

Dipartimento di Metodi e modelli per l'economia, il territorio e la finanza (Memotef)

Sesta Giornata della ricerca (26-27 febbraio 2014)

Abstracts

The Dissemination of Contemporary Knowledge in English: Linguistic and Pragmatic Practices in Specialized Discourse Fields (discussant Rita Salvi)

Janet Bowker

Creating the 'knowledge-able' organization: discursive remediation in corporate strategic planning and internal training events

In an increasingly competitive global market place, “knowledge management” within organizational practices has become essential for visibility and even survival. At a top level, corporate strategic planning needs to incorporate best practices into their own constantly-reviewed business operations: a corollary of this is the provision of an ongoing process of employee qualification based on the updating of competencies, knowledge and skills.

Using the tools of discourse analysis and corpus linguistics, two parallel sub-corpora have been selected for comparison: a series of internal corporate strategic planning presentations in webcast mode, and a set of “webinars” designed for the internal training and development of employees. The research focuses on the discursive processes at work and the role of linguistic resources, in particular, in the two sets of information transmission experiences in the achievement of successful learning through the creation of credibility, trust and co-operation. At the same time, empirical studies of this kind reveal how corporate culture (in terms of values, philosophies and organizational practices) is construed, maintained and changed.

The investigation finds significant differences between the top-down corporate “voice” discourse, based on exposition (with a high frequency of “nouncing”, technical description and extended oral argumentation), in contrast with the bottom-up, employee “voice” discourse, characterized by interactional, directive acts (in imperative mood, to a large extent), and relayed with extensive use of personalized narrative, and much marked by humour.

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Ersilia Incelli

Scientific dissemination in the media. Popularizing the Higgs Boson: a corpus assisted approach

New channels of communication are changing ‘expert – expert’ and ‘expert – lay’ information exchanges, particularly in scientific communication and knowledge dissemination. In this light, the present research explores the scientific popularization process and how science knowledge is

recontextualized and rewritten as it is transferred from one context or genre to another (Calsamiglia and van Dijk, 2004).

This case study draws on a collection of texts relating the recent discovery of the Higgs Boson. The corpus consists of three different genre types; one compiled of papers from the highly specialized scientific journal *Physics Letters B* (140,000 words), the second consisting of online newspaper articles (40,000 words), subdivided into two sub-corpora of broadsheets (e.g. *The Guardian*), and tabloid newspapers, (e.g. *The Daily Express*). The third corpus (25,000 words) consists of weblogs from science.com blog, directed at a peer-to-peer science community, and media blogs directed at a lay audience, contrastively highlighting how knowledge is managed, presupposed and reconstructed. Any recontextualization of discourse implies notions of intertextuality, apparent in the intertextual strategies used by science journalists, such as quoting and reporting, and in interdiscursive strategies which adopt denomination and reformulation, such as metaphors and analogies used to explain complex science. Thus the work identifies prominent lexico-semantic textual properties, and how the uncertainty discourse common to scientific research papers is conveyed in the media through pragmatic markers used in hedging, (e.g. probably, maybe, think, seem, look like).

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Chiara Prosperi Porta

Communicating epidemiology in the EU: discourse in surveillance reports

In recent years, much research has focused on how the notion of cultural orientation impacts on specialist discourse creation. These insights have particular relevance in the case of EU informative institutional documentation, such as the Annual Epidemiological Reports that represent one of the various forms of 'European discourse'.

This contribution explores the discursive shaping of identity in a corpus composed of the Annual Epidemiological Reports issued by the European Centre for Disease, Prevention and Control (ECDC), investigating their evolution from 2007 through to 2013.

The focus is on the role of discourse in this genre, together with the pragmatic objectives fulfilled in communication within the intercultural European context. In particular, the study analyses the linguistic strategies used to convey public information about communicable diseases, to present potential epidemiological threats, as well as to win public acknowledgment and take institutional credit for developing better policies and actions that may reduce the incidence of diseases in Europe. The approach is both qualitative (semantic, pragmatic and rhetorical characteristics) and quantitative (keywords, phraseology and collocations), in order to highlight the relevant discursive strategies involved in promoting the image of the institution and the value of its actions. ConcApp software will be used for the quantitative analysis.

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Judith Turnbull

Knowledge dissemination online and the empowerment of citizens

This study explores the way information and specialized knowledge in English is presented on the Internet today. Indeed, in a world dominated by computers and technology, it has become one of the main sources of information.

However, access to specialized knowledge does not simply mean the availability of information through the Internet. What is more important is that it is cognitively accessible to lay people. Internet may, in fact, be seen as a source of information rather than knowledge. It refers to general data, world facts, expressed by numbers, words, images, sounds and so on. Knowledge, on the other hand, is information which has been transferred into some conceptual framework, which in turn leads to an understanding of a topic and hence can be made available for other cognitive uses. It is the practical use of information.

The actual transfer of knowledge from expert to non-expert is a complex process. In order for the information to be truly accessible and useful, it has to undergo a process of transformation, simplification and re-contextualization which makes it comprehensible to the lay reader, at both a cognitive and a linguistic level.

Examples of language analysis from the fields of law, social issues and medicine will be given to illustrate the strategies used to transfer knowledge and the characteristics of this procedure within the context and restraints of online communication.

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Plurilinguismo e ambito lavorativo multilingue
(discussant Oreste Floquet¹)

Sonia Di Vito²

Présentation du numéro 4 revue Repères - Dorif (<http://www.dorif.it/ezine/>)

L'objectif du numéro 4 de la Revue Repères-Dorif est de présenter les réflexions et les expériences proposées pendant une journée d'étude internationale et pluridisciplinaire (« Quel plurilinguisme pour quel environnement professionnel multilingue ?, Memotef, Università Sapienza, 3 febbraio 2012) qui a vu différents actants du monde scientifique, économique et professionnel se confronter à l'importance de la formation en langues étrangères des jeunes et des adultes en Italie et dans d'autres pays européens aujourd'hui. Il est indéniable que les compétences plurilingues et pluriculturelles dans des domaines professionnels multilingues constituent un atout précieux à disposition des entreprises ouvertes à l'international. Il existe en effet, une étude sur la valeur économique des langues en Suisse (Grin 1999) qui a montré que la connaissance de plusieurs langues peut générer une augmentation du revenu des employés plurilingues. Il a été aussi démontré (Neeley 2013) que le choix d'utiliser une lingua franca au sein d'une entreprise peut générer des tensions entre les employés au point de menacer son propre fonctionnement. Il est donc nécessaire de développer un système de formation linguistique plus

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efficace et plus centré sur le plurilinguisme afin de promouvoir une croissance culturelle et économique dans l'Europe entière.

