

Al lettore

La crisi finanziaria che attanaglia da diversi anni le economie dei paesi sviluppati non accenna a esaurirsi, anche se su scala globale alcuni segnali di ripresa cominciano ad affiorare. A dar retta alle fonti più apprezzate (World Economic Outlook, Global Finance Report, Fiscal Monitor) il ritmo della crescita mondiale tornerà ad attestarsi intorno al 4%. Sono però le economie dei paesi BRICS (Brasile, Russia, India, Cina, Sud Africa) a trascinare la ripresa. Infatti, circa la metà della crescita globale è merito loro. Il mondo, in sostanza, è attualmente diviso in due: da una parte le economie avanzate in difficoltà e a rischio di recessione e dall'altra quella dei paesi emergenti che marciano a un ritmo di crescita intorno al 6%. È ovvio che più si trascina la crisi nei primi, più rimane frenato lo sviluppo dei secondi. Ma resta il fatto che le economie emergenti detengono oggi il triplo delle riserve internazionali rispetto alle economie avanzate e le previsioni danno, per il periodo 2013-2014, una crescita rispettiva del 4,7% e del 2% l'anno. Segni, questi, che ci mostrano quanto gli attuali equilibri politici siano sottoposti a pressioni destabilizzanti e indicano che, all'uscita della crisi, il mondo non sarà più quello oggi conosciuto.

Un'uscita che, comunque, non sembra essere vicina: i tempi dipenderanno dalle azioni di uomini e istituzioni, oltre che dalla capacità di mettere in pratica velocemente le lezioni apprese da quanto sta accadendo. Infatti, la consapevolezza della natura della crisi ne accelera l'uscita e permette quel salto del pensiero che apre a un nuovo paradigma di crescita e sviluppo.

Negli ultimi trent'anni abbiamo assistito al dispiegarsi della globalizzazione dei mercati e allo sviluppo progressivo, su scala mondiale, di un settore finanziario sempre più deregolamentato e pervasivo. Quest'ultimo processo, nella sua forma contemporanea, ha configurato un nuovo sistema di interrelazioni che sopravanza il quadro concettuale a noi noto e pertanto deve essere studiato, compreso – e regolato – non solo per gli effetti che ha sull'economia reale, ma anche per come altera la natura della produzione di valore.

Certamente, depotenziare la leva finanziaria attraverso l'introduzione di regole severe non è e non sarà impresa semplice. Basta osservare le difficoltà in cui si dibatte l'attuazione della riforma dei mercati finanziari americani, impostata dal Dodd Franck Act del 2010 e l'opposizione cui è andata finora incontro la proposta di separare il *commercial banking* da altre attività più a carattere speculativo.

Ma limitarsi a regolare le pratiche estreme del mondo della finanza forse non basta. Pertanto, nel preparare questo numero abbiamo cercato di fornire al lettore alcune riflessioni su come reinterpretare la crescita oggi nelle società avanzate e su quali potrebbero essere le nuove modalità per riavviarla. Siamo infatti convinti che i momenti di forte crisi siano quelli più propizi per mettere in discussione la logica e i meccanismi che li hanno creati e per azzardare una riflessione *out of the box*, come si dice con un efficace termine anglosassone, ovvero pensare in modo non convenzionale.

Se da una parte i tempi, l'intensità e i luoghi della crescita sono oggi diversi dal passato, tanto da caratterizzarsi come una «crescita a frattali», diseguale, dall'altra essa va sempre più analizzata sul fronte della qualità (e non solo della quantità) perché i suoi contenuti comportano delle precise conseguenze umane e sociali. L'idea di «crescita illimitata», per esempio, appare una contraddizione perché gli «appetiti» economici «possono essere soddisfatti solo se sono limitati», ci ha insegnato Émile Durkheim, il fondatore delle scienze sociali, in quanto «è il fine a cui tende che definisce un bisogno. Se quest'ultimo è illimitato, non c'è un fine perché non c'è fine».

I contributi che leggerete, pur nella loro diversità, si muovono dentro quella tradizione che vede l'ottimo sociale nella pluralità delle forme di scambio e d'integrazione sociale. In sostanza, si tratta di far convivere, accanto alle forme dominanti e conosciute, altre secondarie e finora inespresso o marginali. Emerge alla fine la proposta di una combinazione di relazioni economiche e sociali in cui, a fianco del libero scambio mercantile e di quello redistributivo gestito dallo Stato, c'è posto per forme di scambio

diverse: da quella assicurata dall'impresa cooperativa a quella basata sulla reciprocità (cioè sul dono e sulla solidarietà autorganizzata).

La pluralità è una ricchezza irrinunciabile di cui il mondo occidentale ha bisogno, soprattutto nel momento in cui progetta un rilancio basato su una crescita qualificata: in tal senso va letto il titolo del presente numero: «Crescere diversamente».

Utopie? Può essere, ma abbiamo premesso di voler pensare, una volta tanto, *out of the box*: per elaborare progetti concreti bisogna essere un po' utopici.

