

## Summary

Gabriella Corona

*The urban sustainability in Naples.*

*Long standing characteristics and historical dynamics.*

In this article the author has tried to test the use of the concept of urban sustainability from a historiographical point of view for the case of Naples. Urban sustainability means to conceive nature as a resource and city as an ecosystem. This category allows to reconstruct the processes through which they came to be, giving shape to the problems which today afflict the city. The problems of sustainability have been shaped historically considering Naples for the way in which the large processes of environmental transformation in western cities, have been linked so its long standing characteristics as *abundance of nature* and *strong demographic pressure* from the second half of XIXth century up to today. It is possible to consider two phases which interest the city from the environmental point of view: the sanitary city and the thermic city. They are the phases of change which are characterized by their environmental implications of the processes of transformation of the urban reality. It is, therefore, the change in the environmental level of the historical periodization moment. But the serious sustainable problems over Naples today have not only been the effects of urban modernisation and the sanitary and thermic city, or the implications of the especial morphology of the territory. They have been the consequence of the realisation of particular urban policies that has not taken into account the territory as a resource. In fact the spontaneous dynamics (immigrations, market forces etc.) have not been organized by local authorities with respect to planning regulations. On the contrary, the local and national policy permits an illegal and destructive expansion of the city.

Vezio De Lucia

*Sustainable or non-sustainable town-planning. A comparison between cities.*

The article deals with the crisis of town and country planning in Italy in the last few years. Actually, since the end of the second world war, township and landscape in Italy have been prey of the worst private interests. In the past, the hope that things could change was still alive and there were also many examples of good practices in planning, mainly carried out by progressive administrations; for instance, Bologna and the whole region of Emilia Romagna. Recently the practices of planning and governing the urban transformations are inspired by the only model of «negotiated townplanning» (*urbanistica contrattata*), which means private agreements between estate promoters and public administrations, undertaken without any trasparence and often in contrast with public interests. The author focuses the cases of Milan, Rome and Naples.

Roberto Parisi

*Towards a healthy city. The space of production between history and project*

This article examines the subject of urban pollution in Naples between XIXth and XXth centuries through the developmental dynamics of industrial settlements. Neapolitan Hygienic Exhibition in 1900 takes on great importance as the crux of a discourse tended to demonstrate that was a strong relationship between hygienic aspirations and business interests. In this period the *healthy city* is essentially an *industrial city*.

Attilio Belli

*Productive activities and sustainable planning strategies in Naples*

This paper aims at illustrating some guidelines for sustainable planning that refer to the «built-up risk» conceptual framework, one of Modernization's strongest features. In this framework - which puts together environmental protection with prevention from human action's unexpected outcomes - sustainable planning strategies need to consider bio-diversity as a main issue to deal with. In this perspective, Campania Region's Planning Guidelines (the framework of practice this paper refers to) put territorial diversities - both ecological and social - at the core of sustainable planning strategies, aimed at both strengthening the ecological network and supporting responsibility-sharing in decision-making processes. These strategies (defense of bio-diversity, development of fringe areas, exploitation of landscape and cultural heritage, etc..) combine natural resources and social capital, environmental protection and innovative forms of governance.

Maurizio Franzini

*Sustainable development and city's governance*

Urban life interferes in several ways with the sustainability of the process of development both at local and global level. The paper addresses the question of which institutions of city's governance should be chosen when the aim is to insure the fulfillment of some essential conditions for sustainability. This issue is different from the definition of a specific model of sustainable development - and arguably more important. From this perspective the paper critically evaluates some recent attempts to argue that urban planning should give way to more *laissez-faire* oriented approaches. In particular attention is drawn on the problems posed by interdependencies of different nature, on the one hand, and uncertainty on the other. The main conclusion is that the ground for advocating a more flexible individualistic approach to the governance of the cities is really shaky.