Références

GRIN, F. (1999), *Compétences et récompenses : la valeur des langues en Suisse*, Fribourg, Editions universitaires Fribourg Suisse.

NEELEY, T. B. (2013), "Language Matters: Status Loss and Achieved Status Distinctions in Global Organizations", *Organization science* 24, no. 2 p.476–497.

Presentazione del numero 4 della rivista *Repères - Dorif* (<http://www.dorif.it/ezine/>)

L'obiettivo del numero 4 della rivista *Repères - Dorif* è di presentare le riflessioni ed esperienze emerse durante la giornata di studio internazionale e pluridisciplinare dal titolo « Quel plurilinguisme pour quel environnement professionnel multilingue ?, tenutasi il 3 febbraio 2012 presso l'Università Sapienza, Dipartimento MEMOTEF. L'incontro ha consentito a linguisti, economisti e rappresentanti del mondo istituzionale e professionale di riunirsi e aprire un dibattito sulle sfide e le questioni riguardanti la formazione linguistica di giovani e adulti oggi in Italia e in altri paesi europei. Le competenze plurilingui e pluriculturali in ambiti lavorativi multilingui sono senza dubbio un asso nella manica delle imprese che vogliono avere un respiro internazionale. Per questo, come dimostrato in uno studio sul valore economico delle lingue in Svizzera (Grin 1999), la competenza e conoscenza di più lingue può comportare un aumento del reddito degli impiegati plurilingui. Un altro studio più recente (Neeley 2013) ha inoltre messo in evidenza che il fatto di utilizzare una lingua franca come scelta attuata all'interno di un'impresa, può creare tensioni fra i suoi dipendenti a tal punto da minacciare il buon funzionamento dell'impresa stessa. Appare dunque necessario sviluppare un sistema di formazione linguistica più efficace e più incentrato sul plurilinguismo per essere promotori di una crescita culturale ed economica dell'Europa intera.

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M.-P. Escoubas-Benveniste

Intercompréhension orale et apprentissage innovant du FLE : une expérience à la "Facoltà di economia"

Les étudiants de la "Facoltà di Economia" considérés en tant qu'apprenants de français se caractérisent par plusieurs constantes: ils ont peu de temps disponible à consacrer à cet apprentissage, les représentations qu'ils se font souvent de l'apprentissage des langues constituent des obstacles majeurs au succès de cette entreprise et la manière dont ils conçoivent les "conoscenze di base" dans une langue tierce ne les aide pas à mettre en place un auto-apprentissage efficace et motivant.

Je présenterai ici les fondements d'une expérience menée avec ce type de public, qui a pour objectif, tout en tenant compte de leurs impératifs pratiques, tout comme de leurs profils langagiers toujours plus diversifiés, de faire naître une autre vision de ce que peut être l'apprentissage linguistique. Les objectifs de ce parcours de formation visent à développer:

- des compétences/connaissances partielles et correctement définies, distinctes du modèle idéal du locuteur natif;
- une pédagogie/andragogie fondée sur l'action individuelle/collective et la résolution de problèmes;

- une réflexion partagée sur la comparaison des langues qui permet de renforcer le raisonnement métalinguistique (réfléchir sur les langues/cultures) et métacognitif (apprendre à gérer son apprentissage)

Cette expérience d'apprentissage mixte (blended learning) basée sur les fondements de l'intercompréhension orale des langues proches, se déroule selon un protocole précis dit "en spirale", qui associe un parcours de formation en ligne disponible sur l'environnement numérique d'apprentissage (Moodle: <http://elearning.uniroma1.it>) et une formation frontale semestrielle de 3 ECTS. À l'heure actuelle deux modules sont disponibles et régulièrement répliqués à chaque semestre universitaire selon une progression fondée sur les méthodes naturelles d'apprentissage spontané qui procèdent toujours de la facilité vers la complexité.

Intercomprensione orale e apprendimento innovativo del francese: esperimento presso la "Facoltà di economia"

Gli studenti della "Facoltà di Economia" intesi come "apprendenti della lingua francese" presentano alcune caratteristiche: primo, hanno poco tempo da dedicare a questo apprendimento, secondo, le loro rappresentazioni di ciò che è l'apprendimento linguistico spesso ostacolano ogni loro tentativo, e infine il modo in cui essi concepiscono il contenuto associato all'espressione "conoscenze di base" in una terza lingua non li aiuta a mettere in atto un apprendimento autonomo che sia efficace e dunque motivante.

In questa sede presenterò i principi di un esperimento attuato con tale pubblico, che mira, pur tenendo in considerazione i vari imperativi pratici e la diversità delle conoscenze e competenze linguistiche pregresse degli studenti, a modellare una visione diversa di quello che potrebbe essere l'apprendimento delle lingue. Gli obiettivi di questo percorso formativo sono di:

- sviluppare determinate competenze/conoscenze parziali, correttamente definite, e contraddistinte da quelle promosse dal modello tradizionale del native speaker;
- attuare una pedagogia/andragogia basata sull'azione individuale/collettiva e la risoluzione di problemi;
- avviare una riflessione approfondita derivante dal confronto delle lingue e che rafforzi il ragionamento metalinguistico (riflettere sulle lingue/culture) e metacognitivo (imparare a gestire il proprio apprendimento)

L'esperienza portata avanti da diversi anni in modalità di blended learning, si basa sui principi fondanti dell'intercomprensione orale delle lingue vicine, e avviene secondo un protocollo specifico detto "a spirale", che combina un percorso formativo online disponibile sul learning management system (Moodle: <http://elearning.uniroma1.it>) e un modulo semestrale di lezioni frontali (3 CFU). Attualmente due moduli formativi sono disponibili e regolarmente riprodotti in ogni semestre accademico. Seguono una progressione fondata sull'apprendimento naturale e spontaneo che procede partendo dalla facilità verso l'elaborazione della complessità.

