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Quaderni del Laboratorio Interdisciplinare di ricerca su Corpi, Diritti, Conflitti

Geometries of Control:
Dynamics of Power, Oppression and Resistance

Issue 1

edited by
Riccardo Caldarera and Simone Tuzza

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Sociorama
Norme, potere, controllo sociale

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QUADERNI DEL LABORATORIO
INTERDISCIPLINARE DI RICERCA SU
CORPI, DIRITTI, CONFLITTI (V)

Geometries of Control:
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Sociorama. Norme, potere, controllo sociale

Sociorama esplora le interconnessioni tra cambiamenti sociali, politici e giuridici, soffermandosi sui processi di istituzionalizzazione delle norme e delle loro specificità rispetto ad altre modalità di regolazione. La collana si rivolge a chi desidera esplorare, in un'ottica teorica ed empirica, i modi attraverso cui le società e le loro istituzioni affrontano il controllo sociale, la devianza, la criminalità e le disuguaglianze di potere, esaminando i diversi fenomeni anche in chiave di genere e intersezionale. I temi riguardano in particolare le trasformazioni delle democrazie e i conflitti che interessano le istituzioni politiche e giuridiche dalla prospettiva della sociologia del diritto e della devianza, analizzando la selettività delle norme, i processi decisionali e l'impatto del giuridico sulle comunità. L'obiettivo è offrire una lettura critica delle dinamiche socio-politico-giuridiche, supportando la ricerca accademica. All'interno della collana si situano le sezioni: a) «Ricerche», b) «Classici» e c) «Quaderni del Laboratorio Interdisciplinare di ricerca su Corpi, Diritti, Conflitti» / «Quaderni del Laboratorio su Rappresentazioni sociali della violenza sulle donne». Questa sezione si prefigge di valorizzare le attività seminariali, di ricerca sociologica applicata attivati all'interno del Dipartimento «Culture e Società» dell'Università degli Studi di Palermo.

La collana è sottoposta a un processo di *double-blind peer review*.

Settore di pertinenza della collana: Gruppo scientifico-disciplinare 14/GSPS-07 Sociologia della politica, del diritto e della devianza

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Indice

- I Introduction to the volume
Riccardo Caldarera and Simone Tuzza
- 9 Parliament, defense policy, and the Italian transition, 1987-2001
Ciro D'Amore
- 31 Community-based action research and memory justice: insights from the struggle of immigrant trans and travesti sex workers against HIV/AIDS in France
Clark Pignedoli, Louve Zimmermann, Mar Andrade Viu and Acceptess-T'
- 63 Experiencing dual vulnerability: the lack of protection for LGBTQIA+ subjects under the Italian-Albanian Agreement for the strengthening of cooperation on migration issues
Emilia Mazzara
- 89 Seek a cure, find care. Transfeminist gynaecology in a *consultoria* as an act of resistance and subversion
Erica Rodigari
- 113 Rhythms against the clinic: trans care between autonomy and inequality
Camille Laufer
- 139 The Brigata Basaglia's response to the processes of privatization of the mental health: the mental health as a battlefield
Giulia Giraudo

- 157 Rape's victims: oppression from above and resistance from below
Hakima Aboudali
- 175 Sexual violence in the lives of gay and bisexual men – focusing vulnerability in early sexual experiences
Hans Goerden
- 191 Constructing the sex offender: risk, intervention, and welfare models in contemporary Europe
Maria Urso
- 215 From cis-hetero-white normative oppressive spaces to participatory, intersectional, transfeminist Comprehensive Sexuality Education - Preliminary results of a qualitative study with adolescents
Francesca Barbino
- 237 The power of the frame: the symbolic violence of stereotypes in Italy's anti-violence social communication
Marta Renda
- 257 Care, control and resistance in the Sicilian countryside: emergency policies and everyday practices of migrants
Martina Lo Cascio
- 267 What do sex-therapists do with pornography? Exploring medicalized, religious, and moral framings
Julie Minders

