BOOK REVIEW

Diversity and Complexity
Author: Camilla Pagani, Ph.D. (Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC), National Research Council (CNR), Roma, Italy)

The book *Diversity and Complexity* consists of 11 chapters. The main aim of the book is to understand socio-cultural diversity as one of the numerous interconnected constituents of a larger system that is formed by the numberless kinds of *diversities* (in terms of age, gender, status, education, species, "inner" diversity, etc.). The book contains four theoretical chapters (chapters 1-4), the research description (chapter 5) and a lot of material for discussion and reflection (chapters 6-11).

In the theoretical part, the author discusses the definition of diversity and its justification and the definition of complexity. It also presents the advantages of integrating the cognitive socio-psychological perspective and complexity theory.

In the chapter entitled "Complexity and its Relationship with Diversity: An Analysis of Data from our Research on Children's and Adolescents' Attitudes to Multiculturalism" the author focuses on children's and adolescents' attitudes towards multiculturalism in the Italian context. The author refers to her studies in this field, which were conducted for almost twenty years.

In the subsequent chapters the author discusses the manifestations of the relationship with diversity within a complexity perspective and in connection with such issues as complex thinking, racism, empathy, and human-animal relations. Two chapters are dedicated to the analysis of this relationship in literature and in cinema and photography respectively.

The author provides a broad definition of diversity. According to Camilla Pagani, this definition is one of the cornerstones of the publication. This is in line with the holographic principle (the part in the whole and the whole in the part), which, according to Morin (2008), is one of the three principles (the other two being the dialogic and the recursive) that help understand complexity.

In the book, the development and the use of a complexity perspective in all human situations is analysed with a special focus on its use of non-linear processes and on the possibility of identifying the *emergent* idea or principle that can possibly provide the solution or one of the possible solutions in effectively addressing and possibly resolving a specific issue such as avoiding stereotypisation and prejudice.

Another important component in the analysis of the relationship with diversity within a complexity perspective is the role of the Subject in the act of observation. This means that, within this perspective, the Subject and the object are and have to be constitutive of each other and that the processes of observation and self-observation should be integrated. This approach, whose significance has been widely accepted as far as the aesthetic experience is concerned, is constitutive of *all* the acts of knowing.

In summary, one of the main conclusions is that some deep, primeval, probably unconscious emotions are imperiously and profoundly operating in the recent wave of racism and opposition to new and old immigrants in many Western countries.

I would like to thank the author for her fascination and passion in describing the processes underlying our way of thinking and our attitudes. I read the book with deep interest and pleasure, feeling curiosity to new conceptualizations and emotions.

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