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Antropologia applicata

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Committed, engaged e applied anthropology

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Committed, engaged and applied anthropology

Abstract

Anthropology has become very popular over the past decades. We have witnessed a proliferation of anthropologists and anthropologies but the theoretical debate and the epistemological reflection of the discipline have come to a full stop. It seems that anthropology has reduced itself to a *tekhne* among many others, characterizing itself – according to the author – as «Atlantic anthropology», a protocolar anthropology in thrall to the dominating ideologies of the financial markets. The renewed discussion on the concepts of development and cooperation – concepts which have deeply marked the past three decades of the social sciences and the current crystallization of anthropology – that is of contemporary economy, represents an opportunity to revivify and deepen the impact of anthropological theory. It is an epistemological and political impact with remarkable social and scientific consequences which is mostly detectable in one of the declinations of anthropology, i.e. applied anthropology, when and if intended as committed anthropology that founds its methodology and its way of being on fieldwork: a continuous dialogue with “alterity” in which the only thinkable “alienity” is represented by the *tekhne* and by the financial markets which support and promulgate it as omnipresent and almighty *verbum*.

Keywords: applied anthropology, committed anthropology, financial market, alterity, *tekhne*

Ricerca “pura” e ricerca “applicata”. Antropologia teoretica e antropologia applicativa a un decennio dall’inizio del terzo millennio

Antonino Colajanni p. 25

“Pure” and “applied” research. Theoretical and applied anthropology a decade after the beginning of the third millennium

Abstract

The text presents a short reconstruction of the development of a specific interest towards the social problems of the contemporary society, in the history of anthropology. Anthropological research showed frequently, from its origins, a particular optimism in what concerns the possibility of giving

consistent contributions – in a critical sense, containing also a specific proposal – to the public and private institutions devoted to the planning and implementation of social and cultural change.

The actual situation of studies and activities of applying anthropological research to fields as public health, school, migration, development, is then presented, insisting specifically on the necessity of a strict and constant connection between theoretical and applied anthropology. It is also examined a series of diverse forms of resistance and hostility, prejudice and refuse, against applied anthropology, manifested frequently in the recent history of the discipline.

It is then maintained the very intense efficacy of the activities of the “New Applied Anthropology”, which is based on a relation of interchange with institutions external to the Academy, characterized by the following conditions: 1) An accurate critical analysis of the institutions with which the collaboration has been planned, and a specific attention devoted to the problem of “communication” with bureaucracy or experts of other disciplines; 2) A capacity to produce new and original information and social analysis within the same period of the activity as consultants; 3) A capacity to propose reasonable previsions about the possible effects of the ongoing processes of change; 4) A capacity to produce a stable influence on the decisional process of the involved institutions, on the base of the specific knowledge at disposition of the anthropologist.

Definitely, this intellectual and practical field is characterized by a *knowledge* which has the intention and the capacity to influence a system of *actions*.

Keywords: pure research, applied research, theoretical anthropology, applied anthropology

Educare alla sessualità: adolescenti e piacere in un percorso formativo tra scuola e servizi sanitari

Nicoletta Landi

p. 41

Educating sexuality: teenagers and pleasure in a training program between school and health services

Abstract

In this paper, the author analyzes sexual education programs in the urban context of Bologna, Italy. The research is conducted through direct observation and participation to the activities of Spazio Giovani. It is a family planning clinic, part of the Public Health System, specifically addressed to teenagers and their needs related to contraception and STDs prevention. A particular project, called “W l’amore” is described and argued. It is inspired by a Dutch program and takes place through a cooperation between the school system and Spazio Giovani. An anthropological action-research, focusing on social and Public Health services, reveals how sexualities are conceptualized, handled and educated. Sexual education for teenagers leads to discuss on themes connected to sexual citizenship and empowerment. It should lead to share knowledge and practices concerning sex, gender, health and desires respecting identities and contributing to create a more inclusive society.

Keywords: Sexuality, Education, Teenagers, Public Health System, Engaged Anthropology.