Introduction to the volume

*Riccardo Caldarera, Simone Tuzza*¹

This first Issue of the *Quaderni del Laboratorio Interdisciplinare di Ricerca su Corpi, Diritti, Conflitti – V* stems from a desire that often accompanies collective projects seeking to detach themselves from the neoliberal and bureaucratic mechanisms that risk transforming academia into a space of sterile enumeration of titles. This volume, instead, emerges from – and aims to generate – shared space of reflection, critique, and conscious subversion. *Quaderni V* is the result of a collective path built over time, shaped by discussions, revisions, rewritings, and above all by an ongoing dialogue among disciplinary perspectives, methodological approaches, and diverse research experiences. What makes this volume particularly significant is, first and foremost, the richness and variety of the contributions it brings together. The fourteen chapters that compose the volume are authored by PhD candidates, early-career researchers, and scholars at an early yet already mature stage of their academic trajectories. These contributions often originate from in-depth empirical research, doctoral dissertations, or collective projects, and they demonstrate a remarkable ability to combine theoretical rigor, critical sensitivity, and close attention to the social and political contexts under investigation. This volume thus takes shape as a space dedicated to the valorization of emerging research, in continuity with the spirit that has always animated the *Quaderni del Laboratorio*.

A further element of novelty, which deserves particular emphasis, is the decision to publish the volume entirely in English for the first time. This choice arises from a shared desire on the part of the editors and the Laboratory to engage with a broader academic community – a desire for reciprocal contamination that was enthusiastically and actively embraced by authors from different backgrounds. Indeed, this Issue is perme-

1. Riccardo Caldarera is a PhD candidate in Inequalities, Differences, and Participation at the Department of Cultures and Societies at the University of Palermo; Simone Tuzza is a researcher at the Department of Sociology and Law of the Economy at the University of Bologna.

ated by a perspective that moves beyond national boundaries without ever losing sight of the specificity of the contexts analyzed. The authors are affiliated with different universities and research centers in Italy and abroad, and the case studies range from Italy to France, from Europe to transnational migratory contexts. Without indulging in facile cosmopolitan rhetoric, we can nonetheless proudly state that the volume brings together contributions by scholars who have “converged” from diverse geographic and academic settings, united by a shared interest in the dynamics of power, oppression, and resistance that traverse contemporary bodies and institutions, and by a commitment to producing chapters of high scientific quality, characterized by complex content addressed with rigor, seriousness, and passion.

A central aspect of the editorial process of this Issue was the internal blind peer review, carried out through an exchange of reviews among the authors themselves. This choice, consistent with the laboratory-based orientation of the *Quaderni*, transformed the review process into a moment of horizontal exchange and collective growth. The work of critical reading, commenting, and rewriting contributed decisively to strengthening the overall quality of the contributions and to fostering a shared sense of responsibility toward the editorial project. We therefore extend our sincere and non-ritual thanks to all those who took part in this process.

Geometries of control. Institutions, bodies, practices of resistance

The title shared by the two Issues – *Geometries of Control: Dynamics of Power, Oppression and Resistance* – finds in this first volume a particularly intense articulation, outlining a multifaceted and deeply compelling trajectory. The contributions collected here may be read as explorations of the forms through which power is distributed, exercised, and legitimized, as well as analyses of the many fractures, unruly resistances, and counter-conducts that emerge in a wide variety of contexts. The *fil rouge* running through the volume is not defined by a single empirical object or a single theoretical tradition, but rather by a shared attention to the relationships between institutions, norms, bodies, and subjectivities.

The volume opens with the contribution by *Ciro D’Amore*, a researcher in political and social sciences at the University of Naples “Par-

thenope”. His chapter analyzes the transformations of Italian defense policy between 1987 and 2001, focusing on the role of Parliament in decision-making processes during the phase of institutional transition. Through a detailed empirical analysis of legislative activity, D’Amore shows how democratic control over military policies was redefined in a context marked by reforms, crises of legitimacy, and new international pressures. This contribution provides a broad institutional framework, useful for understanding how power is organized and exercised “from above”, within state apparatuses.

From parliamentary institutions – and thus from political verticalism – we then shift our gaze toward forms of mobilization from below with the chapter by Clark Pignedoli, Louve Zimmermann, Mar Andrade Viu, and the collective Acceptess-T. Active at the intersection of academia and community work in France, the authors propose a reflection on community-based action research and memory justice grounded in the struggles of migrant trans and travesti people against HIV/AIDS. The contribution shows how the production of memory can become a tool of justice and resistance against institutional forms of erasure.

