries: the relational differentiation in work family issues. This relation differentiation shapes the specialization of different life spheres, or subsystems, (family and work) through new form of interchange which are characterized by spill-over functions and which make use of a code of mutual referencing to specialize for interrelations between subsystems. How is the situation evolving in Europe, and towards which model – functional, or relational differentiation? This paper wishes to answer these questions. These concerns are all the more pressing in the current climate/given the current social and political situation. New countries have joined the EU, thereby leading to a change of previous balances and structures, and there is a commitment on the part of all nations, in compliance with the indications provided by the European masterplan. Policies and, in general, whole legislative apparatuses pertaining to work-family measures, have thus been introduced or extensively reviewed/modified. A comparison between Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, with in-depth studies regarding different geographical contexts, will highlight emerging tendencies in family and work choices and the best policies concerning this topic.
KEYWORDS: Reconciliation, Work, Relational Differentiation, Welfare Policies

Rossi G., Mazzucchelli S. (Eds.), 2014, *The transformations of family Relationships in Italy*, *Special Issue* 2014, "Journal of Comparative Family Studies", vol. XLV, Spring, n.2

ABSTRACT OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE
In today's globalised society, dominated by risk and uncertainty, all social forms, including the family, are subject to continual change. Transitional phases are particularly affected as to how and when changes occur. Moreover, in the individualistic climate typical of postmodern society, transitions are increasingly represented and experienced as individual occurrences whose timing and mode are barely defined; they are hardly ritualised and offer a wide range of options. From a sociological perspective, transitions have long been a central concern in international family studies. The family, however, is a social and cultural structure that cannot be invented by individuals. An individualistic conception of the family cannot identify or define any transition, since transitions are actually experienced by people as relational conditions and processes: they emerge from mutually interacting causal factors creating stressful relationships of variable intensity and duration. The relational approach needed to study transitions requires new analysis and intervention models. To capture the family's relational essence and the familial dimension of transitions appears quite daunting, whilst following the vicissitudes of individuals is definitely simpler. However, only by seeing the family it is possible to imagine any support interventions to

positively affect personal welfare in postmodern society. All the transitions experienced by the family may either point to a difficulty in coping with change, or represent valuable opportunities to transform relationships. When a transition occurs, the family finds itself at a crossroads: it can either re-organise its relationships in response to the challenges of a given transition or let them degenerate. Hence, in the process of coping with the difficulties brought about by critical events in the family's life cycle and social context, families may access both internal and external resources. In fact, families are always in transition, as they are involved in the economic, social and cultural events of their time. This Special Issue focuses on the dynamics and context of key family transitions (or families in transition), such as the transitions to married life, parenthood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. It also highlights major contextual events affecting family life: political changes and family development, cultural changes and family structure, financial hardship, welfare state changes; intra- and inter-generational processes that explain family transitions; finally, strategies and approaches supporting family transitions and families in transition at the political, social, and relational level. The volume collects a number of empirical studies falling into in two broad categories: studies analysing family transitions and studies on families in transition.

KEYWORDS: Transformations, Transitions, Family, Family Relationships

Rossi G., Scabini E. (Eds.), 2012, *Family transitions and Families in Transition*, Studi interdisciplinari sulla famiglia, n.25, Vita e Pensiero, Milano.

ABSTRACT: The volume presents psychological and sociological essays on the family transition as emerged during the 5th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations "Family transitions and Families in transition", hosted by the Athenaeum Centre for Family Studies and Research of the Catholic University in 2010 in Milano. The major topics depicted in the present volume concern the transitions that the family faces during the course of life, such as transition to adulthood, marriage and parenthood, the identification of resources and risks associated with such transitions and the processes undergone by the family whenever a transition occurs. Moreover, families are always in transition, as they are involved into the social and cultural events characterizing the contemporary world, and thus have to manage the challenges prompted by setbacks like financial problems, work and family conflict, immigration and so on. All the transitions that the family experiences may either point to a difficulty to cope with change, or represent valuable opportunities to transform relationships. The volume is divided into two parts: the first one portrays different theoretical contributions by outstanding family scholars like Pierpaolo Donati, Johannes Huinink, Kurt Luescher, Froma Walsh, and Eugenia Scabini, while the second set of chapters presents a number of empirical studies concerning specific transitions and challenge.

KEYWORDS: Family, Transitions

Rossi G., Anheier H. and Boccacin L., 2008, *The social generative action of the third Sector. Comparing international Experiences*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano.

ABSTRACT: This book highlights the most recent social, cultural and institutional development of the third sector in Europe and the US. It is an inter-disciplinary text, which convenes the contribution of scholars belonging to different areas in the social science sphere (sociologists, political scientists, jurists). Particularly, the focus is to evaluate the role of different agents, relationships and social policies not just from a service provision perspective but also in their true impact in shaping the society as a whole, while trying to address its most crucial needs. Furthermore, the presentation of the main and most recent empirical evidences from different contexts stimulates some very useful remarks about the current and perspective situation of the global level.

