

Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia

CALL FOR PAPERS

BIOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY

**Call for papers, Special Issue, Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia, edited by
Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna)
Monica Massari (University of Naples Federico II)**

During the past twenty years, biographical research, which had significantly declined in post-war sociological inquiry, has gained new visibility and become an established field within scientific social research. This revival has allowed biographical analysis to expand its scope and to move beyond disciplinary borders, while exploring new research perspectives and innovative methods integrating narrative, ethnographic, and discourse approaches.

The core question of the biographical approach, however, aimed at understanding how changes in society are connected with varying organizations of the self and family, work, life and generational relations, as well as institutional settings, is currently confronted with major issues of globalizing societies and new forms of communication. Different concepts of biography and life story rooted in different societal organizations and cultural traditions of narratives have appeared and started to interact, while new media and visual practices of remembering are significantly changing and/or affecting the ways how we create images of our self and document our biography.

Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia

This issue is aimed at exploring the relations existing between social events, historical processes and biographical experiences in the framework of an increasing transnationalization of people's lives and practices, paying specific attention to the temporal dimension and the differences existing between age groups and generations both in Europe and non-European countries. The editors welcome contributions that address transnational migration from a biographical perspective, especially taking generational relations into account. Migration processes and the experience of migration are embedded in biographical developments, prospects and mostly implicit concepts of one's own life. Thus the meaning and handling of experiences related to migration evolve in different life spheres and periods of life in various ways and social contexts and can even profoundly change over time. The molding of migration experiences are part of generational relations insofar, as children and grandchildren react or resonate on the experiences of their parents and grandparents, the situations they had gone through in the contexts they left, during their move and also, and especially, in the contexts they arrived or passed as a sojourn. However, the transmission of migration experiences and their biographical implications is not linear. Following generations deal with them in active ways being embedded in their own social positions and contexts.

Contributors might deal with both empirical and methodological challenges and innovative approaches addressing the biographical as well as generational aspects of migration. Especially visual approaches in combination with biographical and ethnographic methods are highly welcomed. While proposals can address specific cases at national level, cross-country comparisons both at European and international level are encouraged. Among the topics suggested, contributions might focus on:

- processes of multi-generational transmission within families;
- gender relations' changes in migratory processes;
- biographical challenges in handling different social welfare systems;
- transnational (visual and narrative) communication using different media;
- forced migration trajectories compared to transnational work migration and their respective biographical impact;
- representations of migrants and refugees in public discourses compared to forms of self-narration through images and other visual practices.

Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia

Deadlines and guide line

Abstracts are due **by December 15, 2017**. All abstracts (500 words), with 5 keywords, should be sent as e-mail attachments to: Roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at and monica.massari@unina.it

Communication from the Editors concerning the selection of articles **by January 15, 2018**.

Submission of first versions of articles to the editors **by April 15, 2018**. Articles – written in English – should follow the journal guidelines.

Communication from the Editors concerning the peer-review process **by July 15, 2018**.

Revised and language edited versions sent to the Editors **by September 15, 2018**. Publication on Issue **1/2019**.