Dionino Zappacosta

Embauche et compétences linguistiques : le point de vue de l'entreprise, Repères DoRiF n. 4, décembre 2013, <http://www.dorif.it/ezine/>

L'objectif de cette analyse est d'évaluer l'importance accordée par les recruteurs aux compétences linguistiques des candidats à l'insertion sur le marché du travail, à partir des prérequis qu'ils expriment dans les annonces d'emploi. L'étude a été conduite sur un échantillon de profils de candidats publiés par des entreprises nationales et internationales, qui opèrent aussi bien sur le territoire national italien qu'au niveau international. Le corpus analysé se compose de 111 offres d'emploi publiées sur le portail interuniversitaire SOUL. Les paramètres pris en

considération pour l'analyse sont 1) la présence ou non d'une demande de compétence linguistique, 2) les caractéristiques des entreprises et 3) la formulation et la spécification des compétences linguistiques requises. Une analyse quantitative et qualitative de la nature des demandes formulées par les employeurs potentiels permet d'observer qu'il n'y a pas de véritable expression précise, de la part des recruteurs, des compétences et des différents niveaux de connaissance linguistique qu'ils demandent au candidat et, par conséquent, des besoins linguistiques qu'ils associent au profil d'emploi.

The aim of this study is to assess the importance given by job interviewers/recruiters to the effective language skills of successful candidates, according to the requirements as advertised in job offers. The analysis has been carried out on a sample of job advertisements published by national and international firms, either at a national or global level. The corpus is composed of 111 job offers that were posted on the university website SOUL. The parameters that has been considered in this research are :

- 1) the actual demand for language skills ;
- 2) the company layout ;
- 3) the mention to specific language requirements for the job advertised.

The quantitative and qualitative analysis of the job offers advertised by the potential employers hasn't identified any specific reference to the language skills and the different levels of competence required, as well as to the job-specific language needs.

<p><i>Territorio e politiche</i> (discussant Roberta Gemmiti)</p>
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Filippo Celata e Raffaella Coletti

Place-based strategies vs. territorial cooperation: regional development in trans-regional perspective

Italy has been at the forefront in the implementation of place-based regional development strategies during the 2000s, and it constitutes therefore a privileged point of view to investigate the contents of the approach, its potentialities as well as its limitations. In light of those limitations, we propose a comparative assessment of place-based regional development policies, on the one hand, and territorial cooperation policies on the other hand, based on recent debates about territorial vis-à-vis relational approaches to regional development. To this end, the existing literature about the outcomes of local development policies in Italy will be reviewed, and complemented with in-depth interviews with policy experts which have been actively involved in the design and implementation of the two typologies of policies in Sicily.

Territorial cooperation, it is argued, may be regarded as a trans-regional and transnational approach to regional development based on a new ethic of place-to-place relations and regional openness. The identification of transnational spatial units, joint management authorities and trans-regional strategies, may indeed help to overcome some of the limitations of place-based strategies - namely, the risk of policy capture, territorial introversion and communitarian confinement - while incurring in others - institutional isomorphism, technocratic management and democratic deficit.

Enza Roberta Petrillo³

Migratory Pressures on the EU's external borders. Development from the Italian southern external borders.

Migratory pressures on the EU's external borders have posed a significant challenge to European policy-makers. As a further proof of this, the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures" approved by the European Council in April 2012 has indicated the "Enhancement of the border management at the external borders" as key strategic priority. This approach is not surprising. As the geopolitical context has transformed, so has the geographies of migration, with a general shift of attention from east-west to south-north routes, have raised, coming to the fore new challenges and new policy questions to address (De Haas, Collyer, Düvell: 2012). It is in this context, that migratory flows, be the flows of asylum-seekers, labor migrants or forced migrants, have been associated with various threats, including criminality, terrorism, and social conflict (Lohrmann: 2000). This trend has often been referred to as 'the securitization of migration', that is the extreme presentation of migration as a security threat (Bigo: 2002). As a consequence, in this specific context of securitization of the asylum and migration policy, the EU Member States decided to establish FRONTEX, the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU.

Moving from this overview, this research aims to examine the growing EU's securitization of the immigration control, assessing, in particular, the policy implications and the geopolitical impacts of the Frontex's policing along the Italian southern external borders. Have this kind of border enforcement effectively stopped irregular migrants from entering the EU?

Examining the issue of EU's border controls from the perspectives of the Italian Southern external borders, the research will try to understand what is happening to border controls on the movement of persons in the EU and why the results, as demonstrated by the cyclic migrants' shipwrecks off the coast of Sicily, are so deadly and ineffective.

The research is structured as follows. It opens with a presentation of the state of the art of the EU asylum and migration policy that has been taking place since the 2000s. Then, the article will present an analysis of what actually is happening at the EU's external borders, analyzing in details the last developments from the Italian Southern External Borders. It then moves on to assess the effectiveness of EU's border control strategy deployed at this critical border, from the perspective of available information and statistical data which the EU's border agency Frontex and the Italian Interior Ministry make available.

Through the analysis of the theoretical background concerning the EU migration and asylum policy and the interviews collected among a range of key informants from European Commission-DG Home Affairs and the Italian Governmental Departments active in the field of migration policy, this article will finally offer some policy conclusions with respect to FRONTEX and the securitization of asylum and migration in the EU examining how this is transforming the conventional principles of European border controls and humanitarian protection.

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Maria Caterina Bramati

Social network analysis and Bayesian networks: Taxonomy of environmental contrasts

The main objective of this research is to connect Social Network Analysis descriptive measures of centrality with a probabilistic approach to networks. A latent conditional structure of the network which shapes both the structural information and uncertainty characterizing the data is assumed.

