

Emerging Subjects

With this issue *La camera blu* moves to the web, to SERENA, the platform created by the University of Naples Federico II for its on line journals. Though this choice has been ultimately unavoidable – as it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain the small amount of funding necessary for the paper edition – we believe that this new version will provide opportunities for enriching the quality of the journal and extend the sphere of its relationships.

From this issue on, the double blind peer review system will be added to the traditional editors' review, even though the latter has always endeavoured to be rigorous, critical and punctillious. The change is an important one. While on the one hand it undoubtedly lengthens the time needed to edit each issue, on the other hand it leads to more scholars being actively engaged in the work of our journal.

Another change is that, from this issue on, texts written in French, English and Spanish will appear in the original language and no longer be translated into Italian. This will enable us to reach a wider international readership.

Each edition will carry a version of the home page and of other key pages in English, and abstracts of every article will appear in English too.

Changing our habits is always difficult, at least in the beginning. But it is with deep conviction that we are adopting the standards established by the mainstream international system of evaluating research, as we believe they will open up for us new opportunities for international and national exchange, consolidating and extending the considerable network of scholars who in various ways have collaborated with us in the past years.

Our previous editorial experience has been somewhat "hands on", it was characterized by face to face rather than virtual meetings with the scholars we involved in our initiatives and it was carried on observing rules that were more often implicit than formally stated. While avoiding undue nostalgia, we do intend to carry on with many of the features which characterized the paper version of *La camera blu*. We intend to publish texts written by prestigious academics but also by the excellent and increasingly numerous researchers working on short-term contracts or as free lance, a category of scholars which is playing an important role in defending critical thought and human sciences, fields that today are often undervalued in favor of disciplines more directly connected with the market economy. Although they play a vital role in research and culture, today they are denied a corresponding institutional role. We believe that the blind peer review system, assuring an impartial evaluation of every text, will encourage these valuable free lance scholars. We will confirm our interdisciplinary approach and the practice of having a central theme for each issue. Also, every issue will continue to feature all the sections of the previous paper version.

Emerging subjects deals with various experiences, both of the past and the present time, in which groups or individuals pass from a subaltern and passive condition to an affirmative behavior, to autonomous initiatives and expressions of their own experiences, aspirations and desires.

To convey this kind of process there are, and have been, many expressions, such as "political subjectivation" for Michel Foucault, or "capacitación" for the anarchist women during the Spanish *guerra civil*...

Here we prefer to adopt terms less characterized by a historical and ideological point of view, while accepting the lexical and conceptual choices of authors and the plurality of their approaches.

There is a gender dimension in all these texts, either they deal with women's movements and organizations (as in Botti, Amistà, Cimbalo, Pelizzari), or they deal with women as protagonists in specific community struggles (Sgueglia and Zito).

We can also recognize the process of "emerging as subjects" in the detailed report edited by the association *La Bottega dello Storico* (LBS) on a seminar held at the University of Naples Federico II on the topic of gender roles in upbringing and education.

Mariangela Lamagna's essay deals with the individual and intimate dimension. She analyzes the story of Marie Cardinal, in which writing enables her to take control over her own life. Writing plays a therapeutic role in her experience, as it permits her to recall and elaborate pain, void and loss, giving her intimate freedom and the capability of handling her life.

A similar therapeutic role is played when Russian veterans of the Afghan war (1979-89) narrate the story of their experiences. Alexandrina Vanke's essay shows how telling their story enables them to recover memories that had previously been removed from their minds only to be inscribed in their bodies.

"Emerging as subjects" is also the topic of Annamaria Lamarra's review of a book recalling the experience of a group of protagonists of the feminist culture in the Seventies - a period when many of us expressed pressing subjective desires and aspirations that had been previously inhibited by traditional roles and social expectations.

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