

SUMMARIES

GIANLUIGI FIORIGLIO

Control and Surveillance in the Information Society

Control and surveillance are key elements of the Information Society. This is due to several factors, including the diffusion, pervasiveness and ubiquity of ICTs, globalization, security and terrorism alarms. Taking into account the relationship between power, secrecy, and transparency, this paper argues that the pair “security and control” is now substituting “security and privacy”; as a consequence, society regresses and modern democracies often violate the fundamental right to privacy. Electronic surveillance becomes crucial and it goes much deeper than the one proposed by Bentham. Furthermore, this paper analyzes some aspects of the most relevant concepts and theories of surveillance (e.g. Panopticon, Superpanopticon, Dataveillance, Synopticon, Polyopticon). Eventually, it proposes some remedies to reduce the strength and the diffusion of control and surveillance practices in contemporary society.

ANNALISA FURIA

Hobbes in Disguise? Foreign Aid, or the Comforting Face of Global Security

How has the link between development and security been constructed at the end of World War II? What are the main theoretical and practical results of the ongoing process of securitization of development? In which sense foreign aid is in itself a peculiar defensive strategy? How is it possible that foreign aid weakens recipient countries' sovereignty when it is presumed to be a tool to reinforce it? In which sense does foreign aid allow for the conservation of order while simultaneously pointing to its transformation in the name of justice? Starting from the assumption that foreign aid is to be investigated in itself, and thus beyond its discursive overlapping with development, the essay addresses these questions with the aim of illustrating the many and different ways in which foreign aid has always been, and still is, a crucial and specific component of the donor countries' conceptions and strategies of security.

CLAUDIA MANTOVAN

Contested Areas. Coexistence, Conflict and Governance in the Districts near the Railway Stations of Padua and Mestre

In the areas nearby the railway stations some trends that are found in contemporary cities are particularly present, such as an increasing complexity and diversity linked to national origin, social status and lifestyles; social fragmentation; increase of social exclusion; creation of material and symbolic borders between different social groups. The paper analyzes these aspects with reference to the neighborhoods surrounding the railway stations of Padua and Mestre. The analysis consists of three main parts: 1. the description, with the help of some background data, of the main urban populations present in these areas and of the reasons for their presence; 2. the elements that open conflict between these different populations and the problems they encounter in these urban areas; 3. finally, the analysis of the projects and initiatives implemented in the districts by the various actors who make up the local policy network, and of their effects on the territory and local society.

SIMONA MATERIA

The Unsafeness Tale in Umbria Local Newspapers

Umbria has usually been considered a quiet and safe place in Italy. Over the last few years, however, local newspapers have started to describe it as an unsafe place, with lots of criminality and dangerous irregular immigrants. This paper analyses the portrait of unsafeness made by local newspapers during the year preceding 2014 local elections: we will try to reconstruct the way local newspapers build social unsafeness and spread moral panic among the resident population through their headlines.

STEFANO PADOVANO

Organized Crime, Mafia and Drug Market in the Italian Province of Imperia

The research aimed to develop a survey of socio-criminological type in a social context apparently marked by a medium-low intensity of criminal infiltration, compared to the Italian territories in which it originated. It was intended to expose an overall picture of the impact that the illegal marketing of drugs produced in the Imperia province. The survey has used the research methodology consists essentially of the qualitative survey techniques such as participant observation (inevitably “blanket”), free and semi-structured interviews, without neglecting the reading of documentary sources and enhancing everything that happened during the “drop-down on the field”: the conversations between players, more or less aware of the Ligurian crime scene and the point of view of some key informants.

SALVATORE SAVOIA

Modern Society: The Security Society or Risk Society?

It provides a critical reflection on security policies. Assuming as observational perspective of systems theory processing Niklas Luhmann and Raffaele De Giorgi, it interprets the failure of security policies through the theory of modern society as risk society and not as a security society. The alternative is to risk the danger and not security. Security as opposed to risk indicates only an empty place that can not be certainly filled empirically. The safety tematizzata particularly erosion current issue of functional differentiation: in this way, for example, the policy and right boundaries become more and more undefined.

ANNALISA VERZA

The Web-Filtered Quest for Identity, (Cyber)-Bullying, and Social Stratification in Light of a Singular Case of Mass Deviance

Bologna, Giardini Margherita, late 2013: About 250 high-school students group into two enemy camps formed on social media and break into a massive fight. This essay aims to show how an event of this sort, by virtue of its singularity, could cast light on many of the most peculiar characteristics of contemporary online and offline relationality. It will be argued that a proper understanding of these phenomena is needed if the law is to be able to frame them effectively and hence regulate them, as it is expected to do in a case such as this one. The incident is taken here to be paradigmatic of a deep ongoing endeavour to reshape social identity, and the argument is that its real meaning cannot be captured by the legal definition of "riot" or by the media discussion of the phenomenon. The emphasis will fall in particular on the risk that comes with the new opportunities to "go social" under abstract labels meant to give substance to collective and individual identities that turn out to be shallow, vacuous, and ephemeral: This can easily engender a drift toward sectarianism and violence, a risk which the dominant individualistic philosophy of decades past had managed to somehow keep at bay, but which is now finding a resurgence through (cyber)-bullyism. The incident will also be considered symptomatic of a return to a kind of social stratification that builds up from the basic, onomastic level of online labelling.

ALESSANDRO DE GIORGI

Five Theses on Mass Incarceration

The article provides a critical overview of public discourses and political strategies that have consolidated in recent years around the carceral crisis in

the United States. Written in the form of “five theses” on mass incarceration, the essay charts some emerging trajectories of current penal reform discourses, outlining their promises and pitfalls. Against dominant technocratic approaches to the penal question, the article emphasizes the importance of the politico-economic dimension of mass imprisonment, and outlines the structural connections between the penal state and broader issues of social inequality and racial domination in the United States. In the concluding section, the author proposes some penal reforms that could become part of a broader “radical-reformist” agenda for our times.

VINCENZO RUGGIERO

Organised and Transnational Crime in Europe

There are vexed questions around the understanding of organised crime, its definition, the classification of the different forms it assumes and the specific functions it performs. This article addresses such questions after providing some material for reflection which derives mainly from two types of sources. The first is to be identified with official agencies investigating and fighting organised crime, the second with independent research studies conducted, particularly, at the national level. The examination of the material presented will help highlight the dilemmas and the controversies surrounding the subject matter and allow for a tentative description of its features.