

# **THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS IN ITALY**

## **Bibliography (2000-2005)**

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\* In the following literature review on the *Social integration of migrants in Italy* the authors decided to give emphasis to works on admission policies as well as on socio-economic processes and integration policies *stricto sensu*. We believe that this choice is justified by some specificities of the Italian case. In Italy, as a matter of fact, the channels of admission and the modalities of economic incorporation in the society of destination seem to inform in a particularly deep manner the social integration of foreigners. The informal sector of the labour market is weighty and in certain sectors and regions even predominant showing us that irregularity has become a mode of integration of migrants, where their whole lives are considered almost as commodities. In this country even ‘regular’ migrants have been regularised rather than regularly integrated: 70% of the regulars today underwent a regularisation process. These elements justify the choices made in this bibliography to list some works and titles both on admission policies (instead of looking only at integration policies in the narrow sense) and on the social insertion of foreigners in the labour market.

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Law N° 40 of 1998 introduced an obligation for the government to adopt strategic plans on a three-years basis for the management of migration and integration. These documents are of limited effectiveness in shaping future policies, but they have an interest in assessing past developments and in illustrating official policy objectives and discourse:

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# THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS IN ITALY

A selection of annotated references (2000-2005)\*

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## 1) Citation:

AMBROSINI, M. 2001. *LA FATICA DI INTEGRARSI. IMMIGRATI E LAVORO IN ITALIA*, BOLOGNA: IL MULINO.

## Subject:

Integration in the labour market. The analysis concentrates on the broad contrast between migrants' economic citizenship (as migrants are accepted in the productive system) and social citizenship (migrants' participation to the system of social rights).

## Country: Italy

## Main Point:

This volume tries to disentangle the process of integration of immigrants in the labour market in Italy showing the difficulties and contradictions of a non linear process. Immigration is undermining the simple version of social solidarity, defined by Durkheim 'mechanical', based on similarity and proximity of the persons involved. Immigration demands complex forms of solidarity, 'organic' solidarity in the sense of Durkheim, enabling bonds between non-similar but interdependent individuals and groups. Building new forms of social bonding and belonging and at the same time safeguarding the founding values of liberal and open societies is the challenge that rich and developed economies need to face in the next future. The entire volume stresses the idea that integration is a process, not a fixed item acquired, but the result of a path of social insertion and cultural acknowledgement that can be traced through different trajectories. Not all migrants assimilate rapidly, while some do others keep strong community and identity bonds with the society of origin and this is essential in giving them the balance for an elaboration of a sense of belonging here and there. Integration by putting under serious questioning the idea of unity of race, language, religion and soil that brought to the construction of national states screams for a new social order where integration can be seen as the deep process of interaction between migrants and the members of the society of destination which actively can contribute to a pacific and enriching co-existence.

## Summary of Key Findings:

The author's assessment concentrates on the Italian labour market with an increasing but *neglected* manpower demand, *not explicit nor visible*, for workers in the industries and in the care sector. The volume looks at who migrants are, what they do and how they integrate in the Italian labour market. In Italy immigrants arrived almost 'unexpected', taking on jobs crucial for developed economies, in the care sector and in local productive systems. However local communities felt this arrival almost as an invasion that although necessary, represents a cost, therefore immigrants are 'wanted but not welcome', perceived as a 'necessary burden'. The text looks at the formal but also the informal sector of the labour market, it analyses the Italian context in socio-economic terms, giving emphasis to internal unemployment as an issue independent from migrants' arrival in the society, and it looks at the role that ethnic networks and various communities play both in attracting new immigrants, through migratory chains, and in the insertion process

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\* The annotations are in alphabetical order based on authors' names.

in the destination country. If this represents a practical way to manage a difficult reality, it can also result in a dangerous limitation of social mobility: national migration networks often specialise in some specific employment sectors (Indians in breeding, Filipinos in the care sector) low both in salaries and social positions.

Finally the book highlights more active and efficient policy proposals in order to favour migrants' integration. It argues for the need of eliminating stereotypes on the ways in which migrants are socially perceived, and it foresees a possible change of this negative image in the next future with the arrival of flows of migrations with professionals and highly educated migrants. The author calls for interventions through training schemes: therefore contrasting processes of 'categorisations', identifying the real competencies that migrants possess and recognising at least in part studies finalised abroad and foster opportunities available on the Italian labour market. It also argues that resources produced by migrants through social provisions be managed by local authorities. From the analysis emerges that the institutions with which migrants come into contact are at the local level, including the non-profit sector: this is positive since it allows to manage responses to emergencies, but it can easily be used as alibi for responsibilities of central institutions. In sum immigration is posing new challenges to societies of destination, but a crucial node for integration is represented by the difficulties posed by the naturalisation processes and a lot more needs to be done especially in terms of political rights, developing effective measures of social policy at the local levels as well as in daily institutional and individual behaviours acknowledging that we are all part of a society that wishes to be more integrated and solidaristic towards all.

With regard to frictions between cultures that arise in contexts of strong immigration the author stresses the importance of considering migrants under their human profile as persons with ideas, projects and aspirations, willing to integrate in the local and national system, sharing one culture and its positive aspects while adversing assimilation. A process of 'cultural pollution' will take place in both senses, in the culture of the destination countries as well as for the culture of the countries from where migrants come from, maybe with costs and sufferance but the author believes that western culture will have a lot to offer. Often migrants did not leave their countries only for economic reasons but also because they refused life and civil and social and cultural conditions of the land of origin, attracted instead by a culture of human rights that should characterise co-existence and integration.

## **2) Citation:**

AMBROSINI, M., E. ABBATECOLA, 2004. *IMMIGRAZIONE E METROPOLI. UN CONFRONTO EUROPEO*, MILANO:FRANCO ANGELI.

## **Subject:**

Economic and social insertion of a few migrant groups within four different metropolitan areas: Paris and Berlin in continental Europe and Milan and Barcelona in Mediterranean Europe.

**Country:** Germany (Berlin), France (Paris), Italy (Milan), Spain (Barcelona).

## **Main Point:**

The four target cities have different historical experiences with immigration but they share a few key elements. As large cities, they represent primary and emblematic spaces where contemporary economies and immigrant minorities interact. The main point of the volume is that transformations in the economic metropolitan systems have elements in common in the four contexts, and that what differs are the temporal and institutional contexts of immigrants' incorporation processes. Metropolis being the crucial spaces of interaction and conflict, will anticipate and orient social transformations that will engage all European societies in the next decades.

### **Summary of Key Findings:**

In the introduction of the volume the editors argue that many of the characteristics of incorporation of foreign manpower in the Mediterranean model can be traced in the metropolitan capitals of the North, where growing deregulation, segmentation and the expansion of the service sector of the market favour the diffusion of precarious and atypical jobs.