Riflessioni per una “antropologia per lo sviluppo”. Analisi critica di un’esperienza di collaborazione fra antropologi e enti locali

Filippo Lenzi Grillini

p. 65

Some Reflections on “Anthropology for development”: A Critical Analysis of an Experience of Collaboration Between Anthropologists and Administrative Entities

Abstract

This article presents some reflections resulting from an experience of collaboration between an association of anthropologists and an Italian administrative entity. The specific case refers to research

and monitoring activities in order to understand problems and strengths of the associations which, within the jurisdiction of the administrative entity, implement international cooperation projects. The author, personally involved in this consultancy, analyses both the critical aspects and the outlooks that face those who realize nowadays in Italy, projects of applied anthropology. Through the “anthropology of development” approach and the analysis of the institutions and processes linked to governance, the author sheds light on both methodological (how the methodologies that characterize social anthropology can find space to be used within such consultancies?) and professional issues (are the results of anthropological research taken into consideration to guide public policy?)

Keywords: Anthropology of development, International cooperation, Applied anthropology, Anthropology of Institutions, Italy.

Il campo dello sviluppo e le migrazioni contemporanee: analisi di un’esperienza di ricerca

Selenia Marabello

p. 83

The development field and contemporary migrations: focusing on a research experience

Abstract

The relationship between migration and development, mainly connotated in favourable terms, proposes with urgency migrants as development agents. They are defined as the new diasporas.

Exploring a co-development project financed by the MIDA Ghana-Senegal Programme involving Ghanaian migrants in Modena (Italy), a retrospective analysis focuses on the research setting conditions and opportunities. As an anthropologist, the researcher was first involved as a consultant for the evaluation project implementation and subsequently continued the analysis within academic institutions. With the aim to illustrate the potentialities for applied anthropology, the author will look at the discrepancies and the circular nature of the ethnographic data production and elaboration within the two fieldwork experiences.

Key Words: Co-development, new diasporas, applied anthropology, ethnographic production.

Scuola, campi e carcere. Educazione, formazione e rieducazione per Rom e Sinti: note per una antropologica applicata

Sara Miscioscia

p. 99

Schools, camps and jail. Education, training and rehabilitation for roma and sinti: notes for applied anthropology

Abstract

Since the birth of the modern nation-states the story of the encounter between the romani population and the majority society is characterized by various educational strategies implemented by governments with the aim of bringing roma and sinti people to behave in a manner more appropriate to the dominant thought. The camps are places dedicated to the educational and training projects with the formula coined by the former Mayor Alemanno for the Nomads Plan: “legality and integration”.

For all those who continue to subvert the rules imposed by the dominant society, despite the opportunity offered in the fields and in schools, the only alternative is jail. In this case the rehabilitative function is explicit: those who come into prison should exit persuaded not to repeat the mistakes made. For this reason work activities, educational courses and training courses are recommended to inmates. Usually the proposed activities are carried out with pleasure by inmates because they help to spend long days faster; however, the roma generally participate little.

The situation described in the paper is useful to reveal the possible applications of anthropological studies.

Keywords: Roma, Education, Schools, Camps, Applied anthropology

Agroecologia e relazione con “l’altra”. Appunti di un’etnografia collaborativa con il movimento di donne contadine in Santa Catarina (Brasile)

Mariateresa Muraca

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Agroecology and the relation with “the other”: notes on a collaborative ethnography with the movement of peasant women in Santa Catarina - (Br)

Abstract

This paper describes a collaborative ethnography about political and pedagogical practices of the Movement of Peasant Women in Santa Catarina (Brazil). In particular, it investigates the educational potential of the agroecological practices and reflections developed by the movement, in order to rethink the “negated relation” between the peasants of European origin and the native population, into the social-political-cultural context of the State of Santa Catarina. After a brief reference to the background of the study about the educational practices of the social movements, the author presents her research and focuses on the political, ethical and methodological implications of an investigation with a social movement. How can the identification with the struggles of the social movement contribute to the research? In which way, is it possible to promote the reciprocity in all stages of the survey? Can the discussion about the researcher’s interpretations with her interlocutors promote any non-individualistic modalities of ethnographic writing?

Keywords: Collaborative ethnography, social movement, agroecology, Brazil, intercultural relations

La figura dell’antropologo, le necessità di assistenza familiare e la costruzione di una “casa della salute”. Progetto di ricerca e sensibilizzazione nel quartiere Savena di Bologna

Cecilia Palmese

p. 151

The role of the anthropologist, the needs of family caring and the creation of the “health house”. Research and awareness project in Savena district - Bologna

Abstract

The author presents her research and awareness project about family caring initiated in the Savena District, Bologna. Through this experience, the author has had the opportunity to disclose the development of non-self-sufficiency among the elderly creating the so-called “health house” within the home. Using this expression, she specifies the alteration of the physical space and the combination of life stories and expectations of three subjects who dwell in this space: the elderly, relatives and family assistant (“badante”). Outside the house, however, economic and political interests are increasing. The anthropologist has to be fully aware of these power dynamics and, above all, has to develop an educational and mediation activity in order to create more possibilities of expression for the individuals involved in the care relationship.

