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Valori morali, pratiche agricole e costruzione di un paesaggio: la mappa etica delle Terre dell’Ebro

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Moral Values, Agricultural Practices, and the Making of a Landscape: the Ethical Map of Terres de l’Ebre

Abstract

This article explores the ethical complexity of contemporary agriculture through a case study in charting the moral economies of the Ebro’s Farmers, Catalonia. Starting from the anthropological premise that economic actions are always imbued with moral values, the essay opposes a reductionist view of ‘good’ and ‘evil’ based solely on market calculations. Based on the results of ethnographic research in the area of Terres de l’Ebre, the contribution constructs an “ethical map” that reveals the multiple and often conflicting value systems that shape the agricultural landscape. The analysis reveals a complex moral arena, articulated along different lines of tension: the dialectic between compliance with European regulations and pragmatic disobedience; the oscillation between cooperation within cooperatives in crisis and competitive fragmentation; the moral boundaries between community inclusion and the exclusion of actors such as migrant workers; and the value conflicts between generations, such as the contrast between an “orderly” field and one that favors biodiversity. The map shows that what is considered ‘good’ or ‘right’ is positional and contextual, reflecting competing “moral economies.” In conclusion, the article argues that ethical mapping is a crucial tool for researchers and policy makers, as it allows for an understanding of the moral logics underlying agricultural practices. This approach makes it possible to overcome top-down policies and to design more just, effective and sustainable interventions, recognizing rural communities as complex moral subjects.

Keywords: ethical map, moral economy, terres de l’Ebre, economic anthropology

Interattività e museologia critica: un nuovo modello per il Museo Pitrè

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Interactivity and critical museology: a new model for the Pitrè Museum

Abstract

The essay explores the contemporary challenges faced by the Sicilian Ethnographic Museum, inaugurated in 1910 and entrusted with preserving Sicilian folk traditions. The Museum, born from the vision of the renowned Palermo-based folklorist Giuseppe Pitrè, serves as a vast cultural archive with its collection of objects, customs, and traditions of the island, now threatened by rapid socio-economic changes. Following a brief overview of the difficulties encountered by its founder in realizing the project, the authors reflect on the contemporary challenges that demo-ethno-anthropological museums must confront to adapt to an evolving society. The potential of multimedia tools is analyzed, not only as a means of attracting a younger audience but also as a way to transform the museum into a laboratory of collective identity, capable of blending tradition and modernity through greater audience engagement and participation.

Keywords: Museo Pitrè, engagement, material culture, museum interactivity, accessibility

Il culto di San Nicola di Bari nella valle dell'Aventino (Abruzzo): storia ed evoluzione dal Medio Evo all'attualità

Amelio Pezzetta

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The cult of Saint Nicola of Bari in the Aventino Valley (Abruzzo): history and evolution from the Middle Ages to the present day

Abstract

The Aventino Valley is an area of the Chieti Province and the Region of Abruzzo that includes 11 municipalities: Palena, Lettopalena, Colledimacine, Taranta Peligna, Lama dei Peligni, Torricella Peligna, Montenerodomo, Gessopalena, Fara San Martino, Civitella Messer Raimondo and Casoli. Since the dawn of the 20th century, the local population has begun to decline due to emigration, falling from a peak of over 34000 total inhabitants recorded in 1911 to just over 13000 individuals counted during the 2021 census. Until the end of the 50s of the last century, in all the municipalities of the valley, the prevailing economic activity was agriculture. Now, the workers in this sector have significantly decreased and the people finds other jobs. This essay analyzes the historical evolution of the cult of Saint Nicholas in this geographical area. The facts reported, when not directly known to the writer, have been obtained from various bibliographical sources, interviews with local people and the consultation of websites. They demonstrate that cultural changes have led to its decline, and that many events are now almost forgotten. Consequently, their recording is undertaken to prevent their complete extinction.

Keywords: Aventino, San Nicola, Abruzzo, feast, tradition

Patrimonio e potere

Mattia Iannaccone

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Cultural heritage and power

Abstract

The concept of cultural heritage is deeply linked to history and a certain appreciation of the past. The memory of who we were lies in the physical heritage preserved by previous generations, to be passed on to future ones. Heritage and history are thus presented as immutable and objective, naturally predisposed to the eternalisation of a past that enhances the present. However, the opposite is true: it is the present that attributes value to works and objects from the past, through the construction of a discourse that defines heritage and the implementation of laws aimed at its management and preservation over time. The objective perception of history and heritage falters when we highlight the cultural and political processes that lead to the selection of which past to remember and how to remember it. These processes are determined by the power relations between those who hold power and use it to influence certain conceptions and the "experts", i.e. the only subjects entrusted with the management and meaning of heritage.

Keywords: cultural heritage, memory, conservation, cultural process, power relations

Thresholds of Healing: Good and Evil in the Moral Imaginary, Ritual Medicine, and Symbolic Practice in Arbëreshë Traditions

Davide Costa - Raffaele Serra

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Abstract

This narrative review investigates the symbolic, ritual, and moral dimensions of traditional medicine as practiced among the Arbëreshë, an Albanian diasporic community settled in Southern Italy since the 15th century. Through ethnographic, ethnopharmacological, and anthropological approaches, the paper explores how healing practices are embedded in a cosmology where illness is not merely physical, but a sign of spiritual or social imbalance. Healing becomes a transformative act that engages bodies, plants, prayers, and sacred gestures within a network of relations involving saints, ancestors, and the natural world. Special attention is given to the role of elder women as custodians of ritual knowledge, the use of symbolic objects and medicinal plants, and the intertwining of moral codes with ecological wisdom. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and comparative literature, the review highlights the fragility and resilience of these traditions, threatened by modernization, folklorization, and cultural forgetting, yet still alive in everyday acts of care and belief.

Keywords: Arbëreshë, traditional medicine, ritual healing, symbolic ecology, moral cosmology

Kyklos: il ritorno dell'antico
Multiculturalità tra arte, artigianato e archeologia

Emma Barontini

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Kyklos: reviving the ancient. Multiculturalism between art, craftsmanship and archeology

Abstract

The exhibition *Kyklos* in dialogue with *Memorie Sommerge*, held in Porto Santo Stefano, Tuscany, in July 2024, serves as the focus of this case study. The research explores the interplay between the ancient and the contemporary, highlighting continuities and aspects of identity. Drawing on political anthropology and economic geography, the study examines how interactions between people and objects generate new cultural codes (Fabietti, 2004). Patterns of trade and human mobility reveal tensions between openness and closure, suggesting a theoretical framework in which the sea functions as a medium of contact (Dua, 2024). *Kyklos* embodies this concept within the Maremma territory. Through essays, articles, and informal discussions, the study engages with debates on migration, glocalization, and multiculturalism, illustrating how these issues are represented in a Tuscan port museum. The exhibition communicates these themes with attention to social and ethical values, fostering community and the transmission of knowledge.

Keywords: identity and community, tourism, commercial trade, migration, material culture