Il lettore troverà nella nuova rivista Re3 online della FEEM gli approfondimenti di alcuni temi trattati in questo numero: <http://re3.feem.it/>

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Abstracts

FOCUS: Growing Differently

The Fractal Pattern of Modern Growth, Giulio Sapelli

For a number of decades economics and economic history have represented modern growth worldwide as a converging process. Today this is no longer true. A new stage has started – a diverging process. The change is evident when looking at Europe. It diverges clearly from the Asian economies and from some South American countries, e.g. Brazil. The very representation of the growth model has changed: a fractal pattern of growth as opposed to a linear one.

Keywords: Growth, Converging Process

Capitalism, Capital, Growth, Geminello Alvi

Capitalism comes before capital and growth. The term capitalism was used for the first time in 1854 by Thackeray in his novel, *The Newcomes*. In Alvi's view, mercantilism explains growth better than liberalism. He invites readers to observe the Chinese outcome. The current debate on growth, either invoked or deplored, is misleading. The growth issue can be challenged only by limiting the role of the State, by reforming the financial institutions and cooperating in the production stage, within a libertarian and supportive design.

Keywords: Capitalism, Capital, Growth

Growth Based on Shared Value, Mauro Magatti

A new approach is needed to leave the crisis behind, a «spirit» to help us rethink economic growth and stimulate the best energies present in society. This «new spirit of capitalism» can be described as a «shared value». Ac-

cording to this concept, the market is not defined only by economic needs, but also by social ones.

Keywords: Growth, Shared Value

Money is not an Appropriate Tool for Economic Growth and the Development of Society, Pierangelo Dacrema

Evidence shows that money is an unsuitable tool to foster growth under the present conditions. An uninhibited, Keynesian use of money – e.g. the massive use of monetary emissions – causes inflation. The time has come to analyse the limits and structural defects of this tool.

Keywords: Money, Growth, Development

Are Capitalist Firms the Only Ones Contributing to Growth?, Giuseppe De Lucia Lumeno

The worldwide financial and economic crisis has highlighted the limits of the present economic culture focused on the concept of infinite growth, based on the principle that the best growth model is the maximization of profits. It has shown the importance of cooperatives that focus their activities on preserving jobs and social cohesion and on the short-term economic result. This perspective preserves the strength of the economy for future growth.

Keywords: Capitalist Firms, Growth

The Art of Acting Together, Cecilia Mezzano, with an interview to Richard Sennett

What if the current global crisis carries germs of renewal? Natural antibodies that can help Western societies to (re)find the human capabilities

apt to generate more sustainable relationships and results? This is one of the interpretations of reality suggested by Richard Sennett in his latest volume, where he provides an optimistic perspective for an alternative, more equitable path of economic and human growth: acting together.

Keywords: Growth, Acting Together

Mind the gap, Nicola Zanardi

Mind the gap is the mantra that London tube riders of all levels of society get to hear every morning. A gap is a hollow, an emptiness, a distance, a divergence, a chasm. A semantic scale that demands our attention. The debate on employment and growth is at a stalemate. A new software is required, in the absence of which minds are useless and gaps become chasms.

Keywords: Growth, Gap

Grace and Gratuity, Damien De Callataÿ

The article is an extract from the book *Puissance de la gratuité*, by Damien de Callataÿ, an extensive semantic analysis of the word gratuity and of the terms that are often associated with it, such as grace. As some linguists have remarked, grace is a possible synonym of gift. Thinking of this word leads to wondering about grace and about the relationship between grace and gratuity.

Keywords: Grace, Gratuity

NATURE AS A LIMIT

Local-Global Involvement in the Environment, Laurent Thévenot. Interview by Laura Gherardi

On a local-global scale, the environment fills all the steps. It is both global and local for the people who are familiar with a certain place. This tension runs across all the environmental conflicts where the personal-close experience has to be translated into the public-impersonal regime. The solution of environmental conflicts must be found at the intersection among the different ways of adding value to the environment, says Laurent Thévenot, Directeur d'Etudes at the EHESS, Paris.

Keywords: Environment, Local and Global Conflicts

FINANCE FOR THE CLIMATE

Project Bonds: A Promise for Climate Finance?, Alessandra Goria

Among the innovative financial instruments conceived to expand capital markets and mobilize private flows to finance sustainable growth investments, the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative seems a promising option. The Initiative aims to revive capital markets to finance large European infrastructure projects in the fields of transport, energy and information technology, through a risk-sharing and public-private financial mechanism, likely to capture the attention of climate finance in the near future.

Keywords: Project Bonds, Climate Finance

GEOPOLITICS FOR ENERGY

Rio + 20: Strong Expectations, Modest Results, *Jacopo Crimi*

There were strong expectations concerning the Rio+20 Earth Summit, but given the economic downturn concrete results were modest. Nevertheless, Rio proved to be an excellent occasion to network realities which are already implementing sustainable development at the local or regional level. Furthermore, the setting of a post-2015 process for the development of Sustainable Development Indicators appears promising as it paves the way for the inclusion of other dimensions in the welfare of nations, beyond GDP.