This is achieved by means of a Bayesian Network approach which allows reweighting the original adjacency matrix according to the latent network structure. Therefore, traditional SNA measures for network description can be easily computed. This is illustrated using a dataset on Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) which contains claims in world politics for three dimensions of interests, land, river and sea for about 244 claims located in 5 world regions and observed from 1816 to 2001.

Each node represents a country involved in single or multiple disputes over the use of natural resources. Thus each dyad is represented by an edge connecting the countries involved in the contrast. Each observed edge is a realization of random variables which are connected by a conditional latent structure. As an example, we consider the duration, the geographical location and the issue of the disputes as main variables characterizing the conflicts. Then, the statistical model provides a pictorial representation of dependence relations between variables by means of modular diagrams, namely Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs). The presence of an edge joining nodes in the DAG is interpreted as statistical dependence between the variables. The network is 'learned' from data on international conflicts and the arc strengths are used as scores for building a new 'observational' adjacency matrix.

Venere Stefania Sanna

Resilienza economica: dibattito teorico e metodi di valutazione

La metafora della resilienza è ormai popolare non solo nella letteratura scientifica di vari ambiti disciplinari (scienze biologiche, dei materiali, sociali, etc.), ma anche nell'agenda del dibattito politico ed economico internazionale.

Anche nello specifico ambito geografico-economico si assiste ad una crescente diffusione del concetto; tuttavia, l'indeterminatezza dello stesso ha portato allo sviluppo di approcci di tipo ibrido che ne hanno generato diverse declinazioni ed interpretazioni: resilienza economica, sociale, ambientale, etc.

Anche in virtù dell'attuale crisi internazionale, il concetto di resilienza economica è più che mai protagonista del dibattito multidisciplinare concernente lo sviluppo economico locale e regionale. Ciò nonostante, cosa significhi resilienza economica, quali siano le caratteristiche di un sistema o regione resiliente e perché alcuni sistemi o regioni sembrano più resilienti di altri, rappresentano ancora degli interrogativi dibattuti.

Per tale ragione, in primo luogo questa ricerca intende inserirsi nell'attuale dibattito geografico-economico presentando una panoramica dei possibili significati di resilienza economica, cercando di ricostruire le principali evidenze teoriche degli studi in materia.

I sistemi economici possono, infatti, mostrare diverse reazioni a shock negativi esterni: (i) alcuni possono assorbire lo shock e tornare sul percorso di crescita preesistente - entro un intervallo temporale relativamente breve - in virtù di un comportamento "economicamente resiliente", (ii) altri possono non vedere per nulla intaccato il proprio stato di equilibrio o percorso di crescita economica, mostrandosi dunque non vulnerabili e "shock-resistenti", (iii) altri infine, possono mostrarsi incapaci di assorbire o reagire agli shock negativi entro un orizzonte temporale definito,

rivelandosi così “non resilienti” (Briguglio 2006, Pendall et al. 2007, Hassink 2010).

Secondo quanto emerso dai più recenti studi dunque (Martin, 2012), il concetto di resilienza non dovrebbe essere assimilato a quello di resistenza e le analisi della resilienza economica dovrebbero essere in grado di contemplare non solo la generale dimensione del recovery dall’evento traumatico, ma anche quelle dei processi di adaptation agli shock esterni (il sistema economico assorbe lo shock e ritorna ad un preesistente stato di equilibrio), dell’adjustment (passaggio del sistema economico ad un nuovo stato di equilibrio), renewal (significativo cambiamento nella traiettoria di sviluppo esistente e inizio di un nuovo ciclo di crescita) e del replacement (laddove il vecchio sistema economico viene rimpiazzato da uno nuovo, con una diversa ‘identità e funzioni’).

In una fase successiva, la ricerca tenterà di individuare e analizzare i principali fattori della resilienza economica (e le relative variabili di misurazione) al fine di proporre metodologie interpretative e algoritmi di misurazione.

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Demografia e società (discussant Elisabetta Barbi⁴)

Serena Arima e Alessandra De Rose

Measuring gender inequality in family work: an analysis of time use Italian data

This paper focuses on gender gap in housework and childcare in the Italian couples, one of the widest in Europe. Italian women still carry out three-quarters of domestic work and two-thirds of childcare. Time Use data from 2008/09 Survey edition have been used: we considered couples, married or in consensual union, with at least one child under 14 years of age and mother employed. The amount of time spent by men and women in, respectively, domestic tasks and in caring after children has been modeled as function of several familiar characteristics. In order to take into account the truncated nature of the dependent variables a Tobit model has been used. A similar analysis has been done using the asymmetry index as dependent variable. Results show that the family division of work is heavily biased towards women, and it is only when the financial resources of women are greater than those of men, they reduce the time to housework and gender asymmetry lowers. With regard to childcare, the gender gap is significantly reduced only when man is unemployed and in territorial contexts where gender system and ideology are less traditional.

Acknowledgment: This research work has been realized within a collaborative project with IRPPS, Institute for Research on Population and Social Policy, Roma, Italy, and it heavily relies on the paper: Adele

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Menniti&Pietro Demurtas (IRPPS), Serena Arima&Alessandra De Rose (MEMOTEF), “Gender Inequality at Home. Time Allocation on Housework and Childcare within Italian Couples” submitted to The Review of Economics of the Household.

Maria Rita Sebastiani

Donne sull’orlo della crisi economica: quale genere di mercato del lavoro?

