



**Call for Papers**  
**Mondi Migranti n. 1/2019**

**GLOBAL AND TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION:  
SOCIAL RIGHTS BEYOND THE BORDERS**

**Coordinators of the special issue:**

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National and global social protection systems have experimented key transformations in the last decades. Due to the decline of the industrial model of production begun in the mid-70s, the Welfare State model, consolidated along the XX century as a way to reduce the inequalities within neo-liberal societies, has been increasingly questioned (Offe 1984). The current economic crisis has contributed to a further deterioration of Welfare State and social risks have become stronger for a growing part of population (Bourguignon 2015). Looking the EU context, the austerity policies implemented during the economic recession affected especially the weakest social groups. Among them, migrants (Lecerf 2016) were hit particularly strong because of their widespread insertion in the lower part of the labour market and their precarious legal status (i.e. loss of residence permit, lack of formal citizenship) (Hooijer and Picot 2015).

Therefore, one of the main challenges of the contemporary Western societies is the reconfiguration of the State as main provider of social protection. In this sense, some authors have stressed the need to think about a new "social contract" which goes beyond the Welfare State model (Bilecen and Barglowski 2015, Boccagni 2014a, Faist 2014, Levitt et al., 2016; Serra and Mazzucato, 2018; Dobbs et al., 2018). Hence, the concepts of "Transnational Social Protection" and "Global Social Protection" develop from the observation that, in a globalized society, the Nation-States have lost part of their material and symbolic power because of the global expansion of the markets and the revitalisation of sub-national claims (Bauman, 1995; Giddens, 1996). In particular, traditional welfare and social protection systems, which articulate at local and national level, are also adapting themselves to these social changes.

Within this theoretical framework a sociological analysis of the transformations happened to social protection, on individual and collective level, cannot be reduced to an observation of

the local or national planes. Nowadays, the literature which looks on how individuals and collectives are restructuring their social protection in a context characterized by neoliberal policies driven by the ideology of the minimum State, precariousness of work and (post) economic crisis is still limited. As well as few studies were carried out on the new configurations of protection emerged in response to these dynamics.

These questions become particularly meaningful when they apply to groups of people which remain on the edges of the traditional social protection systems because of their job status (precarious or informal employment) or their residence / citizenship status (foreigners in irregular administrative position or asylum seekers). These social conditions produce vulnerable people who are excluded from the protection net configured by the Welfare State: health care and social security, workplace accident and sickness insurance, unemployment and family benefits, social housing, etc.

The case of transnational migrants, who often residence irregularly in the arrival country during long periods of time and carry out informal jobs, is a privileged observation point in order to understand the individual and collective strategies for assembling social protection. Exceptional interest deserves the cases of people who are not entitled to resource the national welfare systems benefits.

According to the definition of Levitt et al. (2016), we can assume that migrants shape a *resource environment*, drawing from different formal and informal assets as well as all the hybrid assets which stay in-between the formal and informal polarities (Serra and Mazzucato, 2016): free market, supranational institutions, States of origin and destination, NGOs, voluntary associations, local authorities, community and family networks. The "bricolage" (Phillimore et al., 2015) of these different resources within a transnational social space could allow them to configure social protection for themselves and the domestic group. The resource environment would protect the individual and their household both in the State/locality of origin and residence.

In the Italian context, this topic is barely explored both at the theoretical and empirical level. The aim of this special issue is putting this topic on the higher positions of Italian research agenda, contributing to the development of the debate on Transnational and Global Social Protection, reflecting on empirical studies carried out in Italy or abroad.

Papers that focus on the following aspects will have the priority:

"Formal social protection" (top-down perspective). The evolution of measures promoted at the State level or by international and national organizations, to extend social protection to migrants and asylum seekers who are excluded from traditional welfare benefits.

"Informal social protection" (bottom-up perspective). Focus on how migrants define their own social protection, combining local and transnational resources: transnational migration networks, local and diasporic communities, domestic and family groups.

"Hybrid social protection". Forms of social protection which stands in-between formal and informal types of protections. Focus on the role of the services offered by different types of organized solidarity (associationism and migrant and non-migrant volunteering in the destination and origin countries).

"Diaspora policies". The role of countries of origin in creating and implementing policies which propose to target the diaspora on economic, political, cultural-religious, welfare and social rights matters.

Role played by transnational social protection for health access and provision. The health social protection will be taken especially into consideration, as well as the reflection on how different systems of health care play a decisive role in the immigrant life cycle.

### **Call for papers deadline**

People interested in contributing have to send the proposal (in Italian, English, French or Spanish) and a brief biographical note by August 30<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

### **How to send paper proposal:**

The papers must be submitted at the Franco Angeli Editor platform:

<http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?idRivista=149>

### **Informations:**

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