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Michele F. Fontefrancesco e Elena Fusar Poli

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#### **Cleaning up a Toxic Landscape: A Case Study of the Ebro Delta Waterscape**

##### **Abstract**

The study, “Cleaning up a Toxic Landscape: A Case Study of the Ebro Delta Waterscape”, examines the complex socio-environmental transformations in the Ebro Delta in Spain, focusing on the area’s toxic waterscape. Renowned for its natural beauty and biodiversity, the Ebro Delta is paradoxically marred by industrial and agricultural pollutants, particularly pesticides, which have gradually altered the region’s ecology and economy. Using historical anthropology, the research traces the area’s environmental policies and the socio-political dynamics underlying the contamination issues that have shaped the landscape over the past fifty years. The authors highlight the conflicting roles of the delta as both an intensive rice production area and a protected natural site, emphasizing the delicate balance between conservation and economic interests. Through extensive fieldwork, archival research, and policy analysis, the article explores how the concept of toxicity can serve as a lens for understanding human-nature interactions and the unintended consequences of agricultural practices. This study contributes to the broader discourse on toxic landscapes by revealing the hidden, long-term impacts of pollutants on ecosystems and proposing a more nuanced understanding of “protected areas” as sites continuously redefined by socio-environmental processes.

**Keywords:** toxic waterscape, environmental anthropology, historical anthropology, socio-environmental transformation, conservation vs. agriculture

### **From Marx to CoViD-19: the fallout of the capitalist mode of production on societies**

Leonardo Andriola

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##### **Abstract**

The author argues that Marxian theories have been confirmed in the current health crisis, highlighting the interrelation between the predatory global economic developments of the last century and the critical dialectic of Marx in the confrontation with the capitalist production process.

The initial part concerns the treatment of the first contradiction of capitalism, that is the relationship between capital and work; the next part focuses on the discussion of the second contradiction of capitalism, or the relationship between capital and nature; the third part considers the implications of the CoViD-19 pandemic in all its kaleidoscopic facets.

**Keywords:** CoViD-19, Ecological Crisis, Metabolic Rift, Lockdown, Value-Labor

### **The Ritual Foundation of Rome and miscalculation of the Egyptian calendar**

Teodoro Brescia

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##### **Abstract**

This research investigates the horoscope that Varro commissioned from the astrologer Tarutius in order to calculate the foundation date of Rome. The date obtained by Tarutius, through Varro’s work, later became the accepted and official date: 21st April 753 B.C. The research concludes that there could be: (a) a *coincidence error* in the calculation of the Vagus civil Egyptian calendar; (b) a *calendrical gap* between the Julian calendar and the proleptic Julian calendar; (c) a correspondence of Tarutius’ horoscope with 15th October (also in 753 B.C.), the day of the most sacred celebration of the god Mars (“father” of Romulus and patron of Rome) celebrated at a popular level on 21st April.

**Keywords:** Rome, foundation, horoscope, Varro, Egyptian calendar

**“La vita narrata”. L’esilio tra condizione di irreversibilità, tempi di memoria, dovere morale della testimonianza**

Thea Rossi

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**“The Narrated Life”. Irreversibility, Memory and Testimony of the Exile**

**Abstract**

This paper aims to investigate the political dimension of exile that characterised the military dictatorships in Latin America in the second half of the 20th century with a focus on Argentina. The life stories of the exiles will lead to an understanding of the role and significance that state violence assumed for those social actors who suffered it. The selected perspective contemplates the reciprocity between subjective experience and context, broadening the reader’s vision of the history and the culture of the time. Exploring the theme of identity reconstruction by the exile will show how the trauma of violence is elaborated, also considering the role played by political militancy observed from a transcultural and transnational point of view. Understanding how the traumatic experience gives rise to the demand for social recognition of the status of the exile and the moral duty of witnessing will serve as an antidote to the amnesia and mystification of a revisionist counter-history.

**Keywords:** Latin America, Argentina, military dictatorship, militancy, exile

**“Nel momento in cui la cosa è possibile, è mio compito fare in modo che venga realizzata”. L’esperienza di una burocrazia del bene: uno studio etnografico in Alto Adige/Südtirol**

Giorgia Decarli

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**“If the thing is possible, it is my job to make sure that it is realized”**

**The experience of good bureaucracy. An ethnographic study in Alto Adige/Südtirol**

**Abstract**

For several decades, many Sinti families in northern Italy have participated in the collection and itinerant trade of metal waste as part of local ecological structures and economic circuits, in an important circular economy process. Over time, this activity has fallen into a convoluted disciplinary entanglement, whose interpretative ambiguities have been discretionarily exploited by Italian administrative authorities to assimilate gatherer families (often linked to predominantly mobile lifestyles, perceived as backward and antithetical to those of the majority) into the dominant ecological/economic forms. However, for about five years, in the South Tyrolean administration, a reverse trend, in line with current interpretations of ‘sustainability,’ was observed, which proved successful in safeguarding the collection and itinerant trade of metal waste carried out by Sinti. The author revisits that experience by exploring the legal/administrative interstices in which officials strategically exercised forms of policy to protect this highly stigmatized group.

**Key words:** Sinti communities, itinerant trade, metal waste, good bureaucracy, ethnography

**Antropologia delle rose**

Amelio Pezzetta

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**Anthropology of roses**

**Abstract**

The expression “anthropology of roses” in this case indicates: the different ways in which man relates to these plants; everything they arouse in his mind and in his behavior; the reasons why people give importance to these flowers and the symbolism associated with them; which ancient and modern traditions and uses concern them. Roses belong to an important plant family with a cosmopolitan distribution, of great importance for the human economy and have been used by man since ancient times. Indeed, legends, mythological references, traditions and beliefs have flourished around them. In the contemporary world, roses are the basis of various celebrations; they have taken on particular symbolic meanings and are given as gifts in order to encourage interpersonal relationships. In the light of these facts they can be the subject of anthropological studies and are treated in this essay.

**Keywords:** rose, flowers, symbolism, legends, cult of flowers