Indice

Puppet theatre in Apulia. Ethnography of a theatre that tried to shine with its own light

Abstract

The theatre of animation has ancient roots in southern Italy; sporadic evidence of its existence dates back to 1600, becoming more frequent in 1700. More detailed information can be found from the early nineteenth century. Information about the names of the companies, the type of puppets, the shows we found in archival documents, in the permits that entrepreneurs forwarded to the authorities to give shows. Naples, Sicily, Palermo and Catania in primis are the most sought-after places by the companies. The presence of different types of animation shows is rooted and defined in these cities. The "pupo" a corpulent puppet, heavy, showy, often armed with sword, knife, stick was widely used in the theater cycles that were inspired by Charlemagne, Orlando and Rinaldo and in those that tell the exploits of bandits, camorristi, mafiosi loved by an audience that perceives them as popular heroes.
In this essay we deal with another region in which the theatre with puppets became established, Apulia, generating a strand with its own particular charateristics concerning the stories staged, the recurring characters, the techniques of animation and acting.
Keywords: puppet, pupo, ciclo carolingio, compagnia familiare, duello, camorra

My room at The Fountain: inclusion and exclusion strategies from within an enclave

Abstract

This article is based on a reflection upon my ethnographic field-work conducted in the Northern Irish Protestant enclave of The Fountain, between 2003 and 2004 during my doctoral studies on martyrology in the Irish Republic tradition. The ethnographic field-work I conducted, the people round about me and the same topography of that research into a violent urban setting, made me understand that I was, too, the subject of anthropology. However, if on the one hand, this can make the ethnographer at home with the discipline of anthropology; on the other hand, security-related issues represented a continuous concern for both the ethnographer and the people dwelling in his research locus. After some fifteen years after my main field-work, the discussion will re-explore the challenges the ethnographer encountered while doing participant observation and, in particular, practicing anthropology in a violently divided society on ethno-religious lines.
Keywords: Northern Ireland; the troubles; enclave; challenges in data collection; Derry/Londonderry

Redefining cities, desovietising memory. The case of Ukrainian toponymy in an interview with Volodymyr Viatrovych

Abstract

This paper takes into account the changes of toponomy, the dismantling of Soviet monumental heritage, the general process of "de-sovietisation" which is taking place with new strength in the Ukraine since the Maidan protests and the years of Poroshenko's government. Its political intent and conception, the approval of a legal and formal framing in the execution of the process, as well as its contradictions, are traced through the dialogue with Volodymyr Viatrovych, director of the National Institute which conceived, proposed and implemented the "five laws on decommunisation".
Keywords: Ukraine; Decommunisation laws; Leninopad; Anthropology of post-Soviet political processes, Urban anthropology

L'uomo e la città
Sviluppi e percorsi dell'antropologia urbana russa

Tamara Mykhaylyak
p. 99

Man and the city. Developments and paths of Russian urban anthropology

Abstract

The article traces the developments of urban anthropology in Russia from the beginning of the 20th century to the 2000s. In the first part some ethnographers who can be considered as forerunners of Russian urban studies are mentioned. The directions in which anthropological research specifically dedicated to the studies of the Soviet cities before the Second World War are underlined. Finally, the main topics that concerned the studies of the urban context after the collapse of the USSR are examined. These strands underlined the traces left by urban culture in art and literature, the problems related to multiethnicity in Russian cities and, in more recent times, analyze the phenomena of globalization in post-Soviet cities

Keywords: Urban anthropology, USSR, Russia, cities, urbanization

Le tradizioni di San Giovanni Battista da un lontano passato all'epoca di Internet: il caso di Lama dei Peligni

Amelio Pezzetta
p. 117

The traditions of St. John the Baptist from a distant past at the time of the Internet: the case of Lama dei Peligni

Abstract

Lama dei Peligni is a town in the Abruzzo province of Chieti where up to about 60 years ago, the majority of the population practiced agriculture, followed by wage labor, craftsmanship and pastoralism. Now the population has been drastically reduced, there are no more shepherds and farmers and different traditions with secular roots have disappeared while others have been preserved and have been adapted to the new needs of the population. Among the traditions that have survived there are those regarding San Giovanni Battista. In this work we analyze and describe the traditions related to the cult of San Giovanni Battista, highlighting the transformations they have undergone, the process of refunctionalization to which they have been subjected and the new meanings acquired in the current situation following the diffusion on the web through a facebook site. In particular, the contemporary rituals that are practiced contribute to strengthen the collective identity, to escape momentarily from everyday life and serve as a tourist attraction. Through online distribution, on the other hand, we see communication without real faces and the formation of a new type of territorial and local identity.

Keywords: Lama dei Peligni, San Giovanni Battista, traditions, internet, facebook

La condivisione del lutto online: lo scarto tra realtà e ostentazione

Giada Fiorese
p. 139

Online mourning: the gap between reality and ostentation

Abstract

The invasive power of technology overcomes every barrier and after having conditioned the way in which human beings communicate, travel and make purchases, it now has changed the rituals of mourning and grieving. In the past, when someone died all that was left were memories and photographs. Nowadays, the deceased stays forever in the virtual present and online mourning has become a common experience. When a person dies, his virtual selves continue to exist in the form of photos, videos and posts in the same online spaces that people use every day. The author assumes this is a quite new phenomenon and by analyzing the link between facing a loss and using technology, it may be possible to understand the ways in which internet, including social media and memorial sites, are enabling new ways of grieving that transcend the traditional notions of letting go and moving forward. If technology seems to nullify the differences between public and private sphere, where is the boundary between real pain and ostentation?

Keywords: ritual, mourning, death, virtual, technology