In Continental Europe what we see is a stratification of old and new components of immigration, with the formation of second and third generations. The Mediterranean European countries more recently transformed in recipient countries are facing - with a scarce preparation - these changes and are experimenting in rapid terms a passage towards multiethnic societies.

In all the four metropolis a significant convergence exists also as regards the employment sectors of foreigners: small enterprises of services, minor construction and building sector, domestic and care sectors, restaurants and cleaning enterprises, small commerce and transports. In all these sectors a trend towards self-employment emerges in all the analysed contexts. In the local socio-economic contexts where demand and supply meet, personal relationships, social networks and community institutions of migrants play a key role in determining their modes of economic incorporation.

After tracing elements of commonality that justify the cross country comparison, the first part of the volume dedicates to each metropolitan context specific relevance, while the Italian case and more in particular the case of Milan is described in the second part of the text.

The different contexts are assessed in terms of the institutional mechanisms of the recipient society, the existent opportunity structure and the active role of ethnic networks. In addition each contribution looks at three different national groups of migrants in each metropolitan context dependent on the levels of internal organisation and the type of access in the local labour market: Turks, Italians and Poles in Berlin (Blaschke and Scuteri); Moroccans, Rumanians, Indians and Pakistani in Paris (Withol de Wenden); Moroccans, Filipinos and Ecuadorians in Barcelona, (Pongiluppi).

The second part of the volume is entirely dedicated to the Italian case and Milan. An introduction looks at the paths of encounter between immigrants' manpower and the national and Milanese labour market and the further three contributions look at three minority groups particularly significant in Milan: the Filipinos (Cominelli), Moroccans (Frisina, Gandolfi, Schmidt di Friedberg) and Egyptians (Abbatecola).

Interesting are the differences in the incorporation modes of the three communities in the city. If the Filipinos are well organised internally through associations and through networks distributing job opportunities, more autonomous from religious circuits, however we assist at a form of self segregation in the domestic and care sector. Egyptians instead ' a non network community' while they don't have collective forms of organisation, they have a strong interpersonal capacity of social capital which results functional for employment in the dependent and autonomous work. More problematic the presence of Moroccans without networks of solidarity, individualistic behaviours often deviant, and large unemployment and social disaggregation.

In the metropolitan area of Milan, the economic processes are constructed *from below*, through social networks, the action of public powers and of the civil society.

### **3) Citation**

AMBROSINI, M., MOLINA S., (EDS.). 2004. *SECONDE GENERAZIONI. UN'INTRODUZIONE AL FUTURO DELL'IMMIGRAZIONE IN ITALIA*, TORINO: EDIZIONI FONDAZIONE AGNELLI.

### **Subject:**

The subject of the book is second generations in Italy, a country of recent immigration, where the phenomenon starts raising today. This is one of the first contributions on the issue.

**Country:** Italy, with comparative cases on the United States, France, and Germany.

## **Main Point:**

When speaking of second generations it is necessary to refer to the phenomenon in plural terms. The book tries to address the issue of 'what future' for second generations in Italy. Young foreigners living in Italy today are 400.000, and it is estimated that in ten years the number will reach one million, with an increasing relevance at the economic, social, political and cultural level. The major transformation, which many might not see, is taking place in the schools, here foreigners reach 3% of the school population. Since contributions on this issue in countries of old immigration such as France, Germany and the USA do not seem to offer clearly and entirely virtuous integration paradigms, Italy will need to find its own path built on the errors and good experiences of others.

## **Summary of Key Findings:**

The expression second generations refers to different situations, not just children born in Italy with foreign parents, but also adolescents arrived in Italy through family reunifications, minors arrived through international adoptions, children of mixed marriages, refugees. This population today in Italy is mostly of very young people.

The first contribution of the volume (M. Ambrosini) addresses the issue of possible insertion paths for foreigners born on the national territory in Italy. Youngsters belonging to second generation will hardly accept forms of subordinated integration as their parents might have. Better integrated in the society of destination especially through training and schooling, foreign youngsters will have similar aspirations as their autochthonous mates, and will less likely adapt to subaltern roles. The author therefore suggests that, in a perspective of inclusion, human and cultural resources as well as autonomous work will need to be fostered, also through legislation.

The volume contains also comparative contributions by Alejandro Portes on the United States, Catherine Withol de Wenden on France, and Dietrich Thränhardt on the situation in Germany, showing different configurations of the phenomenon of second generations in the specific national contexts. In the USA the results of the *Children of Immigrant Longitudinal Study* show that factors of success lie on 'background factors': parents' human capital, family structure, forms of insertions.

In France it is very difficult to make the census of second generations, since in many cases youngsters with foreign parents acquired double citizenship. The author analyses forms of discrimination that especially youngsters of Arab origin face in schools and in neighbourhoods, starting from the Nineties with the rise of extreme right movements that led to cohesion processes and political activities of young foreigners. In sum the Islamic presence created thousands of cultural associations, posing the issue today of multiple identities, and of the formation of 'French multiculturalism'.

In Germany public opinion thinks of its young foreigners as well integrated. Evidence concerning success in school and social integration lead to opposite conclusions. The author of this chapter stresses the importance of different factors when looking at these issues: national and regional policies in the destination areas, as well as cohesion in the ethnic communities studied. The author finds two major possible trajectories: the *assimilationist* path of Spanish immigrants, whose integration was sustained by Hispanic associations in the country of origin, and the *pluralistic* trajectory of the Greeks, keeping a very deep sense of national identity.

The final chapter devoted to the Italian experience again, especially to schools, by Charles Glenn highlights some lessons to be learned based on the experience of other countries. The university formation should not be the only valid way of integration. The author recommends an approach toward foreign students which considers them in the first place as persons, rather than in their quality of belonging to one specific cultural group. Foreign students don't need to be considered different from their mates by demanding them less, since they are foreigners, or by considering them as a minority with specific cultural identities which can isolate them from the others. The author also recommends the government to establish schools with real autonomy, which can entail coherent actions with a strong emphasis on school results. This could perhaps leave less space to the importance of background factors as in the American experience.

#### **4) and 5) Citation:**

##### **Two volumes on the theme of regularisations in Italy:**

BARBAGLI, M., A. COLOMBO, G. SCIORTINO. 2004. *I SOMMERSI E I SANATI. LE REGOLARIZZAZIONI DEGLI IMMIGRATI IN ITALIA*, BOLOGNA: IL MULINO.

ZUCCHETTI, E. 2004. *LA REGOLARIZZAZIONE DEGLI STRANIERI. NUOVI ATTORI NEL MERCATO DEL LAVORO ITALIANO*. MILANO: FRANCO ANGELI.