La crisi economica sta modificando il mercato del lavoro in Italia. Rispetto al 2004, nel 2012 la disoccupazione è aumentata, l’occupazione è diminuita e l’inattività è invariata. La crisi economica ha peggiorato la situazione delle donne? La differenza di genere è ugualmente forte in tutto il territorio? Negli ultimi decenni è stata dedicata grande attenzione agli studi di genere applicati in diversi contesti. La differenza di genere nell’ambito del mercato del lavoro è nota con il termine segregazione occupazionale, distinguendo tra segregazione orizzontale e segregazione verticale. Il primo concetto indica la prevalenza femminile in certe professioni e settori produttivi; il secondo esprime la concentrazione delle donne nei livelli bassi e medi dei profili professionali dipendenti e la prevalenza maschile nei livelli alti. Questi due concetti fanno riferimento allo svantaggio delle donne occupate rispetto agli uomini occupati. In realtà, vi è una forma di differenza di genere, che potremmo definire “segregazione in ingresso”, che precede la segregazione occupazionale ed esprime lo svantaggio delle donne rispetto agli uomini in sede di occupabilità. Sono state effettuate alcune analisi statistiche sui dati dell’indagine sulle Forze di Lavoro per verificare l’esistenza di differenze di genere nel mercato del lavoro italiano, misurando livelli e tendenze nell’ultimo decennio e confrontando il periodo di crisi economica (2008–2012) con il quadriennio precedente (2004–2007). Essendovi una significativa dipendenza statistica tra condizione occupazionale e territorio, il fenomeno è stato studiato anche a livello di ripartizione geografica.

Elena Ambrosetti e Serena Arima

Estimating child and infant mortality in Egypt through a Bayesian approach for small areas

In the Egyptian context, delayed fertility transition compared to neighboring countries, can be in part ascribed to the delay in the fall of infant mortality rates. Infant mortality was high in Egypt till the 1980s. Since then, infant mortality recorded significant progress: in 2001, the number of deaths per 1000 births was 38 against 97 in 1984. However differences are still significant between governorates: in urban governorates, the 2008 level is 29 deaths per 1,000 births. In rural Upper Egypt, mortality was about 39 ‰. No previous studies had attempted to estimate infant and child mortality in Egypt for small geographical areas. Strong socio-economics differences and inequalities exist between urban and rural setting, Upper and Lower Egypt and even between small area in the same region or city. Those differences justify the need to calculate infant and child mortality rates at the local level. We will account for this problem using a Bayesian hierarchical model for small area: model-based estimators will be derived and their precisions compared with alternative estimators proposed in literature. Data stems from Egyptian Demographic and Health Surveys (2008 wave).

Marco Teodori

Costruire ed abitare fuori dalle regole. I censimenti delle baracche a Roma tra le due guerre

Sfuggenti rispetto alle rappresentazioni ufficiali, in molte realtà urbane le attività economiche irregolari hanno costituito e costituiscono una componente significativa del loro modello di sviluppo. Tra queste, un ruolo primario va attribuito a quelle in vario modo legate al settore edilizio, comprese le attività costruttive originate da fini speculativi oppure i fenomeni di

autoproduzione che rispondono ad elementari bisogni abitativi.

Già oggetto in passato di un'intensa stagione di studi, il cosiddetto abusivismo edilizio – nelle sue diverse connotazioni assunte con l'evolversi della legislazione urbanistica e delle forme di insediamento urbano – merita una rilettura attraverso aggiornate prospettive analitiche che approfondiscano la conoscenza di taluni aspetti e ne evidenziano cesure e continuità nel lungo periodo.

Negli anni tra le due guerre l'incremento demografico di Roma subì un'accelerazione per effetto del crescente saldo migratorio, che alla fine degli anni Trenta si tentò di contenere con la legge contro l'urbanesimo. Tra gli effetti più evidenti, l'ulteriore aggravarsi del deficit degli alloggi che riguardava in misura più acuta i ceti popolari. Nonostante la ripresa dell'edilizia privata, convenzionata e pubblica, si accentuarono sovraffollamento e fenomeni di autoproduzione di edilizia precaria che rispondevano ad elementari bisogni abitativi.

L'intervento del Governatorato di Roma nei confronti degli insediamenti informali tali realtà non fu univoco ma spesso declinato in base alla loro localizzazione. Demolizioni e spostamenti dei baraccati in borgate "ufficiali" nella fascia suburbana colpirono gli insediamenti informali quando in modo troppo evidente confliggevano con l'immagine che si voleva dare alla Roma imperiale fascista; oppure quando intralciavano le direttrici della trasformazione urbanistica della città. A dispetto dei proclami che ne preannunciavano l'imminente integrale scomparsa, una sostanziale tolleranza fu invece rivolta nei confronti di altri nuclei, favorendo persistenze in alcuni casi tuttora evidenti.

Un passaggio di particolare interesse dell'azione delle autorità capitoline è rappresentato dai ripetuti censimenti delle baracche che si susseguirono dalla fine degli anni Venti. La recente apertura alla consultazione delle rilevazioni originali, conservate presso l'Archivio storico capitolino, rende oggi possibile indagare in modo più analitico il fenomeno degli insediamenti informali, al fine di fornire ulteriori e più puntuali elementi conoscitivi non solo sulla localizzazione e la tipologia dei numerosi nuclei di edilizia spontanea presenti nella Capitale ma anche sulle caratteristiche demografiche e socio-economiche di coloro che li abitavano.

Maria Felice Arezzo e Cristina Giudici

Exploring social capital and health nexus among older Adults: findings from the Survey on health, ageing and retirement in Europe (SHARE)

The relationship between social capital and health is capturing the attention of an increasing number of researchers and a growing body of literature is flourishing.

Researchers agree that social capital is the synthesis of three different point of view: the first defines social capital as those characteristics of social communities, such as networks of individuals and families together with norms, that create externalities for the society as a whole; the second defines social capital as a variety of different entities which all consist of some aspect of social structure and which facilitate certain actions of actors within the structure; the third includes the social and political environment that shapes social structure and allows for the development of norms.

Theoretical research distinguish between bonding and bridging social capital. The first refers to the relations that an individual has within his/her "inner circle" whereas the second relates to ties with people outside the closest circle but belonging to the same socio-economic group.

Following the approach of the World Health Organization, health should be considered as having a dynamic nature, and should be taken into consideration in the context of life, as the ability to fulfill actions or to carry out a certain role in society.

Since individual social network is endogenous to health, we correct this bias by introducing

aggregate social capital variable at nuts 3 level.

The aim of the paper is to investigate the effects of bridging and bonding social capital on health of people aged 60 or more in seven European countries, using multinomial and logit models. The data used are from the 4th wave of the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), which for the first time collects detailed information at European level on individual's social network. Health conditions are measured through perceived health status, chronic morbidity, functional limitations, self care activity restrictions (ADLs) and instrumental activity restrictions (IADLs).