Ada Becchi

*Sustainable Naples? Logics of survival and patterns of development.*

The term «sustainable» (or «sustainability») has many different - and often contradictory - meanings. Usually the reference is to the environment, to the exploitation of finite natural resources. But also an economic mechanism could be or not sustainable. Speaking of the sustainable city, students have defined it as the

city that survives or grows without damaging the natural world outside it. Following this definition, Naples was always unsustainable. His main character was, during many centuries, to be over-populated. As Braudel said «a human monster, a very big parasite». After the Italian unification, in several occasions the national State tried to reduce the dependence of Naples on transfers from abroad, building important industrial plants. The result was a strong conflict between the two cultures. During the last ten years Naples lost its industries, even more intensively than other cities, and did not develop anything new. The anti-industry city could have won its long battle, if the reference points of its survival had not at same time been severely struck off. The present situation is then an extraordinary opportunity for Naples to become finally a sustainable city.

*Vivevamo con le sirene.* Debate between A.B., P.B., G.C., A.L., and A.P.  
with the intervantations of the directors M.A. and M.A.S.

Ada Becchi, Piero Bevilacqua, Gabriella Corona, Antonio Lettieri, Alessandro Portelli debated on the book *Vivevamo con le sirene* edited by Mariella Albrizio e Maria Antonietta Selvaggio. This book is an important opportunity to talk about Bagnoli from historical, cultural and political point of view. In this quarter of Naples during the XXth century there was one of the most important industrialization process of the South of Italy. The speakers discussed many subjects and problems: the importance of Bagnoli in the building of a working class in Naples, the conflict between industrialist and environmental culture, the crisis of common memory, the future of deindustrialized areas.

Marcella Marmo  
*To disassemble: Ermanno Rea and «la dismissione»*

Ermanno Rea's novel *La dismissione* describes how the steel factory in Bagnoli (Naples) was shut down in the Nineties. A tight relationship between the economical crisis of the factory and the personal crisis of a man, a specialised worker who has been appointed to dismount the factory piece by piece, is underlined. The end of the factory, which is sold to a chinese enterprise, is also a methaphor of the turning point in the author's own life, at an old age. Both historical analysis and categories of post- fordistic sociology are employed to analyse Rea's work.

Francesco Trombetta  
*From Evolutionary Biology to Economic Theory:  
Pitfalls in Trespassing Boundaries of Sciences*

During its more than two century long history, economic theory has often resorted to using concepts derived from other sciences. There is nothing wrong in this way of producing scientific knowledge: quite the contrary, trespassing boundaries of single sciences increases the probability of what has been called «cross fertilization» thus helping emergence of novelties and production of more overarching theories. Still one must be very careful because metaphorical use of concepts derived from other sciences may en up by validating undue implications and policies. Evidences that something similar has happened in economics are

provided in the paper. The essay focuses on two concepts: darwinian selection bringing about the survival of the fittest and emergence of self-organization as described in far-from-equilibrium thermodynamics à la Prigogine. The first concept is the foundation of blind faith in social darwinism which identifies market with the ultimate problem-solving device for capitalistic societies to attain pareto optimal allocations. No similar conclusions of efficiency can be derived from the original concept of selection in biological field, and social costs of profit maximising mega-corps have to be taken into account. Self-organization is interpreted as the only libertarian alternative to central planning, in a binary and rhetorical fashion of representing choices open to modern polities. While central planning has clearly proven inefficient and dictatorial, spontaneous order is not so spontaneous at all: it involves indeed a high and ever-growing amount of social planning and artificial projecting in Herbert A. Simon's sense, both at individual and at super-individual level (organizations, firms, municipalities and other local government's levels, NGO's pressure groups, lobbies). This activity of planning: (i) needs resources, (ii) depends crucially from past experiences and vested interest. Both these aspects have to be taken seriously into account when studying the evolution of societal artifacts. The use or resources bears on the evaluation of different alternative projects of re-organization of society (or of bits of it, such as institutions are) in order to choose the preferred one; the redistributive effects have to be analysed and depicted as clearly as possible to obtain a really democratic decision process. Under these perspective «group selection», in Frierich von Hayek's sense, becomes a much more complex process because even received «rules of law» can at every moment fall under the scrutiny of teleological reasoning.

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