##### **Subject:**

Regularisations in Italy. The first volume represents a general overview on regularisations as fundamental instruments for managing the Italian migration system. The second volume specifically assesses data issued by the 2002 regularisation process concentrating in a second phase on four specific case studies.

##### **Country:** Italy

##### **Main Point:**

The first volume is a general overview on regularisations in Italy, these occurred in 1982, 1986, 1990, 1995, 1998 and 2002. The volume focuses the attention not so much on the frequency of the phenomenon in the Italian context, but on the systematic use of this instrument as an active migration policy. Italy, while recognising an increasing legitimate demand for foreign labour, systematically refused to put in place channels that even partially could satisfy it. In fact the entire Italian migration policy has been centred till today on regularisation programs. The volume presents through empirical research on regularisations of migrants in Italy, differing for the territorial areas assessed and for the methods used, a convergence in documenting the complexity of the regularisation processes, and the multiple effects these provisions produced. The volume aims at overcoming through deeper knowledge of these processes some aprioristic, erroneous and uncontested ideas.

The second volume edited by the sociologist Eugenio Zucchetti, focuses on the 2002 regularisation process in Italy framing this phenomenon as a historical breakthrough not only regarding migrations but also for the general socio-economic history of the country.

The research focuses on two distinct methodological levels: on the one hand an elaboration and an assessment of the huge database of over 700.000 applications (which the Ministry of Welfare and Social Policies made available to the independent Institute ISMU - Iniziative e studi sulla multietnicità, in Milan) based on information on employees and employers contained in the individual applications the latter presented at the Postal Offices. A second level specifically focuses on four provincial areas, considered representative of different insertions patterns in the labour market: Milan (North), Naples (South), Rome (Centre) e Vicenza (North-East). The case studies were mostly based on statistical evidence, enriched with some qualitative elements gathered through interviews to privileged witnesses in the local systems.

##### **Summary of Key Findings:**

Regularisations have a structural importance for the analysis of the foreign population dynamics in Italy. The majority of migrants in Italy acquired a legal status thanks to a regularisation, after having remained for more or less long periods in a situation of irregularity. Regularisations have therefore deep effects on the composition of the foreign population and on the process of insertion of migrants in the Italian society. It is not entirely true that regularisations have 'left out' irregular workers, it seems instead that regularisations absorbed the irregular component of migrants in the country, since applications presented in the next regularisation are mostly filed by migrants that result residing in Italy after the conclusion of the previous process.

Regularisations are not just an Italian 'vice', since these occurred in European countries more than what we think or know. France, Belgium also used legalisation processes repeatedly, although it also seems evident that in southern European countries of recent migration the instrument is broadly diffused: Italy, Greece,

Portugal and Spain. It is also undeniable that in absolute values Italy has regularised the highest number of foreigners.

The use of regularisations is often used as synonymous for defining the immature character of the Italian migratory experience. Regularisations have been used since the very beginning of migrations flows in Europe, so this does not represent a new instrument, rather it has changed in some of its characteristics: passing from being a permanent and decentralised instrument to selective regularisation programs managed at a very central level.

Finally regularisations have been also seen as the failure of the Italian Government to put in place effective repressive policies towards irregular migrations. The scarcity of systematic controls on the labour market and the absence of adequate repressive policies on irregular occupations are the real problems in the Italian context. Here it is also clear that the instrument of expulsion can be useful for managing public order, not for contrasting irregular migrations.

The second volume concentrates specifically on the last regularisation process, started in 2002, that brought some radical changes on the presence of migrants in the Italian context. In particular a fundamental change occurred in quantitative terms, since this regularisation brought the presence of regular foreigners 50% ahead, with a consequential rise in the fiscal and social security revenues, but also with new burdens for local welfare and health systems as well as a growing work load for the police. In qualitative terms regularisations, in connection with the law on migration known as 'Bossi-Fini', gave a profound geographic reorientation of the Italian immigration system in favour of some European countries: the strengthening of the presence of Romanians and Albanians, and a true explosion of migrants from Ukraine and Moldavia. The volume offers a few explanations for these transformations, insisting on judicial-institutional factors (starting from 1st January 2002 Rumanian citizens do not need visas for travels lasting less than 3 months), but perhaps not giving enough attention to factors specifically connected with dynamics in the labour market, such as the 'ethnic preference' employers tend to give to European migrants.

Regarding patterns of insertions of foreign workers in the national labour market, the report confirms certain trends and offers few significant novelties.

The different capacity of attraction of economic macro-areas of the country is confirmed, with some important changes in the case of Naples where regular migrants doubled after legalisation. The strong ethnic-national segmentation of the Italian labour market, with a boom in the use of female migrants in families: 78% women regularised for domestic work and 87% women in the care sector. The huge spontaneous internationalisation of welfare mechanisms fostered by rapid transformations occurred in an ageing society is one of the major novelties highlighted in the volume.

The editor in the concluding remarks highlights some problematic issues that remain unsolved despite the regularisation process in the short term can be considered successful. The problematic of autochthonous demand of labour with foreign supply is unsolved, and the linkage between stabilisation processes and integration also in the long run remains an open issue.

Overcoming the 'permanent emergency' typical of the Italian migration policy is still far from being realised.

## **6) Citation:**

CAPONIO, T. 2005. 'POLICY NETWORKS AND IMMIGRANTS' ASSOCIATIONS IN ITALY. THE CASES OF MILAN, BOLOGNA AND NAPLES', IN *JOURNAL OF ETHNIC AND MIGRATION STUDIES*, VOLUME 31 N 5. PP 931 - 950

## **Subject:**

The article looks at migrants' associations and Italian associations working on immigrations issues in three local contexts (three cities in the northern and southern parts of the country). In each context, it analyses the role played by these actors in local policy networks.

**Country:** Italy

**Main Point:**

The main point of the analysis shows that migrants' associations are poorly organised and play a marginal role in the local decision-making process in the three cities considered and instead pro-immigrant associations appear to have crowded out immigrants' own initiatives.

**Summary of Key Findings:**

The article considers three local urban contexts in Italy (Naples, Milan and Bologna) governed by different political majorities since the mid-1980s and thus characterised by differences in the political opportunity structure. It questions whether the difference of the local administrations in terms of configurations of power (right-wing and left-wing) provided different institutional opportunities for migrants' associations, influencing the levels of immigrant organisation.