Matematica e statistica per la finanza

(discussant Raimondo Manca)

Brunero Liseo

Approximate Bayesian procedures for copula estimation

Copula models are nowadays widely used in multivariate data analysis. Major areas of application include econometrics, survival analysis, actuarial science and finance (Cherubini et al., 2004) In the bivariate case, let X_1 and X_2 be two random variables with continuous CDF's F_1 and F_2 . Both the transformed variables $U_1 = F_1(X_1)$ and $U_2 = F_2(X_2)$ have uniform marginal distributions. The term "copula modelling" refers to a statistical model that separately parametrizes the joint distribution of U_1 and U_2 and the marginal distributions F_1 and F_2 . A semiparametric copula model consists of a parametric model for the joint distribution of (U_1, U_2) and no assumptions on the marginal CDF's. A nonparametric copula is assumed when the joint distribution of (U_1, U_2) depends on an infinite dimensional parameter.

Whereas it is relatively simple to produce reliable estimates of the marginal distributions of the data, the problem of estimating dependence is crucial and complex, especially in high dimensional problems. On the other hand dependence is one of most fundamental concepts in (applied) statistics, economics and probability. There are no broadly satisfactory methods for the joint estimation of marginal and dependence parameters in the classical approach. On the other hand, Bayesian alternative are not so well developed: Min and Czado (2010), Craiu and Sabeti (2012) and Smith et. al. (2012) are the exceptions. In this work we consider the general problem of estimating some specific quantity of interest of a generic copula (such as, for example, tail dependence index or Spearman's ρ) by adopting an approximate Bayesian approach along the lines of Mengersen et al. (2013). In particular, we discuss use of the BCel algorithm, based on the empirical likelihood approximation of the marginal likelihood of the quantity of interest. The proposed approach is approximated in two ways: i. Elicitation is required only on the parameter of interest, and its prior is combined with the empirical likelihood. This makes the use of Bayesian approach simpler. ii. We do not use the "true" likelihood function, rather an approximation based on empirical likelihood theory (Schennach, 2005; Owen, 2010). This hopefully reduces the potential for incorrect distributional assumptions. Our approach can be applied both to parametric and nonparametric copulas. The results will be compared with those obtained with other types of approximations and with those arising from regular use of MCMC algorithm for parametric copulas. Our work, although using a different kind of approximation, is in the spirit of Hoff (2007), and it is similar, although from a different perspective, to the analysis in Schennach (2005).

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Mauro Bernardi

Portfolio optimization under asymmetric Laplace hidden Markov models

In this paper we consider a portfolio optimization problem where the observed asset returns follows a Hidden Markov process and the component density is chosen to be the multivariate Asymmetric Laplace distribution. In this context, we provide and compare different risk measures, generalizing Markowitz mean–variance portfolio theory. Application on a set of European Sector indexes is considered to show that the right specification of the conditional distribution of the Markov process as well as the choice of the risk measure in the portfolio optimisation process result in optimal portfolios with better characteristics in term of their risk–return profile.

Jiajie (Jensen) Wang

Optimal robust bounds for variance options

In our previous work we showed that a lower bound and upper bound on the price of a variance call could be established using a solution to the Skorokhod embedding problem due to Root and Rost respectively. In this talk, we firstly give a very brief review of the construction of sub-hedging strategy and super-hedging strategy which are model-independent. Our focus then is to outline how the hedging strategy may be computed numerically. Specially, we consider a generally used model — the Heston-Nandi model. We will see this model is ‘asymptotically extreme’ in the sense that, for large maturities, the Heston-Nandi model gives prices for variance call options which are approximately the lowest values consistent with the same call price data.

Gabriele Stabile (con Michele Longo⁵)

Ruin probability and optimal investments

In this paper we study the ruin probabilities of an insurance company whose reserve is described by a perturbed compound Poisson risk process. The company has the possibility to invest in a risk financial market index. We study how the introduction of dependence between financial and insurance risks affects the minimization of the ruin probability as well as of the optimal investment strategy. Moreover, we determine an upper bound for the ruin probability in the case of light-tailed claim sizes distribution.

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Arsen Palestini (con Giuseppe Pignataro⁶)

Cost of inequality and cooperative games

The assessment of inequality in a multi-factor framework can be treated in a cooperative game structure, where the income factors are its players. By relying on a multi-factor inequality index in an Atkinson fashion, we first take into account several aspects of the cooperative game, such as the Banzhaf and Shapley values and other solution concepts. Second, we study the distributive and efficient properties of the well-known uniform rule in the allocation of income sources according to the single peaked preferences of individual types. Axiomatic foundations of this weakly uniform rule are then developed proposing a new egalitarian solution and demonstrating that this solution concept can play the role of a preference-based nucleolus of the game. Finally we characterize a welfare loss function, expressed by the difference between the inequality calculated factor by factor and the aggregate one. We show that heterogeneity among income factors and their consequent contributions in the reduction or the rise of inequality among society may provide different perspectives in terms of public policies.

Stefano Patrì

Sum of the generalized harmonic series with even natural exponent

In this paper we deal with real harmonic series, without considering their complex extension to the *Riemann zeta function*. It is well known that the generalized harmonic series are convergent if the exponent is greater than one, while they are divergent if the exponent is one or less than one. Further, if the exponent is an even natural number $2k$, there exists the sum of the series in closed form being equal to π^{2k} times a rational number. This sum was calculated for the first time by Euler and then by Fourier. In recent times the sum with $k = 1$ has been proved in many other ways through elementary goniometric arguments or simple properties of the series and product expansions. Many of these methods, however, apply only to the case of the exponent 2.

In this paper we obtain the sum of all generalized harmonic series with an even natural exponent by calculating the eigenvalues of the differential operators *derivative of order $2k$* defined on a certain Hilbert space and then by inverting such operators, in order to obtain the sum of the series as trace of the inverse operators.

