# Sociology of Childhood

## Prof. Donatella Bramanti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide the conceptual and theoretical tools for the analysis of childhood as a social subject and as a generation of children. In particular, the course will focus on the processes aimed at promoting the well-being and the central role of minors; protection and safeguarding actions, best practices to promote opportunities to access growth and socialization paths. All issues are of particular relevance in Italy, in Europe and in the broader international scenario.

*Expected learning outcomes*

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge/understanding of:

* The main concepts for the sociological analysis of the condition of childhood in Italy.
* Some of the main tools for regulating the protection and promotion of childhood, at national and international level.
* Programmes/interventions promoted in Italy and abroad to promote and protect childhood and minors in general.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Consciously use the main sources of data and information on phenomena related to childhood;
* Critically analyse the issues and problems that animate the public debate on topics such as falling birth rates, demographic imbalance, active policies in favour of minors;
* Design good practices in favour of childhood.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After introducing the main sociological concepts for understanding and analysing childhood as a social subject, the course will explore the following topics, combining the presentation of the main theoretical approaches with that of the results of empirical research:

* The main sociological theories on childhood
* Childhood well-being: which markers?
* From the declaration of children’s rights to the guarantor for children
* Observatories on childhood and the analysis of quantitative sources
* Good relational practices in favour of childhood: some exemplary experiences

***READING LIST***

W. Corsaro (2020), *Sociologia dell’infanzia*, FrancoAngeli, Milan.

D. Bramanti, M.L. Bosoni (edited by), *Famiglie, infanzia e servizi educativi: partecipazione, reti e alleanze*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2021.

A text of students’ choice:

A. Favretto, S. Fucci, F. Zaltron (2017)*, Con gli occhi dei bambini, Come l'infanzia affronta la malattia*, Il Mulino, Bologna.

S. Sabatinelli (2017), *Politiche per crescere. La prima infanzia tra cura e investimento sociale*, Il Mulino, Bologna.

R.Ricucci et al. (2011), *Crescere assieme. genitori e figli  
nell’adozione internazionale,* Il Mulino, Bologna.

D. Bramanti, E. Carrà (2011), *I servizi di accoglienza residenziale per minori in Lombardia. Verso una valutazione della qualità relazionale,*  Guerini, Milan.

I. Crespi, M.L. Zanier, (2020), *Migrazioni, processi educativi e percorsi di cittadinanza,* ed. Mimesis.

M. Macaluso et all. (2020), “*Seconde generazioni”, identità e partecipazione politica,* FrancoAngeli, Milan.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is structured in learning units with material that will be made available online on the Blackboard platform (at http://blackboard.unicatt.it). Slides together with mandatory texts will be assessed during the exam. In addition, students will be expected to participate during the course. They will be also guided in completing small exercises on the topics being covered.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will be oral and will assess the topics covered during the course.

At the end of each topic session, students will be regularly tested through 3 online tests on the Blackboard platform aimed at assessing their acquired competences. The test results will be included in the final exam score.

Among the assessment criteria considered: students’ ability to use concepts and adequate interpretive categories for a sociological analysis; ability to design interventions to promote well-being; a personal and critical approach to the course topics.

The elements for assessing students’ competences are: knowledge of the topics presented during the course (from 1 to 15 points), clarity of presentation (1-5), argumentative relevance (1-5), critical ability (1-5). The use of examples that show interest in their study or work context is particularly appreciated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students unable to attend the course must contact the lecturer at the beginning of the course to agree on the most effective study method and use of the platform for the on-line practice.

A basic background knowledge of general sociology is required to be able to master some key concepts of sociology.

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.