The article argues that despite left-wing administrations have attempted to open some opportunities to migrants' associations, these were scarce and often of a contradictory nature. Local governments seem in general to have preferred, especially as far as access to funding and running for public contracts is concerned, Italian associations working on immigration issues ('pro-immigrant associations') rather than migrants' associations. Migrants' associations in Italy represent a fragmented and complex universe: there is a variety of nationalities and cultural traditions, migratory projects and patterns which the author argues make it difficult for truly representative migrants' organisations to emerge. Further institutional initiatives aimed at reducing and channelling this complexity have often proved contradictory and moreover public institutions have preferred the more reliable and experienced third-sector organisations (non religious or Catholic associations), when it comes to decide upon the delivery of social services. As a consequence, in all the three cities considered, national welfare associations appear to have crowded out immigrants' own initiatives. As a result the lack of experience and structural weakness of immigrants' associations not only did not find the trust of public institutions, but this distrust played the effect of keeping immigrants' associations even more inexperienced and structurally weak.

**7) Citation:**

COIN, F. (ED). 2004. *GLI IMMIGRATI, IL LAVORO, LA CASA. TRA SEGREGAZIONE E MOBILITAZIONE*, MILANO:FRANCO ANGELI EDITORE.

**Subject:**

Discrimination towards migrants in the labour market and in the housing sector.

**Country:** Italy

**Main Point:**

The books in seven different contributions assesses conditions of discrimination that migrants face today in Italy in the labour market and in the housing sector. The book asserts that these forms of discrimination are neither contingent nor occasional. The editor believes that these discriminations represent in fact a continuum that in other forms occurred in different places and times, in the process of subjection of the western world towards 'third' countries. This process of material and symbolic *inferiorisation* towards migrants goes in the direction of erasing agency, social and political visibility, in other words migrants' participation in the public discourse and in the public sphere, showing them only as dangerous, and a menace towards whom it becomes necessary to build defences with all possible means.

This volume can be inserted in a specific theoretical debate on post colonial studies, representing a recent contribution regarding central issues of integration for migrants such as the labour market and the housing sector, framed in very critical terms.

### **Summary of Key Findings:**

Control policies adopted with the Schengen agreement on migration flows assimilate these with forms of historical slavery and compulsory work or systems of tied or forced colonial jobs. This analogy exists in the opinion of the author in chapter one, not just historically but also legally. Labour is becoming precarious on the one hand, and on the other labour is also becoming full of strong bonds: migrant labour is associated with colonial slavery as slaves were among the first proletarians not enjoying any fundamental right. In contrast with common opinions that believe that policies have conditioned the formation of migration flows and in the end regulate them, the book asserts that the rise of capitalism created the conditions for developing migration flows, breaking socio-economic structures in the countries of the South and the consequent economic gap between the North and the South. Despite the existence of perpetuated forms of exploitation, these will not arrest forms of mobilisations coming from below. Migration in fact often represents the attempt of getting out of a vicious cycle between precarious jobs, insufficient salaries and authoritarian regime. Key for understanding why mobility of labour is contrasted is the need for capitalism to persist to reproduce salary differentials, which mobility instead challenges. Differential in salaries is not then just a legacy to the colonial past, but a form of exploitation that belongs to the current level of development of capitalism. Unstable and temporary jobs, within the black economy, with amounts of working hours between 12-14 hours are just the other face of hyper technological metropolis, producing *inferior* labour.

Policies can be restrictive or implemented towards openness, but adopting one or the other depends on the needs of the market in one specific historical moment. In Europe after policies of openness until 1973, progressively these converged towards more restrictive ones, translating in compulsory returns, bilateral agreements to reduce migration, rigid entry criteria, the application of the quota instrument. In Italy the latest legislation ties the permit of sojourn to an employment contract, and migration remains described and considered mostly an issue of public order or internal security. Labour migration shows forms of insecurity which are also investing autochthonous jobs, but even more so instable for migrants due to extra-economic sanctions since if you loose a job you loose also your permit of sojourn and you easily can fall into 'clandestinely'.

Forms of colonialism are therefore present in the rich western world, reproducing forms of functional *inferior* jobs. It shall be necessary for theory to follow the indication of migrants mobilisations, similar to slaves struggles, which see in the legislations on migration forms that reproduce the system described above.

With regard to the housing sector, it is becoming necessary to implement policies overcoming the dichotomy immigrant-citizens, reinforcing housing supplies instead of treating this issue as an emergency. The residential discrimination is not only present in individual practices but often institutionally and within norms: the obligation to reside in a specific area, or the suppression of freedom of movement, and residential segregation are forms which reproduce discrimination. Often it is not sufficient for realising integration to abolish discriminatory provisions, and residential integration does not necessarily result in a socio-economic integration.

As one of the articles highlights, policies are also implemented in order to try to keep migration a temporary phenomenon of rotation. For instance there are policies implemented by companies that try to limit mobility by putting in place apartments or beds for immigrant workers, and in doing so reducing costs for training and bureaucratic procedures needed for employment.

## **8) Citation:**

COLOMBO, A., G. SCIORTINO. 2004. *GLI IMMIGRATI IN ITALIA. ASSIMILATI O ESCLUSI: GLI IMMIGRATI, GLI ITALIANI, LE POLITICHE*, BOLOGNA : IL MULINO.

## **Subject:**

General overview on immigration in Italy in the last decades.

**Country:** Italy

## **Main Point:**

This short booklet presents a very effective overview on the presence of immigrants in Italy, on the policies adopted on this issue and Italians' attitudes towards immigration. It stresses the importance of looking at this phenomenon in the medium term.

## **Summary of Key Findings:**

In four short chapters the authors address essential questions such as: who are immigrants? since when immigrants started arriving in this country? from where? why? which policies regulated this presence? what do they do? how do they live? what do Italians think of immigration and how is the subject treated in the media?

All these questions are addressed in the volume starting from the evidence that immigrants have become a stable presence in Italy in the last years. In the medium term in Italy immigration has been different or differentiated for: national origins, for the rhythms of migrations, as well as for motivations, objectives and expectations of migrants. The authors affirm that migrants do not all differ from 'us', but foremost migrants are all very different one from the other, and that Italy does not have one immigration, but many often not communicating between them.

The chapters show that immigration cannot be considered an emergency issue today, but rather a complex process, enrooted in the social conditions of the country and within the transformations occurred during the last decades. In order to understand immigration in Italy the authors argue for the need to deconstruct migration flows under both historical and sociological profiles. In the first chapter the issues addressed are who migrants are and why they have arrived. The second chapter looks at how immigration has been governed in Italy. The third chapter looks at what migrants do and how they live, and the final chapter looks at Italians and immigration. The final chapter through different sources (media and survey data) argues that the attitudes of Italians towards immigration have been in continuous evolution. These attitudes do not lie for the majority necessarily in xenophobic attitudes nor in simplistic 'good' attitudes towards foreigners.