Keywords: Sustainability, Sustainable Development, Rio + 20, Indicators, United Nations, Policy, Negotiations

Turkey in the New Mediterranean: Geo-economic and Geo-energy Profiles, *Simone Tagliapietra*

This article, presenting a wide range of issues related to the role of Turkey in the new Mediterranean, aims to provide a comprehensive framework of understanding of the growing strategic relevance of Turkey for both the European Union and the overall Euro-Mediterranean region. In particular, the article focuses on the EU-Turkey energy relations and outlines the crucial role of natural gas in enhancing energy cooperation between the two players.

Keywords: New Mediterranean, Turkey, Natural Gas

Is the Land-Grabbing Era Drawing to an End?, *Giulio Sapelli*

Over the last decade multinational corporations have made large-scale acquisitions of forests and agricultural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, South

America, Australia and Oceania, often to the detriment of indigenous inhabitants. On May 11 2012, for the first time in history, 124 states have signed a document which encourages fair behaviour of the economic players, thanks to observance of common law, asking them to consult, inform and negotiate with the local communities.

Keywords: Land-Grabbing, Multinational Corporations

Turning Point for Timor Leste, Roberta Giacconi

This is a crucial year for Timor-Leste. In 2012, ten years after winning formal independence, the country faces two elections, the departure of the last UN mission, and acute development challenges. Two out of five citizens still live below the poverty line, but there is high potential for improvement. Timor-Leste is indeed a resource-rich country, courted by powerful neighbours such as China and Australia. However, will it be able to avoid the so-called «resource curse» and to use those revenues to fund development projects?

Keywords: Timor Leste, Development

Sustainable Arabia, Daniele Atzori

In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which took place in Rio de Janeiro last June, the societies of the Middle East and North Africa have been questioning themselves on the socio-economic and environmental challenges lying ahead. For decades, sustainable development has not been a priority for the policy makers of the region. Today, however, there are some encouraging signs of a shift towards different, and more far-sighted, models of growth.

Keywords: Middle East, Sustainable Development

Digital Vertigo, Hypervisibility in the web 3.0 Era, *Giuliano Di Caro*

The social is the new operating system ruling today's interactions. It is changing everything in our digital life and in global economy, even Google's algorithm. The web 3.0, the so-called «Internet of people», is coming. A reassuring definition, that is actually much more complex and ambivalent than it appears. The result of this massive digital narcissism has dark sides too. We are already living in an online world where privacy gets crushed by our own need for over displaying, and the total amount of our «likes» is monitored and creates a social graph, the Sacred Graal of marketing and advertisement. Is there a line we should not have crossed and are we on the other side? We have spoken about these issues with Andrew Keen, author of *Digital Vertigo: how Today's Online Social Revolution is Dividing, Diminishing and Disorienting Us.*

Keywords: Web 3.0, Social Revolution

Narcopolitics. Mexico, Drugs and the Presidential Elections, *Veronica Ronchi*

The fight against drug dealing has acquired increasing relevance in the last six years of Mexico's government. Felipe Calderón will be remembered as a president whose intentions to fight the criminal system have triggered a growing spiral of violence that has made Mexico a dangerous country. Whole areas are under criminal control, city halls paralyzed, the police are corrupt. Drug dealing is worth 30 billion dollars and ranks second in the GDP after oil export revenues. There is collusion with the political system and drug dealing is at the center of the electoral campaign. While the death toll rises the question is how to reorganize a society starting from the fight against poverty and the inequalities that push many young Mexicans into the criminal world.

Keywords: Mexico, Narcopolitics

VISIONS

The Myth of Growth in Films, Ughetta Molin Fop and Chiara Zanandrea

Documentaries and short films are powerful means to convey the «myth of growth». Different aspects, such as the timeliness of this issue and its evolution, the concept of progress and its positive and negative implications, are illustrated through interviews, stories, faces and images that intersect each other offering different and interesting perspectives.

Keywords: Growth, Cinema

THE WORLD ON PAPER

The Earth Trembles, Franco Farinelli

Earthquakes shake the fundamental postulate of the construction of modernity: the equivalence between the Map and the Earth, without which we could never have reasoned in terms of space, and consequently concretely organized the functioning of the world. Earthquakes reopen the debate on the existing terrestrial shapes, producing fractures that replace continuity with discontinuity.

Keywords: Earthquakes, Maps

INTERNATIONAL LETTERS

Newark is not just Cory Booker, Sandro Malavasi

The city of New Jersey is 13 kilometers from Manhattan. For a number of years it has been identified with its young and energetic mayor, who has ar-

rived at his second mandate after six years. His name had been associated for a long time with one of the country's highest criminal and poverty rates, but also with a long series of mayors accused of corruption.

Keywords: Newark, Development

North Korea: New Leader, New Politics?, Irina Lankov

Changing of the guard in Pyongyang. Kim Jong-un steps in after his father Kim Jong-il. It is another dictatorship: no change in political regime. But is the situation progressing toward normality? Will Kim Jong-un be so «daring» and start the reforms that his father did not implement?

Keywords: North Korea, Leadership

