# . – Sociology of Educational Relations

## Prof. Gian Luca Battilocchi

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

The course aims to provide the essential tools for a sociological reading of educational relationships and contexts, with particular reference to school systems and educational services for children. Future teachers will be encouraged to analyse the reality of childhood and growth processes in formal and informal education contexts, taking as favourite objects of interest the relational dynamics and the community and institutional dimensions of the school system, identity and acting role of the teaching profession, the relationships and interactions between the main socialisation agencies, with particular reference to the relationships between school and family.

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

1. understand individuals in their social relationship system, the socio-cultural and economic context of contemporary society where cultural, educational and scholastic dynamics are located;
2. use the contribution of the main sociological approaches to analyse the relationships between educational institutions, families and the various socialisation agencies operating in the area;
3. observe and interpret childhood as a social category, in particular distinguishing the role of adults and that of peers in the definition of their respective cultures and in the dynamics of mutual interaction.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will provide a preliminary introduction to *sociology as a scientific discipline*, reviewing the main interpretive approaches of the individual-society relationship and the phenomenon of socialisation: functionalism, conflictualism and interactionist-communicative orientation.

The course will highlight the *connection between educational processes and relationships* and the *broader institutional and social contexts of reference*, by developing some specific research and reflection themes in the sociology of education and childhood:

* forms and transformations of socialisation: educational polycentrism and relations between school and family;
* relational dynamics, social belonging and construction of personal identity;
* equality of opportunities in education, the causes and manifestations of the phenomenon of educational poverty, the dimensions of scholastic and training success;
* intercultural relations within society and in growth processes at school.

The object of specific study will therefore be the *research methods and the main acquisitions of the new sociology of childhood*, paying particular attention to the socio-demographic and cultural changes that have affected childhood (from the transformations of family structures and models to the evolution of policies for the family and for children). The course will also address the new approach to socialisation based on the recognition of the child's agency and on W.A. Corsaro's notions of peer culture and interpretive reproduction.

Finally, the course will offer a reflection on the *sociological profile of teachers in Italy*, as emerged from the most recent field research, and will particularly focus on identity and role action, generational and gender characteristics of Italian teachers, problems of social recognition, professional training and resources.

***READING LIST***

The student will have to study the following mandatory textbooks for the exam:

1. E. Besozzi, *Educazione e società,* Carocci, Rome, 2nd edition 2017. [Buy from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/elena-besozzi/educazione-e-societa-9788843086399-249132.html)
2. W. A. Corsaro, *Sociologia dell’infanzia,* FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2020, 1st and 3rd part.  [Buy from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/william-a-corsaro/sociologia-dellinfanzia-9788835106487-686539.html)
3. G. L. Battilocchi, *Educational poverty in Italy: concepts, measures and policies*, «Central European Journal of Educational Research», n° 2/2020, pp. 1-10
4. G. Argentin, *Nostra scuola quotidiana. Il cambiamento necessario*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2017.  [Buy from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/maddalena-colombo/gli-insegnanti-in-italia-radiografia-di-una-professione-9788834332115-527277.html)

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will develop by alternating theoretical lectures, the analysis of texts, the critical presentation of statistical information frameworks and empirical research products. The teaching material used in the lessons and further specific documentation will be made available to students on the Blackboard platform, where forums for analysis and discussion around specific themes can be proposed.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral. Students can divide it into two parts with an interim exam (in the form of an oral interview), which will be taken during the break between the two course semesters. The interim exam will focus on the topics covered in class in the first semester, according to the information that will be provided at the beginning of the course and made available on the *Blackboard* platform. The exam will be completed starting from the summer exam sessions.

As part of the oral exam, the reading and illustration of essential statistical data sets may be required in addition to the presentation and critical elaboration of themes and problems addressed by the course.

In the assessment, particular reference will be made to the mastery of key concepts, the correct use of a sociological lexicon, the clarity and organic nature of the presentation and the ability to establish connections between theoretical references and specific social phenomena. The assessment will particularly consider the mastery of key concepts, the correct use of a sociological lexicon, the clarity and organic nature of the presentation and the ability to establish connections between theoretical references and specific social phenomena.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Background knowledge of Sociology is not a prerequisite for attending the course.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.