## **9) Citation:**

COMMISSIONE PER LE POLITICHE DI INTEGRAZIONE DEGLI IMMIGRATI. 2001. *SECONDO RAPPORTO SULL'INTEGRAZIONE DEGLI IMMIGRATI IN ITALIA*, G. ZINONE (ED.), BOLOGNA : IL MULINO.

## **Subject:**

The Commission on migrants' integration policies produced two reports on migrants' integration in Italy, in 2000 and 2001, after which the exercise was interrupted. Despite the second report refers to data and issues of the year 2000, it still represents an extremely comprehensive policy reference point on the issues of migration in the Italian context. This report is a collective work by different scholars edited by Giovanna Zincone, in two parts. The first part is an attempt to construct indicators of integration; the second part addresses the issue of: the demographic situation, housing, health, school and education, criminality and deviance, participation and representation. And a third part on specific issues including: Integration in the

labour market, racism and discrimination, family reunifications, urban security and insecurity, Islam, trafficking, integration of Rom and Sinti populations.

## **Country: Italy**

### **Main Point:**

The integration concept is meant here as the respect for the integrity of the person and as the construction of a non conflictual interaction between Italians and immigrant minorities. The Report looks at different integration aspects of migrants in Italy and the interaction of minorities with the autochthonous population in the year 2000.

The Report stresses the need for immigrant manpower expressed by Italian entrepreneurs. The report looks at the formal and regular labour market sector as well at the informal one. Opportunities in the Italian informal labour market explain the inflows of irregular migrants, but may also attract legal immigrants. Irregularity is very broad in Italy for its peculiar geographical position as well as for its productive system. This creates fear in the public opinion as irregulars are seen and confused with criminals. This fear leads towards a generic sense of closeness towards immigration. Despite the majority of Italians thinks that migrants are undertaking jobs that Italians are not willing to do, there is still a large majority not willing to enlarge flows of legal migrants. However as a general tendency tolerance is not losing ground: compared with the previous years those who think that certain religious practices can be a menace for the Italian culture pass from 23,7% to 32,3%, and those who don't agree that one should give up his/her culture of origin from 84,1% to 83,2%. The volume dedicates one chapter to the issue of Islam.

When looking at the legislative context, on the issue of migration Italy has undertaken some laws in line with the European normative as well as those of some member states, but more needs to be done among others on the issues of: local voting, asylum, and citizenship.

### **Summary of Key Findings:**

The first part the volume develops a system of indicators that can be useful for monitoring the situation of the insertion of migrant groups in the different contexts of the recipient society, even in territorial disaggregated terms including therefore national as well as sub-national levels.

The main four axes along which the indicators have been developed look at: a) the demographic, social and territorial structure; b) Relationships with the communities of origin and destination; c) employment and socio-professional mobility; d) Life in society.

The main findings here show a huge difference between the north and the south of the country. In the south there are is smaller number of migrants (0,80% of the population), and here irregularity is more common, whereas in the central part of the country the immigrant population represents on average 3% of the population.

This part of the report claims the need for conducting this type of analysis at the provincial and municipal levels, as a useful instrument for designing meaningful policies.

The second part of the volume dedicates specific chapters to the following issues indicating possible policy responses and changes: the demographic situation, housing, health, school and education, criminality and deviance, participation and representation.

The chapter on the demographic situation looks at the population in the year 2000 compared with previous years, and discusses the differences disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity. It also estimates the immigrant population in future years: 1,9 - 2,5 million people in the year 2007 representing 3,2-4,2% of the Italian population (these numbers and percentages have been overcome already in the year 2005); and by 2017 between 2,6 and 3,5 million people with a percentage on the total population between 4,5 and 6,2.

The housing issue is extremely important and represents a very harsh situation for immigrants, however recent evolutions show a territorial redistribution from metropolitan areas towards smaller cities and rural areas. The chapter indicates innovative experimentations and problems linked to this issue, which often is still dealt in the manner of emergency or assistance. Policies of a 'more social' nature are claimed for confronting this issue, both connecting housing with discrimination policies, as well as more articulated and appropriate social offer.

In the area of health, the Report stresses that more information should be given to migrants as well as on the situation of migrants' health in order to tackle the issue. The relevant chapter looks at positive cases of inclusion in the health system at the regional levels but highlights several elements of social discrimination. The specific sub-sectors that should be tackled include: safety of workplaces; psycho-physical and housing conditions; health and gender, especially towards the issue of maternity and increasing numbers abortion connected to a situation of instability and vulnerability; infant mortality as an increasing issue among immigrants.

School and education. There is an increasing number of children of immigrants origins attending Italian schools. The provinces with the highest levels are: Milan, Rome and Turin. Two main approaches are pointed out as for the teaching of Italian: schools where Italian is taught to immigrant children as a second language through special classes, and more inter-cultural approaches.

In the chapter on criminality and deviance these issues are discussed as a 'ethnic specialisation towards criminality', moreover the issue of foreign minors entering the country and taking on criminal trajectories is raised as an emerging problem.

In the chapter on participation and representation the issue of voting at the administrative elections is discussed in a comparative cross-country analysis. The presence of specific fora where migrants can participate is highlighted as well as the growing relevance of migrants' associations.

The third part of the report as mentioned above includes the following specific issues: Integration in the labour market, racism and discrimination, family reunifications, urban security and insecurity, Islam, trafficking, integration of Rom and Sinti populations.

There is growing trend of integration in the labour market of regular migrants. The year 2000 asserts this text is the year when the Italian public opinion discovers that the economic system needs a conspicuous numbers of migrants and therefore these need to be re-considered a precious resource and not just refugees demanding assistance. Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial associations in some regions are demanding for the enlargement of the numbers of entries through the quota system.

Racism and discrimination towards migrants is described in its visible and explicit terms, as well as in its less explicit forms, such as for example in the banking system: here access is full of unjustifiable obstacles. This is also common in assurance services as well as in sports or in the judicial system.

Family reunifications where the migrant family is discussed here as a 'transitory' institution often in balance between the societies of origin and destination. Here the changing roles are discussed when reunifications are occurring: new roles for women, for men, for children. The issue and attitudes towards mixed marriages is also confronted.

Security and fear of the 'others'. This chapter highlights some of the results of different studies conducted on the fear of Italians towards new comers and foreigners and a survey on the feelings of insecurity in urban environments. Issues are addressed also from the immigrants perspective in order to highlight discriminations which put them in positions of subordination and violations, such as discrimination in job recruitments.

The chapter on Islam focuses on the internal differentiation processes of Islamic communities in the immigration country. By doing this, it goes beyond a still predominant (at the time, at least) perception of Islam as a monolithic and unchangeable cultural universe.

