

## Summary

Piero Bevilacqua

*Nature and work. Analysis and reflection on a book*

This essay is a commentary on H. Immler's book *Natur in der Ökonomischen Theorie*: a large survey about the meaning and the role of physical world in the economic thought, from Aristotiles to Marx. Tanks to his historical reconstruction is possible to examine the gradual concealing of the *natura* from any form of production of material wealth, mostly among big writers such as Adam Smith and Ricardo and, in part, Marx. The core of the book is the critique of the notion of value: a concept which while allowing an abstract progress in terms of measuring the worth of goods (use and exchange value), makes Physis worthless in the process of production. In this way, work, which produces exchange value with its technical tools, becomes, in the end, the only source of all richness. The disappearance of nature from economic theory and praxis is responsible, for many respects, for the present conflict between man and environment.

Fortunata Piselli

*Family and social networks*

This paper aims at illustrating how the approach known as *network analysis* has prevalently developed in two directions: on one hand, there is the anthropological development of the concept of social network within the context of an analytical situational and procedural interpretation; and on the other hand, the development of a quantitative analysis of the relationships between different members of a social system within a context of analytical structural interpretation. The foci of the analysis are the relationships between family and social networks.

Francesco Ramella

*Social groups and democratic citizenship*

The purpose of the article is to offer an analytical frame to the study of associationism. The essay underlines the importance of a multidimensional approach to the understanding of the process of social participation. With this intent, three diffe-

rent ways to look at associations emerge from the sociological literature. These can be usefully integrated to reconstruct the complexity of the study of the intermediate groups, linking the «micro» and the «macro» dimensions of the analysis. The author also looks into the political role of associations and examines their possible contribution to the construction of a pre-institutional «public sphere».

Marco Armiero

*Between owners and estate: Riario Sforza's agents*

An aristocratic family, its estate, an under age heir under guardianship: the introduction of new pattern of management is confronted by the opposition of local society. The Author focuses his attention on the role of the family agent, their socio-professional status, the network which tied them to the periphery and to the core.

*A certain idea of economics*

A conversation with Paolo Sylos Labini

In this interview Paolo Sylos Labini, one of the most prominent figures of the Italian culture, speaks of his intellectual background — strongly marked by the influence of Schumpeter — during the forties and the fifties; and of his participation to the Ministero della Programmazione projects. Particularly interesting are his views on the delays and the incomprehension of Italian left, its criticism of marxism, its reservations on Keynes thought. An antiformalist view of economics, characterized by a strong attention to the dynamics of change and to the innovation processes.