Mauro Bernardi e Lea Petrella

Statistical models for interdependence risk measures

During the last years a particular attention has been devoted to measure and quantify the level of financial risk within a firm or investment portfolio. One of the most diffuse risk measurement tool has become the Value-at-Risk (VaR) which measures the maximum loss in value of a portfolio over a predetermined time period for a given confidence interval. Unfortunately, such risk measure fails to consider the institution as part of a system which might itself experience instability and spread new sources of systemic risk. Especially during financial crises episodes of contagion among institutions are not rare and thus need to be taken into account in order to analyze the overall health level of a financial system. Recently, Adrian and Brunnermeier (2011) introduced the so called Conditional Value-at-Risk (CoVaR) to capture the systematic risk embedded in each financial institution and also to measure each marginal contributions to it. We consider several statistical models able to estimate the CoVaR and its generalizations.

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Dinamiche dei sistemi economici
(discussant Donatella Strangio)

Nica Claudia Calò

Agriculture, social change and economic development: the case of Regions in Southern Italy. What opportunities for young people, women and immigrants?

For several years since the '80s, many scholars of development economics put the stress on the role of secondary and tertiary sectors in the economic development of countries. However over the past 5 years the international debate focused on the relevance of agriculture re-evaluating its centrality in the economic development of countries. In the World Development Report of 2008 it is stated that "the sector [of agriculture] must be placed at the centre of the development agenda if the goals of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 are to be realized". This significant change in the international policy orientation is not only with regards to LDCs. Indeed even in Italy scholars and policy-makers have recently highlighted the necessity to relaunch the primary sector through new public policies aiming at addressing some specific issues. Different aspects have to be approached and investigated. This work wants to analyse the most relevant issues related to the role of agriculture in the Southern regions of Italy. One of the most relevant is the employment of women, young people and immigrants. In particular we will analyse what kind of policies have been proposed and implemented in order to support this sector and the opportunities that it can offer in terms of social stability and economic development.

Many scholars investigated the sharp gradient between Northern and Southern Italy with regards to several economic variables, in particular labour market (female and youth employment). This call attention to the significant social changes that occurred in our country in the very last years, as consequence to the economic crisis. However, when we talk about Southern Italy, there are many issues that characterised these Regions even before the crisis.

In this paper we would focus on agriculture because we want put the stress on the important role that agriculture can play in the economic development of these regions. In particular, we would explain the relevance that agriculture has in terms of social security.

Then try to answer to some specific questions:

- 1) Can agriculture represent a real opportunity for these regions to approach social issues and to solve problems such as those related to female, youth and immigrants employment?
- 2) What kind of public policies have been implementing in order to support the employment of young people in agriculture?
- 3) Are there any kind of educational and training programs aiming at enforce these policies ?
- 4) What kind of financial support have been put in place in order to facilitate new start up?

After a preliminary literature review on the recent attention oriented to the primary sector, the research will continue with the assessment of available data about labour market and main economic development indicators.

Finally we will chose a case study, namely a specific Region or Province, for a field work.

Mauro Rota e Donatella Strangio

Politica economica e coordinamento in Italia dopo la Golden Age

L'età d'oro dell'economia europea si era basata su un accordo di cooperazione tra sindacati e imprese (Eichengreen 1996). I sindacati perseguirono una politica di moderazione salariale, mentre le imprese si impegnarono in investimenti sostenuti, principalmente in Italia, da una politica industriale che privilegiava il finanziamento pubblico. Tale accordo di cooperazione non ha prodotto lo stesso circolo virtuoso nella fase successiva alla Golden Age. Diverse furono le ragioni e tra queste le principali sono da individuarsi in un nuovo contesto macroeconomico caratterizzato da elevata inflazione e cambi flessibili (o amministrati), nei cambiamenti della configurazione istituzionale e negli shocks tecnologici (Cameron and Wallace, 2002).

Il focus del nostro lavoro sarà l'inflazione che è diventata instabile e potenzialmente dannosa per la crescita economica dopo il crollo di Bretton Woods. L'Italia negli anni 1970-1990 rappresenta un interessante esperimento storico per verificare come l'inflazione abbia ostacolato l'accordo di cooperazione tra i sindacati e le imprese. Sono quelli gli anni in cui l'economia italiana vede rallentare la sua crescita e iniziare un relativo declino in termini di produttività e di reddito pro-capite.

Perché le istituzioni e le politiche economiche che avevano contribuito alla crescita durante la Golden Age rappresentarono un ostacolo alla stessa nel periodo successivo?

Per rispondere a questo interrogativo estendiamo il modello di accordo di cooperazione tra interessi corporativi di Cameron e Wallace (2002), introducendo esplicitamente l'inflazione. L'inflazione ha tre effetti sull'accordo tra capitale e lavoro: 1) aumenta i salari nominali erogati in presenza di meccanismi automatici di aggiustamento del salario; 2) aumenta il prezzo di vendita dei beni e servizi; 3) aumenta il costo degli investimenti. Nel nostro modello incorporiamo tutti e tre gli effetti.

In una semplice struttura di gioco non cooperativo e simultaneo tra imprese e sindacati in presenza di inflazione abbiamo ottenuto la condizione fondamentale in base alla quale il ciclo virtuoso di moderazione salariale e di investimenti tipico della Golden Age si è risolto in un circolo vizioso di bassi investimenti e rivendicazioni salariali aggressive negli anni settanta ed ottanta.

L'equilibrio di elevati investimenti e moderazione salariale, sperimentata nella Golden Age, è violata quando l'inflazione si trasferisce più che proporzionalmente nel costo degli investimenti. Pertanto non è l'inflazione in sé a minare la collaborazione tra sindacati e imprese. Né appare esauriente l'ipotesi che sia stato il solo meccanismo di aggiustamento del salario ad invertire il circolo virtuoso di elevati investimenti e moderazione salariale.

Certamente, il potenziale inflazionistico generato da ogni punto di salario monetario in eccesso rispetto al tasso di incremento medio della produttività del lavoro aumentava in ragione geometrica in corrispondenza degli aumenti nel grado di copertura della scala mobile (Tarantelli 1978). Ed il regime di cambi flessibili o amministrati, dopo la Golden Age, hanno amplificato il potenziale inflazionistico in quanto ogni ulteriore svalutazione della lira in un sistema indicizzato tendeva ad autoalimentarsi.

