



Multidimensionale Risks in the XXI Century

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Bottom-up social innovation practices in the suburbs of Rome: the cases of Trullo and Tor Pignattara neighbourhoods

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Suburbs, their regeneration and the quality of life of their inhabitants, are at the core of crucial debates within urban studies and social science during the last decades. The current analysis on suburbs is linked to the broader reflection on some of the main transformations and issues concerning contemporary societies: de- and re-territorialisation processes, the polycentrism of urban development, new forms of social exclusion and their spatial dimension, the community-based forms of resilience activated by the more fragile social actors as a reaction to the impairment of welfare systems. In this way, suburbs emerge as ambivalent social and spatial precincts. On the one hand, they are characterised by an increasing relevance of social exclusion, old and new forms of poverty and by the environmental and cultural wear and tear. On the other hand, often suburbs are witnessing the activation of opportunities and relational resources fostering the development of social capital and bottom-up social innovation practices, used by the inhabitants to cope the challenges and uncertainties of contemporary urban social life.

Within this complex analytical framework, the proposed paper will focus on the main social innovation practices undertaken by non-institutional social actors in the two peripheral neighbourhoods of Trullo and Tor Pignattara, in the city of Rome. The analysis, grounded on visual methods, in-depth interviews with involved social actors and direct observation, intends to provide a thicker comprehension of the complexity and ambivalence of this social practices, their meanings, as well as the conflicts related to their development, in the two selected cases.

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