



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Capitale Sociale e Sistemi Socioeconomici Locali (blended)

2223-1-F6302N002

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#### Learning objectives

The course aims at providing students with theoretical and methodological tools to understand, analyse and work in an economic systems: company and/or territory. Students will learn theoretical concepts to be applied to practical case studies.

The course is structured into three parts. The first part is aimed at analysing the concept of social capital and its relationship with social networks. Attention will be paid to the operationalisation of social networks and social capital. Basic measures of Social Network Analysis (SNA) will be introduced, and students will have the chance to discuss how to apply them to companies (ONA); students will be asked to use a software for social network analysis during lab activities.

In the second part of the course, students will learn the territorial approach to Social Capital through the analysis of empirical researches. Students will discuss the use of social capital in empirical studies on local economic systems and its relationship with organisational networks. Particular attention will be paid to the current changes experienced by contemporary economic systems, for instance in relation to the advance of sharing economy.

The third part is complementary to the prior ones and is aimed at providing students with the necessary skills to realise a case study research (which will contribute to the final evaluation).

Both the theoretical and the empirical parts consist of individual and team online assignments: lessons are dedicated to the introduction of the course, the explanation of theoretical aspects and methodological issues, and the presentation of the work to be done online.

The discussion of theoretical issues is further developed through the individual reading of scientific articles and chapters and the elaboration of Power Point slides. The explanation of methodology is preliminary to the empirical work students must carry out both in the field and online, through the development of essays, Power Point presentations, and Word papers.

The final presentation of case studies will be held in class if possibile.

## **Contents**

The module aims at analysing the different forms of social capital identified in literature and their application to empirical studies. Particular emphasis will be put on the analysis of organisational networks within socio-economic local systems and within companies. We will be discussing the following concepts: network, trust, reciprocity, reputation. Furthermore, we will see how these concepts can be useful to understand the functioning of companies and local socio-economic systems.

## **Detailed program**

The course is ideally structured into three parts.

In the first part the concepts of social capital and social networks will be analysed referring to the theoretical debate. Particular attention will be paid to the measurement of social networks and their structure. The basic measures of network analysis (SNA) will be introduced.

We will then highlight the importance of informal networks within the firm and the relationship between formal and informal structure in the firm. The students will face the Organizational Network Analysis (ONA) and will have the opportunity to learn using a software for this analysis in the laboratory. They will also carry out a small case study in which they will apply the ONA.

In the second part of the course we will pay more attention to the construction of a case study, using the concepts learned in the first part. Research design will be built and the various phases of the project design will be faced.

In the third part, the students, supported by the Professor, will carry out a case study carried out in a group, and will have the opportunity to acquire transversal skills.

Both the theoretical and empirical research part foresee synchronous and asynchronous work: in particular, the lectures are dedicated to the introduction of the course and its organization, the explanation of some theoretical elements, the methodology of the case study and the presentation of the work to be carried out online.

## **Prerequisites**

Fairly good skills in learning, writing and speaking, together with a general knowledge about the economic processes.

## **Teaching methods**

The course is based on different of teaching methods (also dependet on the Covid situation), namely classes, practices, team work. Lessons will be supported also by video projections on the topics of the course.

## Assessment methods

There are two assessment methods.

In the first case, the final evaluation of the course is given by the interim evaluations through QUIZ (specific deadlines will be clearly indicated on the course webpage), plus five interim evaluations related to the research project (ONA, object of the research, research design and questionnaire, slide and delivery of the paper). Each mid-term evaluation will be assigned one vote in thirtieth. The average rating will weigh on the final grade according to a percentage specified in the "Rating Criteria" section.

In the second case, for those who will not submit the deliveries, the exam will consist in an activity of company organization analysis through the Social Network Analysis technique to be delivered through the e-learning page of the course one day before the appeal in which you intend to carry out the quiz. The QUIZ on the entire program is composed by 60 closed questions and an open one. For more details on the realization of the company organization analysis, it is necessary to watch the videos created ad hoc and uploaded on the course page.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

Testi per il percorso 1

*Riferimenti teorici:*

*Concetti base della SNA:*

Commissione Scientifica per la misurazione del benessere (2015) - Relazione ISTAT – Capitale sociale e reti sociali – una misurazione: [https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto\\_relazioni\\_sociali.pdf](https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto_relazioni_sociali.pdf)

Ramella, F. (2014) Sociologia economica dell'innovazione, cap. 4, Bologna, Il Mulino.