Trafficking as an issue involving children and women. Particular emphasis is devoted to the specificities of the Italian legislation, which played a pioneer role in Europe in granting stay permits for "protection reasons" to victims of trafficking willing to cooperate with police and judicial authorities in bringing traffickers to justice.

The last chapter focuses on the characteristics of the Roma minority, trying to overcome the stereotypes and prejudices of the public opinion, highlighting the discriminatory behaviours of authorities and private citizens towards them, and finally analysing the general and sectorial policies put in place by Italian institutions, indicating suggestions that favour integration also looking at recommendations and experiences developed at the international levels.

**10) Citation:**

DECIMO, F. 2005. *QUANDO EMIGRANO LE DONNE. Percorsi e reti femminili della mobilità transnazionale*, BOLOGNA: IL MULINO.

**Subject:**

Female migration paths and networks of transnational mobility.

**Country:** Italy

**Main Point:**

This volume is an attempt of reconstructing how from a female perspective the migration process is developed. We see numerous women occupying empty spaces of the Italian labour market, in the care sector as baby sitters, maids, badanti (in the homes taking care of elderly), or prostitutes, but we don't know much about them. The book highlights through empirical research among Somali and Moroccan women in the city of Bologna changes occurred in the social position of women through the migration process, as well as transformations that this phenomenon has engendered in the country of origin. Solidarity networks are analysed also in order to highlight on the one hand how these contributed to sustain migration trajectories but also in their constraining characteristics as networks of social control.

**Summary of Key Findings:**

In reconstructing from a female perspective the development of migration trajectories, the volume reaches the domestic sphere of family relationships, investigating affective choices and emotional involvements in the construction of worlds of intimacy and trust in a foreign land. The book assesses the activation of complex parental policies that can engender different trajectories of openness on the one hand or closeness and preservation of the original groups on the other conducting comparative empirical research among two different groups, Somali and Moroccan women in the city of Bologna. It tries to interpret how individuals adhere to social expectations and identity models transmitted by the groups of original belonging. In doing so it questions which personal emotions, relational dynamics and normative pressures play a fundamental role enabling relatives, families and nationals in remaining the main reference, orienting action and individual choices including dressing or eating habits, the education of the children or wedding choices. The volume shows how migration can constitute an enriching experience that allocates women in a position of social advantage, at the center of the parental sphere, with opportunities of autonomy, prestige and personal realisation for some, but instead migration can also prospect risks of marginality and isolation negating personal realisations.

Some of the key findings show that Moroccan women adhere to family expectations in their roles of wives and mothers and maintain the traditional policies of parenthood between the two sides of the Mediterranean. Moroccan women become the guardians of modes of integration which foresee a familial enrootment in the foreign land and an active female participation in the migratory projects.

On the other hand Somali women, especially in their roles of 'daughters' play a role of supporters towards entire households that the war back home led into poverty. Through their economic support it is possible for mothers, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and cousins to survive. The downside of this situation is that it is impossible to interrupt it even when it further compromises the social and affective realisation of these women, who in the end give up entirely their personal lives for the families back home.

## **11) Citation:**

FONDAZIONE NORD EST. 2005. *MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS IN EUROPE. EUROPEAN CITIZENS' ATTITUDES*, FIFTH EDITION, DIAMANTI I. AND F. BORDIGNON (EDS.), QUADERNI DELLA FONDAZIONE NORD EST, COLLANA OSSERVATORI, N. 21, NOVEMBER.

## **Subject:**

Popular attitudes towards migration and citizenship in Europe is the subject of the recurrent survey (at its fifth edition) set up by Fondazione Nord Est directed by Ilvo Diamanti in co-operation with Fabio Bordignon. The 2005 survey was carried out from June to September 2005. The universe of interviewees is made up by the population of 6 different European countries and the people interviewed were at least 15 years old. The sample was nationally stratified according to the main socio-demographic variables. About 900-1000 people were interviewed in each country. Altogether the sample size was 5,927 cases (France: 901, Germany: 902, Italy: 900, Poland: 1020, Hungary: 1240, Czech Republic: 964). In three countries (France, Germany, Italy) people were interviewed by phone, whereas face-to-face interviews were carried out in three other countries (Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland).

**Country:** France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic.

## **Main Point:**

Migration still generates mixed feelings among European citizens. People while willing to welcome foreigners and to allow them citizenship rights are still concerned about immigrants. The volume highlights how such attitudes vary depending on the social and economic condition of the interviewees and how citizens' feelings tend to change when looking at different aspects of migration (its effects on the national and cultural identity, or on the economic system or on people's safety and the public order). As far as these themes are concerned, there is a deep rift between the EU founders (France, Germany and Italy) and the new Member States (Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland). What the report highlights as a common thread is the tight connection between the attitudes towards migration and the way people consider some of the latest developments of the European institutions. Some frictions become then visible: concerns about immigrants are deeper among those who do not support the process of European integration (e.g. among critics of the new single currency or the European constitution).

## **Summary of Key Findings:**

"Old Europe's" citizens have different attitudes towards immigrants than those of the so-called 'new Europe'. The post-communist democracies are marked by a certain mistrust of foreigners, much more than in Western Europe. The report gives an explanation on why Central and Eastern Europeans are so concerned about immigrants linked to the history, and the difficulties during the transition to open market economies. Here citizens' worries are related in the first place to the competition expected on the labour market, secondly, to personal safety, while there is no concern about national identity. The report stresses that in Western Europe citizens are not so much concerned about immigrants, noting that however, there are still 'significant minorities', and their share ranges between 20 and 40% of the total population. The French seem the least worried about migration and that applies to all the social dimensions and implications proposed by the questionnaire. Concerns about foreigners are deeper in Germany and Italy. Italians are particularly worried about personal safety and crime. About one third of the Italians see immigrants as potential competitors in order to get or to maintain a job, and the rate increased since last year. Germans, especially those who live in the former German Democratic Republic, are particularly worried about the consequences of migration on the labour market. Moreover, 29% of German citizens stress the challenges posed by immigration in terms of cultural and religious identity: this is the highest rate among all the Western countries considered.

The report also notes that in the three Western European countries, a high share of the population considers migration as an opening factor. The absolute majority of the citizens (the highest rate being registered in Germany, 71%), and about the half in Poland and Hungary, think that foreigners contribute to fostering new cultural horizons and promoting social progress. Relevant and in expansion is the share of those who

consider migration necessary to the European economy and foreigners a resource. A public consensus is in the rise in favour of allowing citizenship rights to regular immigrants, especially so that they can get access to basic services and in old Member States 75% of the people (and almost everybody in France and Italy) think that foreigners should be eligible to the national health system. In Central Eastern Europe the majority of the citizens agree with that proposal too. Italians, French and Germans also believe that regular immigrants should be eligible to vote not only in local, but also in general elections. In this respect Italians and French are the most favourable, while Germans seem to be a bit more cautious.