The theme of vulnerability produced by public policies is also central to the chapter by Emilia Mazzara, a PhD candidate and researcher in the field of migration and LGBTQIA+ rights in Palermo. Her contribution analyzes the Italian-Albanian Agreement on cooperation in migration matters, highlighting the forms of exclusion and lack of protection affecting LGBTQIA+ people involved in mechanisms of externalized migration control. Here, control is exercised through law and migration policies, producing forms of vulnerability that intersect sexual orientation, gender identity, and legal status.

From the juridical-political dimension, our focus shifts to practices of care and resistance with the chapter by Erica Rodigari, a researcher working on health and transfeminism at Université Paris 8. Her work explores the experience of transfeminist gynecology within a *consultoria*, interpreted as a space of alternative care and as a practice of subversion of dominant medical knowledge. The contribution challenges the boundaries between expert knowledge and situated knowledge, showing how care itself can become a terrain of conflict and transformation.

This reflection is echoed by the chapter by Camille Laufer of the University of Geneva, which analyzes the tensions between autonomy and ine-

quality in trans care practices. Through the concept of “rhythm”, the author investigates the temporalities imposed by healthcare institutions and those claimed by trans subjects, highlighting how medical control is also exercised through the management of time and access pathways to care.

The theme of total institutions and their transformations is addressed by Giulia Giraudo, a PhD candidate at the Universities of Turin and Florence, who reconstructs the response of the Brigata Basaglia to the privatization processes in mental health. Attentive to social movements and health policies, Giraudo focuses on how mental health becomes a genuine battlefield, where market logics, practices of control, and forms of collective resistance confront one another.

Sexual violence is at the center of two contributions which, while starting from different perspectives, engage in a rich dialogue. Hakima Aboudali, a criminologist at the University of Ottawa, analyzes the experiences of rape victims, highlighting both the forms of oppression exercised “from above” through institutions and the practices of resistance and agency that emerge “from below”. Hans Goerdten, a PhD candidate at Goethe University Frankfurt, focuses on sexual violence in the lives of gay and bisexual men, paying particular attention to early sexual experiences. Both contributions critically interrogate the categories of victim and vulnerability, showing how social control intersects in complex ways with narratives of sexuality.

The chapter by Maria Urso, a PhD candidate at the University of Palermo, addresses the construction of the figure of the *juvenile sex offender* within the four main European welfare models. Through a comparative analysis, the author explores logics of risk, prevention, and treatment, paying particular attention to how penal and social control overlap in the management of sexual deviance.

The contribution by Francesca Barbino, also a PhD candidate at the University of Palermo, shifts our attention to the educational context. The author presents preliminary results of a qualitative study on comprehensive sexuality education, analyzing the transition from cis-hetero-white normative spaces to participatory, intersectional, and transfeminist educational practices. Here too, normative control is called into question through alternative pedagogical approaches.

Marta Renda, who holds a master’s degree from the University of Palermo, addresses institutional communication against gender-based vio-

lence by analyzing the symbolic violence of stereotypes present in Italian campaigns. Her contribution shows how communicative framing can reproduce forms of control and victim-blaming, even when presented as a tool of awareness-raising.

The volume moves toward its conclusion with the chapter by Martina Lo Cascio. Affiliated with the Department of Culture and Society at the University of Palermo, the author analyzes emergency policies and the everyday practices of migrants in the Sicilian countryside. Through an ethnographic lens, she highlights the complex relationship between care, control, and resistance in rural contexts, often marginal to mainstream debates on migration.

Finally, the volume closes with the contribution by Julie Minders, a PhD candidate at the Université libre de Bruxelles. In this final chapter, the author explores the different frameworks – medicalized, religious, and moral – through which sex therapists interpret pornography. The chapter problematizes and illuminates the fragile boundaries between normality and deviance, showing how sexuality mediated by images also becomes a terrain of regulation and symbolic conflict.

Conclusions and acknowledgements

Taken together, these fourteen contributions offer readers a dynamic and complex account of contemporary geometries of control, inaugurating a volume that takes shape as an eclectic collective effort capable of bringing institutional analyses, empirical research, practices of care, and forms of resistance into dialogue. The *fil rouge* running through the volume lies in its capacity to critically interrogate dispositifs of power without ever losing sight of the subjects who inhabit them, endure them, and transform them.

We therefore renew our thanks to all the authors for their work, their openness to dialogue, and the generosity they demonstrated throughout the review process. We hope that this Issue will find curious, critical, and attentive readers, and that the pages that follow may stimulate further reflections, discussions, and – this is our deepest and most sincere wish – new forms of resistance.

