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Editorial

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Abstract

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Editorial

A main characteristic of Gramsci's writings is the presence of a constellation of concepts, which have found application over a wide range of situations across an equally wide range of countries and languages. What is not always appreciated is the interrelatedness of these concepts, such that any serious use in practice of one of them immediately calls into play others, together with the fact – often ignored outside specialist Gramscian circles – that all of them were under constant development during the course of the *Prison Notebooks*.

The temporal aspect assumes, then, an important function in Gramsci's writings. We therefore begin this new volume of the "International Gramsci Journal" with the keynote article by Gianni Francioni, the senior Gramscian philologist and editor-in-chief of the new critical edition of the *Notebooks*, that opened the proceedings of the international Ghilarza Summer School (GSS) on Gramsci, held in September 2014. His article, establishing a general framework by outlining how and when the Notebooks were materially penned, together with other contributions made at the GSS, in three of the main languages in which Gramsci's thought has been influential, form the subject matter of the current issue of the IGJ. They are here introduced in Italian and English by Fabio Frosini and Giuseppe Cospito; additionally readers will find two-language abstracts for each individual article, a general policy which will be followed by the IGJ. The articles themselves offer a state-of-the-art analysis of one of the major couplings found in the prison reflections, namely the hegemonic / subaltern nexus, linked – as indicated above – to other categories in Gramsci's overall discourse.

Along with the proceedings of future Ghilarza Summer Schools, envisaged to be held on a two-yearly basis, subsequent issues of the IGJ, in addition to making available rare but important writings of Gramsci's in languages other than Italian, will include topics such as the applications of Gramscian categories in various fields and situations, together with book reviews dealing with current work on him in different national and international contexts.