# Editorial Board

In early February 2017, a group of scholars researching the Imaginary met in Naples and, in a few months, proposed to the Italian Association of Sociology to create a new working section. The purpose was to compose the researchers' different views on the topic of the Imaginary in a dynamic unity, which everyone could acknowledge, after a long period during which the interest in this topic had contributed to neither to prestige nor to career advancement. AIS welcomed and approved of this proposal, and, as a result, the Section on the Imaginary is already operational with a first programmatic meeting planned in Verona, on 1-2 March 2018.

From many paths a common way was born, enlivened by an ambitious and, at the same time, modest purpose: working on proposals aiming at a new paradigm on the imaginary, knowing that this is a huge task. A richer and more varied set of tools is needed to tackle the thorny issues that have been under discussion for a long time, allowing first to create a widespread shared culture, beyond the enclosure of the Academia. It is necessary to recompose the over specialised fragmentation of the different disciplines, which implies a difficulty in recognising oneself as part of a scientific community, and build a dialogue to empower everyone's work.

Secondly, it is crucial to fix the growing separation between reality and its representation, blocked in a derangement that has been losing sight of the quality and flavour of life. Finally, smoothing the rationalistic partiality of the dominant world vision, which rejects the complexity of reality in order to attempt its adaptation to a one-dimensional and brutally simplified perspective. These obstacles have been known for some time already, but they suddenly appear more surmountable today.

During the meeting held Naples, a new course seemed to be sensed beyond the inert weary paradigm, and its conservation claims: no calculation or tactical convenience, but curiosity and sense of adventure, which should connote knowledge at its best, and the desire to cooperate that creates a community. In addition to the heuristic potentials rejected so far, the perspective of investigating the imaginary offers the chance to do (again) what was made almost impossible by academic individualism: enjoy the pleasure of research, mend the fabric of frayed human relationships, experiment alchemy among disciplines that would be strictly separated today, which, using a little wisdom, could interact with each other until an unexpected discovery.

Many good ideas, indeed, but how do we put them into practice? How can we underline the essential diversity we want to pursue, beyond the words that have now become worn-out and abused tools? What you have in your hands, or on your screens, is our first answer: a common editorial initiative of three journals that should be competitors or, at least, not interested in collaborating; a common call for papers, underlining the same common interest to be interpreted according to one's own perspective, through a work of shared reflection and drafting, and a critical review of the modalities of research and publication; this very editorial article - which you are reading - and a shared cover featuring the logos of the three journals. Concrete and symbolic references to a renewed redeemed spirit of *universitas*, capable of looking at the future with a focus on the understanding and desire for improvement, one of the most fascinating traits of a declining modernity. For this reason, we have chosen to follow the Simmelian suggestion of the "Hidden King", a concealed principle that influences and reveals itself in the *zeitgeist*, and could mark new routes. In our opinion, the result seems to be flattering, stimulating, inspiring, proving what can be done by a motivated community bound also by non instrumental ties, crossing the institutional boundaries towards broader collaboration. *Im@go* and *H-ermes* are published by members of this new Section, *Mediascapes* is a travel companion sharing the desire for a new way of building knowledge together.

We trust that this first step will be followed by many others and our readers will accompany us with pleasure and mutual satisfaction.

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