Concerns about immigrants are deeper among those who do not support the process of European integration. In Germany and Italy citizens' concerns are related to a negative assessment both of the single currency and the new European constitution, instead in France this factor is less relevant. Politics is also important. In each Western European country the concerns about immigrants goes higher while moving from left to right on the political spectrum. The report finds the relationship especially strong for Italy, compared with France and Germany.

Individuals who are more involved in political and social networks result less worried about foreigners and generally have more trust in others, this is valid in France and Italy, where concerns about immigrants decrease in case of a deeper institutional integration and trust in politics.

When taking into account social and demographic indicators almost in each country the most educated people are less worried about immigrants. Looking at the age, there is a similar relation: younger people are less concerned about foreigners than adults and old people. From this perspective Italy is an exception to the rule. In Italy, indeed, there is no relationship between age and the degree of concern about foreigners, whereas in all the other five countries concerns increase while moving from young to old people, the latter being the most worried about migration.

A last interesting indicator highlighted in the report finds a significant relationship between the degree of concern and the place where people reside. There is no strict relationship between a negative attitude towards immigrants and urban areas. In Italy and France people living in the smallest towns or villages are the most concerned about immigrants. And, Paris – at least until some months ago (the survey was completed before the riots in French banlieues) – is the area where the lowest degree of concern about foreigners has been registered.

## **12) Citation:**

GRILLO, R. AND J. PRATT 2002. *THE POLITICS OF RECOGNISING DIFFERENCE: MULTICULTURALISM ITALIAN STYLE*, EDITED BY, ALDERSHOT, AVEBURY.

## **Subject:**

The volume includes thirteen contributions addressing the issue of difference, in social, cultural, religious and linguistic terms, in order to understand how immigrants that entered in Italy as economic migrants or refugees experienced the receiving society, and how this difference is perceived and handled by Italians (individuals and institutions). Further it questions how policies and practices that evolved nationally or locally deal with difference in comparison to form of multiculturalism that emerged in other countries. Finally it tries to raise the issue on what contribution social scientists can make in this domain.

## **Country: Italy**

## **Main Point:**

The volume seeks to position the formation of ethnicity and policies of multiculturalism in Italy. The core studies in this volume are rooted in particular Italian localities showing that the implantation of immigrants is shaped by local economic and social histories. Multiculturalism is the term which defines a broad spectrum of local initiatives, some based on state institutions, some in non-governmental organisations, some with the assistance and participation of immigrants or ethnic minorities themselves, some without, which attempt to

address the issue, the problems of living in plural societies. 'Multiculturalism Italian style' presents peculiar characteristic: migrant populations are very heterogeneous and fragmented, few associations are mobilising and creating larger ethnic categories, and there are few public spaces where migrants can articulate their interests.

### **Summary of Key Findings:**

The various contributions of the volume concentrate at the local level where most important forms of political and cultural mobilisation take place: these include political and institutional aspects, issues of representation, in the media, gender, perceptions on specific immigrant communities.

The concluding chapter by Adrien Favell addresses a key issue of the volume, as he asks the reader: to what extent does the evidence presented here suggest particularities about the Italian case which might make it exemplary or unusual when studied as one case among others; that is, as part of the developing comparative cross-national research programme on immigration and integration in Europe?

Favell highlights a possible danger in the fact that almost all of the contributions are written by Italians writing with some feeling about Italian society and politics, but from the vantage point of 'exiles' and commenting on their own home country. He believes that there is a danger that work of this kind can slip into specialist area-studies lacking a comparative dimension. He therefore claims that instead 'sober comparisons' are needed to dampen the anger and frustration that this situation can inspire. Favell asserts that work on Italy which takes as its goal the internal critique of Italian immigration politics via the normative critique of Italian social and political institutions, without engaging in balanced international comparison, does not enable commentators to specify how Italy might in fact be changing as a result of immigration.

### **13) Citation:**

IRES - OSSERVATORIO IRES-CGIL NAZIONALE. 2003. *IMMIGRAZIONE E SINDACATO, LAVORO, DISCRIMINAZIONE, RAPPRESENTANZA*, BERNADOTTI, M.A., G. MOTTURA, (EDS.). ROMA: EDIESSE

### **Subject:**

Third Report issued by the Institute of research (IRES) of one of the major trade unions in Italy (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro, CGIL). The subject of this volume is specifically discrimination towards migrants in the labour market and on the work place.

Country: Italy

### **Main Point:**

Migration is represented in the different articles of the volume as a resource and not as a security problem. Two major background factors are highlighted here in the current migration flows towards Italy, based on the results of the last regularisation process that took place in Italy starting from 2002. The first one consists in the increasing number of migrants coming from Eastern Europe which is meant to continue in the future years, especially from Romania and to a less extent from Bulgaria, with specific characteristics: young in age; good/high levels of education and specialisations, with the aim of staying for temporary periods. In this perspective mobility should be fostered instead of limited. The second factor is the increasing number of female migrants, especially in the care sector.

Discrimination and representation are the two key words of the volume. The presence of migrants is undergoing a process of consolidation in trade unions, in the labour market, and in contractual relationships. The establishment of these processes are raising problems of discrimination towards migrants in the working place, in the access to the labour market, in advancing professional promotions: all issues that trade unions address in their agendas.

## **Summary of Key Findings:**

The volume presents the following estimates on migration in Italy: 3 million presences of regular migrants (representing 5% of the Italian population), and almost 500.000 irregulars. More than 170.000 have subscribed to one of the major trade unions, CGIL.

The volume contains among the different contributions an original survey on discrimination in the labour market (edited by M.A. Bernadotti) with more than 7000 interviews conducted in nine Italian regions, aiming at investigating migrants' working conditions in order to launch new policies of innovation to be undertaken and promoted by trade unions in this domain. Immigrants are defined a population 'without skin' in the sense without defences, rights and exposed to exploitation. Data emerging from the survey shows that discrimination in the work place is still very strong: 60% of the interviewees denounces it, since migrants face the harshest works and the less comfortable working hours.

Discrimination among women is 'doubled'. Contracts are less stable, compared with male migrants, less promotions occurred within their professional carriers, and women have often been victims of discrimination from the employer as well as from colleagues.

The survey also addresses the issue of accidents at work. Migrants seem to have more accidents if compared to Italians, 30% of these accidents occurred in the construction and in the metal industry. The data can be considered underestimations since they do not include irregular migrants in the black market, often employed in these sectors.