KEYWORDS: Third Sector, Social Capital, Relationship

Rossi G., Boccacin L., Bramanti D., 2011, *Partnership, Social Capital and good practices among public, private and the third sector*, in "Journal of US-China Public Administration", vol. 8, n.3, marzo 2011, pp. 241-260.

ABSTRACT: The conceptual framework underlying this paper is based on three key concepts: partnership, social capital and good practices. The term "partnership" refers to a structural configuration characterized by the co-presence of different social subjects and reciprocal and collaborative social action that seeks to achieve project goals and is based on the implementation of medium term relations. Social capital, according to the relational approach, consists of the ability to create cooperative relations based on trust in order to pursue a common good. The spirit of solidarity, relation-centered aid between the service provider and client together

with interpersonal trust make the third sector a privileged environment of social capital generation. The concept of "good practices" has entered the language of social policy, to indicate a concrete benchmark of reference in social intervention evaluation. A model for the evaluation of the quality of welfare that considers these three concepts is proposed.

Rossi G., Boccacin L., Bramanti D., Meda S.G., 2014, *Active Ageing: Intergenerational relationships and social Generativity*, in Riva G., Marsan P.A., Grassi C. (Eds.), *Active Ageing and Healthy Living. A Human Centered Approach in Research and Innovation as Source of Quality of Life*, Study in Health Technology and Informatics, vol.203, IOS Press, Amsterdam, pp. 57-68.

ABSTRACT: This contribution is a reflection on the concept of active ageing from the perspective of relational sociology. At the same time, it offers practical implications and outlines possible future courses of action, in the face of demographic and relational scenarios rapidly changing, and the challenges that each day people of all generations are called to cope with. Active ageing is quite a recent concept and indicates an attitude towards aging that enhances the quality of life as people become older. The goal of active ageing is to enable people to realise their potential for physical, social and mental well-being and to participate in social life also in the last stage of the life cycle. In this phase, the presence of a network of support, security and care adequate to the possible onset of problems and criticalities is crucial. Relational sociology frames the phenomenon of an aging population in a dense network of social relations, primarily at the level of family and community. For this reason, as supported by the most recent sociological literature and evidence from studies conducted in Italy and abroad (cf. SHARE), it is extremely important to investigate the link between active aging, intergenerational orientation (solidarity and exchanges) and practices of pro-sociality (i.e. engagement in third-sector activities and volunteering in later life).

Rossi G., Mazzucchelli S., Bonini R., 2011, *Family relationships as Social Capital,* in Jallinoja R. e Widmer E. (Eds.), *Families and Kinship in Contemporary Europe,* Palgrave MacMillan, Hampshire, pp. 203-215.

ABSTRACT: The paper will discuss about the contemporaneousness of the family, focusing on the relational approach as methodological framework. This model is based on the concept of the family as a specific social relation where crucial differences among gender, generations, and lineage can be found. The specificity of the family relationship can be observed using the social capital (SC) perspective. The analytic dimensions of SC are: network as structural dimension, which refers to networks with different levels of consistency, size and density; trust as the expectation of a social actor that others make a beneficial or harmless action towards him/her, made under conditions of uncertainty; reciprocity where the actor knows that giving something he/she will receive something in return not only at an instrumental level, but also a symbolic and relational level; and an inclination to cooperative behaviour acting as a shared behaviour without external or social control mechanisms. In this framework the family social capital (FSC) is a quality of the social relations which derives, even if not intentionally, from the ties among family members. It is a mutual orientation among family members, based on gift and expectation. FSC is contingent and depends on the interaction of complex factors which cannot be predicted. It is a quality of family relations. It refers in particular to the dimension of mutual orientation. It is responsible for the creation of reliable bonds, based on gift and reciprocity, which in turn are able to produce cooperation-oriented behaviour. It's a tie regarding both nuclear family members (nuclear FSC), extended family members (parental net) and is also connected to the community network (friends, neighbours). Recent researches carried out in Italy have shown how the relational approach allows us to understand both the link between family members (bonding SC) and the context outside family relationships (bridging SC)

Terenzi, P. (ed), *Percorsi di sociologia relazionale*, FrancoAngeli, Milano, 2012.

Terenzi, P., *Relación social y realismo critico,* in «La Revista Española de Sociología», n. 10, 2008, pp. 39-52.

Terenzi, P. (et al.), *La sociologia relazionale*, "Nuova Civiltà delle Macchine", n. 4-2007.

Vautier, C. (et al.), *Sur le thème de la relation*, V, 1, 2009 "Nouvelles perspectives en sciences sociales: revue internationale de systémique complexe et d'études relationnelles".