I nostri risultati tentano di dimostrare come l'inflazione abbia contribuito allo scarico dell'accordo di cooperazione tra sindacati e imprese; come questa si sia convertita in maggiori costi per il finanziamento degli investimenti; e come le rivendicazioni salariali siano state nella realtà meno cruciali nel determinare il rallentamento dell'economia italiana.

Sara Sappino

Capitalismo postcoloniale: una lettura possibile del presente

I lettori italiani troveranno sorprendente che le teorie nate dai problemi del mondo postcoloniale possano illuminare i problemi dell'Europa attuale. Ma dopotutto per due secoli il resto del mondo si è sentito dire che le teorie emerse dalle esperienze storiche dell'Europa andavano bene per tutti (CHATTERJEE, 2006, p. 11).

Introducendo il proprio lavoro (MELLINO, 2012, p. 10), Miguel Mellino rammenta il monito che Stuart Hall lanciò nei primi anni Novanta del secolo scorso: “i discorsi sul ‘post’ sono emersi, e sono stati (spesso tacitamente) articolati contro gli effetti [...] derivati dal collasso di un certo marxismo riduzionista [...]. Dall’abbandono di questo economicismo deterministico [...] è risultato che l’economico, inteso nel suo senso più largo, visto che sicuramente non determina in ultima istanza, come si supponeva un tempo, il reale movimento della storia, non esista affatto! Questo è un fallimento della teorizzazione così profondo e invalidante [...] tale] che, a mio avviso, ha permesso a paradigmi più deboli e concettualmente meno ricchi di continuare a prosperare” (HALL, 1997, p. 317).

Qualche lustro è passato; nel mentre il discorso del capitale ha acquisito una potenza inaudita. Mellino rileva che tale egemonia è stata incrinata laddove si sono formati e stanno agendo dei movimenti che fronteggiano questioni postcoloniali quali, ad esempio, la razzializzazione degli spazi urbani, la soluzione securitaria alle migrazioni, il landgrabbing, la prevalenza di un certo tipo di femminismo ‘coloniale’. Appare allora quanto mai necessario raccogliere le sollecitazioni di Sandro Mezzadra, e adoprarsi per riportare il capitale e l’economia nella teoria postcoloniale (MEZZADRA, 2011).

Tenendo presente le riflessioni di studiosi quali Dipesh Chakrabarty e Kalyan Sanyal, che hanno indagato sulla storia e sulla natura della modernità politica nei Paesi decolonizzati dell’Asia meridionale, il saggio intende offrire un contributo per una rilettura della categoria del capitale e, più in generale, per una riscoperta di un corpus di conoscenze utili alla comprensione del presente.

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Statistica: teoria e applicazioni
(discussant Marilena Barbieri⁷)

S.Polettini (con Cinzia Carota⁸, Maurizio Filippone⁹, Roberto Leombruni¹⁰)

Bayesian nonparametric disclosure risk estimation via mixed effects log-linear models

The number of categorical observations that are unique in a sample and also unique, or rare, in the population is commonly used to measure the overall risk of disclosure in the sample data. Many authors have attempted to estimate risk by employing parametric models on cross classifications of the key variables, i.e. multi-way contingency tables of those categorical variables that permit the identification of individuals in the sample. In particular, parametric log-linear models or local smoothing polynomial models have been employed to capture the underlying probability structure of the contingency table.

This paper proposes a nonparametric approach assuming a Poisson model with rates explained by a log-linear mixed model with Dirichlet process random effects. Risk estimates are obtained by carrying out a fully Bayesian treatment of the proposed model. The main finding is that parametric all two-way interactions log-linear models and semi-parametric log-linear models with main effects only produce roughly equivalent risk estimates. This fact is observed in applications to real data, and suggests that the latter can be adopted as “default” models, as they are able to produce reasonably good risk estimates and also to defuse potential shortcomings of traditional log-linear models.

Giuseppe Schinaia (con Valentino Parisi¹¹)

Patients Classification, Prevention and Optimization in Public Health Strategies

Whatever be the health system structure, totally public-based, or based on a public-private partnership, embedded prevention issues are becoming more and more crucial in a long-term perspective of cost reductions and optimal resource utilization.

This paper presents a comprehensive mathematical model of the effects of prevention strategies on global costs of health care, when patients are classified at various stages of severity. In fact, illness severity, risk exposure and diagnostic delay are often factors that increase the costs of care: effective prevention strategies can greatly contribute to cost reductions and/or optimization of the care delivery systems. The model offers a design of competing costs between care and prevention issues; it is based on an underlying, evidence-based staging of the illness of interest and provides an optimal expenditure policy in prevention strategies.

Annalisa Cerquetti

Nonparametric Bayesian estimation of Tsallis-Patil-Taillie entropy under Gnedin-Pitman priors

Tsallis entropy (Tsallis, 1988) is a generalization of Shannon entropy first introduced in Patil and Taillie (1982). It has application in a variety of fields, like biology, ecology, information theory, neuroscience, language processing, economics, physics, as a nonextensive measure of the amount of information in a complex system. Estimation of Shannon entropy has been largely investigated under uniform and symmetric Dirichlet priors. Here we obtain a full Bayesian

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nonparametric solution to Tsallis-Patil-Taillie entropy estimation under the whole class of Gnedin-Pitman priors (2006).

Andrea Tancredi

Approximate Bayesian inference for discretely observed continuous-time multistate models

Inference for continuous time multi-state models presents considerable computational difficulties when the process is only observed at discrete time points with no additional information about the state transitions. In fact, for general multi-state Markov model, the evaluation of the likelihood function is possible only via intensive numerical approximations. Moreover, in real applications, transitions between states may depend on the time since entry into the current state and semi-Markov models, where the likelihood function is not available in closed form, should be fitted to the data. Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) methods, which make use only of comparisons between simulated and observed summary statistics, represent a solution to intractable likelihood problems and provide alternative algorithms when the likelihood calculation is computationally too costly. In this paper we investigate the potentiality of ABC techniques for multi-state models by means of a real data example.