

International Gramsci Journal

Volume 4
Issue 1 *Latin America and Gramsci / The Young
Gramsci / Reviews*

Article 3

2020

Editorial

Derek Boothman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/gramsci>

Recommended Citation

Boothman, Derek, Editorial, *International Gramsci Journal*, 4(1), 2021, 1-2.

Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/gramsci/vol4/iss1/3>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au

Editorial

Abstract

Editorial

Keywords

Editorial

Editorial

Part I of the current issue of the *International Gramsci Journal* is unified by the fact that the authors of the articles submitted are from Latin America, as are the authors of one of the reviews and one of the books reviewed in Part IIa. The contributions appear in their Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and English forms, each having however an English-language version of the abstract.

The first article, received and here published in Portuguese and Italian, is by the established Gramsci scholar, Alvaro Bianchi. In it he adds considerably more information to the line first opened several decades ago by various linguists but followed up only rather sporadically until recent years. Bianchi analyses the philological aspect of Gramsci's work, showing how pieces fit in together, how his thought was developing –even rapidly – over time and, importantly, how various comments relate to what was happening outside the prison walls and even to him: illustration of the need for what in the critique of Bukharin he called a “living philology” (Q11§25). The article consists of two parts: the first deals with the especially linguistic training that played a vital role in Gramsci's formation, while the second, dealing mainly with the *Prison Notebooks*, shows how this background influences and is reflected in his thinking and overall approach. This dual-language contribution is backed up by an English translation of Ludovico De Lutiis's entry in the *Dizionario gramsciano* on *Philology* as treated in the *Notebooks*.

We follow this with another article from Brazil. That country's government has gained world-wide prominence, and the contribution by three researchers Daiani Martins Machado, Kelen Koupak and Silmara Carneiro e Silva continues the line, already broached in previous issues of the *IGJ*, on the Brazilian right (here in the person of the President) and environmental issues. Here an analysis is given of the role of one newspaper in particular in the construction of hegemony after Bolsonaro's speech at the United Nations.

With Miguel Valdarrama's contribution, in Spanish, we mark the forthcoming 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri. As part of work in progress, Valderrama analyses the sequence of paragraphs (pp. 1-7bis of *Notebook 4*: §§78-88 in the critical edition of the *Notebooks*), dedicated to Gramsci's original – philological – analysis of *Canto X* of Dante's *Inferno*. Readers can also link the para-

graphs on *Canto X* with Gramsci's university period, through Umberto Cosmo (cf. Bianchi's contribution), whose letter to his sister-in-law Tanja, copied by her for Gramsci, he then recopied as Q4§86.

Of the four books in Part II, the first contribution is by the Chilean Sebastián Gómez. His review of *Antonio Gramsci: A Pedagogy to Change the World* recalls how Gramsci's pedagogical notions found an already partly prepared terrain in Anglophone culture; the bibliography testifies to a renewed interest on the part of Italian and Anglophone cultures in Gramsci's notions on education, including the translation of these between various national cultures and thence into practice. The second regards a book by the Mexican scholar and militant Massimo Modonesi, like Alvaro Bianchi an established Gramsci specialist. Nicolò Pennucci discusses his *Antagonistic Principle: Marxism and Political Action*, a volume bringing class sharply back into focus as a relation and a process in its dealing with subaltern groups as agents in the constitution of political subjectivity.

Gómez's review refers to the ongoing *National Edition of Antonio Gramsci's Writings*, one volume of which – the early letters up to his stay in Moscow, thus including the Turin period analysed by Alvaro Bianchi – is reviewed by Noemi Ghetti in Part IIb. Her contribution naturally includes a re-reading and the redefinition of which of the two Schucht sisters he got to know in Russia, Evgenija (Ženija) and Julija (Jul'ka), was the recipient of Gramsci's letters. He had some kind of amorous relationship with both; through Ženija, a patient in the sanatorium to which he was admitted, then situated just outside Moscow, he met Jul'ka, who became his partner for life and mother of his two sons. A welcome addition to the volume are drafts of letters that she, already in love with him, wrote when knowing she was to be his interpreter at factory meetings in the town she worked in.

The first period of the early letters is also covered in Lelio La Porta's review. He pays particular attention to educational issues in Gramsci's writings in the 1910-1916 period, now collected in the recent volume, edited by Giuseppe Guida and Maria Luisa Righi, of the *National Edition*. As he explains, the greater complexity of finding and assembling texts and assigning authorship has led to this volume coming out after the 1917 one, edited by Leonardo Rapone and reviewed by Giovanna Savant in Vol. 2(4), 2018, of this journal.

We apologize to readers for at times incomplete bibliographical details due to limited library access in the continuing Covid epidemic.