Participation in the trade unions is high among migrants. However members in trade unions are concentrated in the regions of the North (especially Lombardia and Emilia-Romagna, with an exception of the central region Marche that has a few industrial districts). In these regions (and some of the contributions of the volume concentrate on specific case studies) actions aimed at empowering immigrant members are put in place. However the tension between the idea of equality and universalism on the one hand and recognition of the differences on the other is present in the culture of Italian trade unions representing today the challenge these institutions have to face starting from the inside. In fact as a matter of example, only 8% of the national collective contracts for specific categories and 1 % of the contracts for companies reflect specific needs of immigrant workers.

The various contributions of the volume highlight the necessity of giving better visibility and representativeness to immigrant workers in the different bodies of the trade unions, starting from the CGIL.

## **14) Citation:**

REYNERI E. 2004. 'EDUCATION AND THE OCCUPATIONAL PATHWAYS OF MIGRANTS IN ITALY', IN *JOURNAL OF ETHNIC AND MIGRATION STUDIES*, VOL. 30 N. 6, PP. 1145–1162.

## **Subject:**

When looking at educational attainments and employment of migrants in Italy, what opportunities are present in terms of social mobility?

## **Country: Italy**

## **Main Point:**

The article shows that migrants who enter Italy are not only needy and poorly-educated people from rural societies, presenting here a very typical stereotype, but also middle-class and (sometimes highly) educated youths from large cities. Empirical evidence shows therefore that migrants can carry in their migratory paths both human capital and material resources. Different characteristics of migrants based on regional provenance and educational levels are explanatory variables on why many migratory projects differ from the old stereotype of 'temporary labour migration'.

**Key Findings:**

The author draws a fourfold typology of immigrants on the basis of fieldwork carried out in the city of Milan combining educational levels and social status: the 'underprivileged' (low social status and poor education), the 'underachievers' (poor education but high social status), the 'upwardly mobile' (high educational attainment but low status), the 'privileged' (high level of both education and social status). What the author finds out is that opportunities for migrants in Italy lie at the lowest level of the occupational ladder even for the highly-educated ones, thus showing that the phenomenon of downgrading is huge. Highly-educated migrants are either unemployed or work in undeclared and occasional jobs to an extent even greater than poorly-educated ones.

It seems therefore that education is becoming a crucial factor polarising employment among (highly educated) migrants either in the direction of high level jobs or disqualified and occasional ones.

Key findings show that well-educated immigrants are less willing to accept the disparity between their social status in the country of origin and the jobs that they are offered in the destination country, in particular if they are permanent but unskilled and onerous blue-collar jobs in small manufacturing firms in Northern and Central Italy. And in fact within this new situation new elements are appearing such as unemployment and irregular jobs becoming higher among highly skilled migrants (high school and BA levels) rather than among migrants without higher education.

**15) Citation:**

SCIORTINO, G., A. COLOMBO, 2002. *STRANIERI IN ITALIA. ASSIMILATI ED ESCLUSI*, BOLOGNA: IL MULINO.

**Subject:**

*Stranieri in Italia* is a series realised as the result of a public call for papers which precedes the publication. This is the first of three volumes published, starting with an introduction by the two editors, a first part with an overview by Douglas S. Massey on migration research in the XXI century; a second part on the regularisation process of migrants in Italy using data never used before on the processes and their effects, and a third part with different contributions on migration in Italy. This last part includes studies and empirical research on migrant communities in Italy including success stories, as well as on exclusion and marginality and on the destination society and the attitudes towards integration and assimilation processes.

**Country:** Italy**Main Point:**

The public discourse on immigration tends to show the phenomenon as homogenous, instead of complex, plural and differentiated. This text against this over simplification - through different contributions - shows how migrants in Italy can be simultaneously as the title suggest: 'assimilated and excluded'. Further it illustrates that the integration process can depend upon a series of different variables - economic social, cultural and geographical - that can be traced before and after the migration process and therefore belong to cultures and countries of origin as well as of destination investing both immigrants and the society of destination.

**Summary of Key Findings:**

Immigration is a phenomenon which is not yet well known in Italy, despite it was the object of discussion during the last thirty years. When speaking about immigration often the rhetoric prevails over the analysis of data. This volume uses rigorous methods and is a collection of empirical investigations on this phenomenon. The introduction of the volume underlines the need for approaching migration studies in Italy as a phenomenon which is plural, generated by different causes and with results which are not always expected.

The aim of the different contributions included in the volume instead try to show that if the context of integration analysed varies, together with the nationalities, the socio-demographic structure, the migratory projects, variations can be traced also in the levels of integration of the migrants themselves. This is the reason for considering migrants in Italy both assimilated and excluded.

As mentioned above the volume starts with a critical overview on research on international migrations. The contribution by Douglas S. Massey asserts that in the next forthcoming years the issues that will gain relevance will include: policies regulating entries, residence and returns. Massey offers a synthetic theory on migration studies through the analyses of six different theoretical approaches (world system theory, neoclassical economic theory, the new economy on labour migrations, the segmentation of the labour market theory, the social capital theory, and the cumulative causation theory) as he believes that efficient policies cannot be designed without a deep knowledge of the phenomenon, such as the social and economic forces that are at the basis of international migrations. The author foresees that industrial countries will adopt restricting policies towards migrations in the next future despite the economic model these countries adopted originates increasing migration flows. And the efficiency of restriction shall depend on: power and autonomy of state bureaucracy; the relative number of people which will try to migrate, the level of constitutional protection of rights for citizens and non citizens, the independence of the judicial system and the existence of an endogenous tradition towards emigration. Social scientists therefore have different responsibilities: guarantee that data collection is done in rigorous terms, develop and test theoretical models on immigration, and conduct cross country comparative analyses, and lastly they need to communicate results to media and policy makers.

The second part of the volume contains a systematic study on the four regularisations (between 1986 and 1998) and their effects, using data produced by the Ministry of Interior, never used before.

The author sustains that regularisations favour flows of irregular migrants. These are in great prevalence male, and the countries of origin from where migrants come from are each time different and resemble the distribution of regular flows.

Looking at the trajectories of migrants regularised it is undeniable that regularisations have had positive effects on the process of integration of migrants, although the use of this instrument in Italy indicates the difficulties in managing flows, producing a rise in the number of irregular entries.

The third part is a collection of empirical researches, undertaken in different areas of the country, focusing on crucial themes such as on the phenomenon of irregular migrants, the assimilation of migrants in the Italian society, Muslim in the public space and specifically on Islam associations in two different towns, experiences of inclusion and exclusion of a specific group of migrants seen in a transnational perspective, relationships and trajectories of insertion in the labour market, female migrants in transit through the black economy, the role of policy networks and immigration, the political attitudes towards foreigners.

What emerges from all these case studies is that the presence of foreigners in Italy is a reality of growing complexity which is slowly eroding traditional and acquired stereotypes and prejudices in opinions.