Keywords: Elderly, caregiver, institutions, house, Engaged Anthropology

Sulla carta e sul terreno. Note etnografiche sui due versanti di un progetto di cooperazione internazionale in agricoltura familiare nell’Alto Paranaíba (Brasile)

Enrico Petrangeli

p. 169

On the paper and on the ground. Ethnographic notes on the two sides of an international family agriculture cooperation project in Upper Paranaiba (Brazil)

Abstract

The article comes from ethnographic observation conducted at the request of the management of the Agrifam project. The ethnographic data collected, attempts not only to speak about the management questions, but allows conclusions to be drawn from the representation of the project team's reality and what the ethnographer draws out from fields observation. Focalizing on the object of the research, the author has a critical approach to the deterministic model of international project planning and reflects on the possible benefits of integrating anthropologic knowledge with project conception.

Keywords: Upper Paranaiba, Sem Heart, Sustainable Development, Biodiesel, International Cooperation

Dai luoghi della cura alla cura dei luoghi. I servizi sanitari come spazi narrativi di autoriflessività istituzionale

Francesca Pistone

p. 189

From the places of *care* to the care of places: the *Aziende Sanitarie Locali* as narrative spaces of institutional reflexivity

Abstract

In its historical parabola from safeguard to control, from hospitals to their surroundings, from institutions to facilities, from diseases to actual human people, the function of health facilities in Italy has progressively become that of decrypting the complex social context in which they act. In accordance with this historical development, the author debates on how disability questions the whole political and social space of health services and interprets the demand for care and the need for socialization within a more general relational system. The questioning of human bodies as cultural and political predicates, the regard for the subjectivity of citizens and for a consequent socio-cultural calibration of health services, are the main anthropological goals in which the care of disability can be involved. The ethnographic *case study* of a "A.s.l." in Rome is presented and discussed by the author as an example of such a turning from a "public" to a "communal" institution where narrative and auto-reflexivity can be used as a project shift toward a destination culture of institutions where anthropology (its gaze and even its expographic writing) can be involved in a multidisciplinary *équipe*.

Keywords: Medical Anthropology, Narrative, Disability, Health Services, Care

L'impatto umano dell'*Urban renewal*: antropologia come risposta a un malessere urbano

Stefano Portelli

p. 211

The social impact of urban renewal: anthropology as an answer to an urban unease.

Abstract

Retracing the contemporary history of a peripheral neighbourhood of Barcelona undergoing a process of complete demolition, the author reflects on the "structural homology" between the spatial configuration and the social order, a complexity that ethnography is able to capture and share with planners and other professionals. Repensar Bonpastor is a multidisciplinary device with which an independent group of architects, urban planners and anthropologists faced the difficulties of elaborating a collective alternative to the demolitions and forced evictions that are disrupting the social life of this stigmatized neighbourhood, through socializing the difficulties of the inhabitants with a wider community.

Keywords: Urban studies, engaged anthropology, activist ethnography, spatial injustice, Barcelona.

Antropologia applicata e inquinamento industriale a Brindisi. Problemi e nessi da riconfigurare

Andrea Filippo Ravenda

p. 229

Applied anthropology and industrial pollution in Brindisi. Shaping problems and links

Abstract

Brindisi is a city in the South-east of Italy with high industrial density - two coal-fired power plants and a large petrochemical complex - and a high percentage of cancer deaths with an excess of a lung cancer. The coal power plants pollution as well as that of petrochemical complex is considered as the main cause of diseases and deaths by the local doctors union and some social movements. However this report is constantly negotiated and redefined by the parties involved (energy companies, lawyers, doctors, local social movements, politicians, researchers) in a very articulate public health field, that involves different local/global spheres of public, politic, professional and private life, in which power relations and highly emotional contrasts define the position of many social actors.

The essay is based on an ethnography started in 2009 and still in progress, focused on the relationship between pollution and disease in Brindisi. I will propose two lines of analysis which are strictly related. An ethnographic reflection on negotiation form and practices of categories and values as "right to health", "sick of coal", "public health", "medical authority" inside a cause-effect relationship between pollution and disease. I will also try to reflect on the Anthropologist operative position and the applicative chance of his research within the conflictual public health field.

