Session 20: Work and Youth social inclusion/exclusion: What integration of the new forms of employment and ways of working is there?

Lavoro e inclusione/esclusione sociale dei giovani: Quale integrazione nelle nuove forme e nei nuovi modi di lavorare per loro?

Various institutional, economic, labor and social changes seem to make the context and living conditions of young adults difficult and a challenge in our country, and in others, with regard to the sustainability, not just economic, of the assumption of adult responsibilities for young people (eg procreative choices and housing autonomy). For example, there is an increase in youth unemployment rates (and the incidence of NEET) and of the share of temporary employment, not only in the private sector but also in public administration. Or the “turnover rate”, which led to drastic drop in the share of young people employed in public administration: in 2011, only 4.2% of staff were under 29 years of age (General Accounting of the State, online database). Or the de-standardization and, in contradiction with Keynesian forecasts, the progressive intensification of (formal and informal) working hours and pace, for those who have a job (Crompton et al 2005, Dore 2005), which not only turns into an increase in the number of working hours, but also in the quantity of work per hour. This strategy has also been possible due to the reduction of job security which makes workers more vulnerable to employers’ pressures (Dore 2005). The intensification of work is partly due to the tendency of work to overcome its physical-spatial boundaries thanks to the new technologies that make it possible to carry out work at home and everywhere, and with this, the boundaries that, in Fordist epoch, separated workplaces from non-working places: production space (the factory), reproduction space (the family), and leisure. These are the years in which “work-related stress” results as one of the main nodes with which Europe must measure health and safety at work. In Italy, 65% of respondents (only -1% compared to the overall data for the European Union) considered the number of hours worked or the workload as possible causes of their work-related stress (EU-OSHA 2013). The diffusion of new technologies also changes the way of working, for example it allows workers to do more tasks at the same time. Theoretically, it increases their performance, but practically, it can make them lose their concentration at work, meaning low performances.

The session is interested in both theoretical and empirical contributions exploring one of these topic, or combining more than one topic, with particular regard to youths’ experiences of the new (and old) forms of employment and ways of working and to the consequences these phenomena have on their lives and social inclusion. Comparative studies, both qualitative and quantitative (or mixed methods), micro and macro approaches are appreciated. Contributions will be accepted both in Italian and in English.

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