Podda, A. (2017) La Social Network Analysis, in Barbera F;Pais I, Fondamenti di Sociologia Economica., MILANO:EGEA. Scaricabile dal sito

*Organizational Network Analysis*

Burt R. (2005) "Brokerage and Closure, ch. 1, Cambridge, MA and London, Harvard University Press, pp. 8-27.

De Toni A.F., Nonino, F. (2009) La misura del capitale sociale organizzativo attraverso le reti informali, in Sviluppo&organizzazione, 3, 37-54

Caimo, A. Lomi A. (2014) Knowledge Sharing in Organizations: A Bayesian Analysis of the Role of Reciprocity and Formal Structure, in Journal of Management Vol. 41 No. 2, February 2015 665– 691. Parti evidenziate in giallo.

*Teoria - Capitale sociale*

Coleman, J. (1995) "Fondamenti di teoria sociale", (capp. XII), Bologna, il Mulino; op: Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital, The American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 94, Supplement: Organizations and Institutions: Sociological and Economic Approaches to the Analysis of Social Structure. (1988), pp. S95-S120

*Capitale sociale e sistemi socio-economici*

Commissione Scientifica per la misurazione del benessere (2015) - Relazione ISTAT – Politica e istituzioni – una misurazione: [https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto\\_politica\\_istituzioni.pdf](https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto_politica_istituzioni.pdf)

Triglia, C. (2005) Sviluppo locale. Un progetto per l'Italia, Bari, Laterza, Cap 2

## Testi per il percorso 2

### *Riferimenti teorici:*

Andreotti, A. (2009) Che cos'è il capitale sociale, Roma, Carocci.

Coleman, J. (1995) "Fondamenti di teoria sociale", (capp. XII), Bologna, il Mulino; op: Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital, The American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 94, Supplement: Organizations and Institutions: Sociological and Economic Approaches to the Analysis of Social Structure. (1988), pp. S95-S120

Putnam, R. (1993) Capitale sociale e successo delle istituzioni, cap VI in La tradizione civica delle regioni italiane, Mondadori, pp. 191-219.

### *Metodo:*

Podda, A. (2017) La Social Network Analysis, in Barbera F;Pais I, Fondamenti di Sociologia Economica., MILANO:EGEA. Scaricabile dal sito

Commissione Scientifica per la misurazione del benessere (2015) - Relazione ISTAT – Capitale sociale e reti sociali – una misurazione: [https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto\\_relazioni\\_sociali.pdf](https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto_relazioni_sociali.pdf)

Commissione Scientifica per la misurazione del benessere (2015) - Relazione ISTAT – Politica e istituzioni – una misurazione: [https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto\\_politica\\_istituzioni.pdf](https://www4.istat.it/it/files/2015/11/Rapporto_politica_istituzioni.pdf)

### *Organizational Network Analysis*

Burt R. (2005) "Brokerage and Closure, ch. 1, Cambridge, MA and London, Harvard University Press, pp. 8-38.

De Toni A.F., Nonino, F. (2009) La misura del capitale sociale organizzativo attraverso le reti informali, in Sviluppo&organizzazione, 3, 37-54

Caimo, A. Lomi A. (2014) Knowledge Sharing in Organizations: A Bayesian Analysis of the Role of Reciprocity and Formal Structure, in Journal of Management Vol. 41 No. 2, February 2015 665– 691. Parti evidenziate in giallo.

### *Capitale sociale e sistemi socio-economici*

Triglia, C. (2005) Sviluppo locale. Un progetto per l'Italia, Bari, Laterza, Introduction and Cap 2

Ramella, F. (2014) Sociologia economica dell'innovazione, cap. 7, Bologna, Il Mulino.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

GENDER EQUALITY | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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