Keywords: pollution, health, aetiology, trial, epidemiology

Esperienze di antropologia applicata tra minori non accompagnati e giovani migranti marocchini a Torino

Alice Rossi

p. 249

Experiences of applied anthropology among unaccompanied minors and young Moroccan migrants in Turin

Abstract

In Italy, unaccompanied minor immigrants are entitled to a temporary-resident permit, which doesn't guarantee their regularization once of age; thus risks of exploiting these minors in informal and illegal economy increase.

With the present contribution the author critically reviews her experience with applied anthropology in Porta Palazzo; a migratory neighborhood in the city of Turin. Here, as a social operator, she met unaccompanied minors and youths; mostly Moroccans, who didn't access institutional support successfully. Masculine chain-migrations and informal networks, not necessarily reducible to kinship, were their fundamental references. A long term action-research (2003-2008), conducted within an interdisciplinary framework led to the recognition and amplification of contemporary-migrant-vulnerability signals, structural risks of liminal status and claims towards recognition.

Conclusively, through this experience, she wishes to evidence how applied anthropology can affect processes of social transformations within the field-work of reception-systems: by tracing connections among interdependent factors of current-contradictory-migratory policies, inconsistent practices and fragmented trajectories of unaccompanied minors.

Keywords: applied anthropology; anthropology of migration; unaccompanied minors; urban anthropology; proxemics of daily violence.

Costruzione sociale e processi incorporativi della persona con dis-abilità: il sordo fra famiglia e scelte educative

Fiammetta Savoia

p. 265

Social construction and incorporation processes of the person with *dis*-abilities: the deaf between family and educational choices

Abstract

Since the '80s movements of people with disabilities and disability studies have opposed the social model to the medical model of disability. With the paradigm of embodiment, eventually, the disabled corporeality has freed itself from constraints of context and has become active protagonist of its history. In this perspective the author investigates the corporeal experience of deaf people who use sign language (according to their different skills) within two nodal contexts: the family, hearing and/or deaf, and the education, special school and/or mainstream school. The processes of embodiment eventually have shown a multiform humanity: the deaf body may become "other norm", in itself complete; may try to resemble the hearing norm, to bridge a gap; may be ambivalent, referring to each of the two; may result ambiguous, when it risks being excluded from both. It reveals a *continuum* of "corporeal identity", from deaf to hearing-like, that can interrogate the educational institutions in their choices.

Keywords: Disability, Embodiment, Deaf people, Education, Family

Antropologia e marginalità urbane. Il caso di un dormitorio pubblico a Bologna

Giuseppe Scandurra

p. 293

Anthropology and urban marginalities. A Bologna shelter

Abstract

In recent years ethnographic research that has been published in Italy could fit in a sub-discipline that the author of the essay tries to synthesize under the term "Anthropology of urban marginality". A much debated topic of study outside our country, especially from the sixties onwards, after the early generations of Chicago ethnographers. These are the questions that the author wishes to answer in his paper: to which extent is it possible to speak of an anthropology of urban marginality in our country? What have these studies achieved in terms of improvement of policies aimed at "marginal individuals" living in our cities? Who reads this research? Have they changed the way of doing research inside university? In brief, what were the consequences of the application of these studies inside and outside University?

Keywords: ethnography, urban marginalities, ethnography, urban studies, homeless

Professionalità antropologica ed etnografia delle politiche pubbliche: sfide quotidiane, nuove circolarità e legami inattesi

Federica Tarabusi

p. 323

Anthropological professional experience and ethnography of public policies: daily challenges, new circulating flows and unforeseen ties

Abstract

Grounded on a multisited fieldwork conducted in both Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the paper investigates the role played by the anthropological engagement in exploring "social life" of international projects and daily practices of aid institutions.

Moving beyond the negative, critical stance that has been so dominant in the past, the author offers an ethnographic insight of how decentralized cooperation discourses, such as “partnership”, “participation” and “civil society”, are concretely translated into development practices. The author also writes about her experience as professional *appraiser* within the project and allows us to discuss how applied work may contribute in breaking down the “black box” of aid processes, paving the way for a more reflexive and ethnographically nuanced approach to the study of everyday institutional practices and action strategies shaping the development arena.

Keywords: decentralized cooperation, development policies, assessment, institutional ethnography, applied anthropology.