

Journal “Studi di sociologia”

SPECIAL ISSUE

Food consumption and sustainability. Social representations, public discourses and individual narrations.

EDITORS

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CALL

Sustainability is among the main topics which have been debated in political and public discourse during the last decades: not by chance United Nations Agenda 2030 put Sustainability at the core of its Development Goals. And food, in all its different dimensions (production, processing, distribution, consumption, disposal), is one of the issues at the core of this debate.

But what do we talk about referring to “food sustainability”? And in particular focussing on food consumption? As it is well known, the concept of sustainability has fuzzy boundaries and different possible declensions, and both individual and social definitions and representations of sustainability have a strong influence on individual choices as well as on public policies: depending on how sustainability, and its drivers, are defined, different practices will be embraced, different strategies of intervention and improvement will be developed, different criteria of evaluation will be adopted.

Moreover, these variable declensions also reveal contradictory and critical aspects. Within the rhetoric of food sustainability, political issues related to environmental transitions, responsible consumption and nutritional changes are often addressed through discipline-based discourses. But this normative approach, focussing on the imperative need to move towards a more sustainable food system, often implies a moral and individual burden, which can generate a sense of guilt and shame associated with not adopting (or not adopting enough of) healthy and sustainable diets.

At the same time, individual discourses and representations often associate the choice of highly sustainable food styles with differentiated reasons, so the sphere of motivations for sustainable food consumption only partly involves ethical or political drivers: from this point of view, both in the production, distribution and consumption of sustainable food, the needs for self-expression, socio-cultural positioning and identity construction appear increasingly relevant.

Aim of the special issue, is to reflect upon how individuals and organisations talk about sustainability, and what imaginaries, social representations and narrations emerge from their discourses. Following this perspective, contributions on how individuals represent their attitudes and practices concerning food sustainability, as well as works on public discourses, imaginaries and idealisations of food sustainability, are welcomed, both based upon field research and theoretical reflection.

Potential topics for the articles, focussing on narrations, discourses and representations:

- Sustainable Food Cultures and Practices
 - Public discourses about food consumption and sustainability
 - Reasons and meanings for sustainable food choices
 - Sustainable food movements and activism
 - Culinary heritage and food history as part of idealised “sustainable past”
 - Food and sustainability in social and mass media
 - Critical approaches to the concept of sustainability referring to food consumption
- Sustainable Food Geographies
 - Spatial dimension of sustainable food consumption
 - Local food and short supply chain programs
 - Local and global policies for food sustainability
 - Food justice, democracy, sovereignty, accessibility
 - Moralising discourses around poor consumers
- Sustainable Food Economies
 - Emerging practices in production, distribution, consumption, waste reduction
 - Sustainable food futures
 - Sustainable supply and value chains
 - Alternative food networks
 - Culinary tourism and environmental sustainability

PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

Language of the special issue: ENGLISH

Deadline for abstracts proposal: 15TH JULY 2023

Abstracts, with author's affiliation and email address, must be sent to the editors by the following email address: rivista.studisociologia@unicatt.it - Please include the title of the special issue “Food consumption and sustainability” in the subject line of your email.

Acceptance of the abstracts by the editors and subsequent communication to the authors: by **13TH OCTOBER**.

Submission of the complete essay (with name, surname, e-mail address, affiliation, and abstract of 800-1000 characters and five keywords): by **12TH JANUARY 2024**.

The text of the article must not exceed 35,000 characters (including spaces and bibliography).

The essays will be submitted for double blind peer-review, the results of which will be announced by **10TH MAY 2024**.

Final essays for publication are due by 6TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

For any information please write to carlo.genova@unito.it or silvia.mazzucotelli@unicatt.it

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Style for references in the text:

Boudon (1985) writes that ..., (Boudon 1985), (Boudon 1985: 112), (Alexander 1987a: 18), (Alexander 1987b: 11-14)

References to web pages must declare the last date of access (e.g. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>, visited 2/12/2005)

Style for references at the end of the article:

Archer, M.S.

(1982) *Morphogenesis Versus Structuration: On Combining Structure and Action*, in «British Journal of Sociology», 33, pp. 455-483.

(1997) *La morfogenesi della società*, Franco Angeli, Milano.

Woolgar, S.

(1983) *Irony in the Social Study of Science*, in K. Knorr-Cetina e M. Mulkay (Eds.), *Science Observed. Perspectives on the Social Study of Science*, Sage, London/Beverly Hills/New Delhi, pp. 239-266.