

In this issue

Paolo Mancini

The second issue of «Etica pubblica. Studi su legalità e partecipazione» includes some of the papers that were presented at the first meeting that the journal organized in December 2019 on public administration and scandals in comparative perspective. Some of the most recognized scholars on these topics attended the meeting.

In this issue the paper by Paul Heywood and Nikolas Kirby offers a critical reading of the definition of «public integrity» that is very used in the studies on corruption and on the evaluation of government performance. The authors stress that often a rhetorical use of this dimension prevails that does not entail useful results.

Gianfranco Pellegrino proposes an interpretation of political corruption based on political philosophy: in particular he focuses his proposal on the «delegation relationship» which is established between political figures and constituencies. In a certain way constituencies may be considered guilty such as those who commit actions that struggle with public interest.

Sigurd Allern and Ester Pollack focus in particular on the mediatization of scandals. They argue, contrary to common wisdom, that Scandinavian countries are not free from political corruption scandals. The assumed minor number of scandals in Scandinavia depend on how the news media cover these cases while today new forms of economic exchange produce a large number of corruption cases.

Nando dalla Chiesa compares the corruption habits in Northern Italy in the era of the so called «Bribery city» with what happens today. The new political landscape that «Bribery city» established since 1994 has caused the diffusion of corruption cases that are not linked just to political parties; they depend on new, fragmented networks of relations and on the exchange of resources that are not just of monetary nature.

This issue of «Etica pubblica. Studi su legalità e partecipazione» proposes a view of scandals and political corruption deriving from different

scientific perspectives and examining various geographical and political contexts. This is in line with the comparative perspective that the journal aims to foster.

«Letti e riletti» section, edited by Francesco Clementi includes two reviews of texts that focus on two themes, sources of law and self determination, that are treated following original perspectives.

«Note e commenti» section proposes a reading of the well known Franchetti report on the Sicilian poverty that was written in 1876. This report maintains today its own «modernity» such as it is argued in the papers by Loreto Di Nucci and Nando dalla Chiesa - Christina Jerne that