

Gabriele Ballarino (b. 1966) is since 2012 full professor of Economic Sociology in the University of Milano, school of Social, Political and Economic sciences, where he teaches Economic Sociology and Sociology of Education. He is deputy director of the Department of Social and Political Science, and belongs to the faculty of the PhD programs in Labour Studies and in Sociology.

He received a degree in Philosophy from the University of Milano, and a Phd in Sociology and social research from the University of Trento, with G. Esping-Andersen as coordinator of graduate studies. During the PhD course he studied Statistics and Social Science Methodology in the ECSR Summer School in the University of Essex, UK. Then he has been post-doctoral fellow in the University of Trento (1998-2000), assistant professor in the University of Milan (2001-2006) and associate professor in the same university (2006-2011).

The topic of his PhD dissertation, supervised by M. Regini, were the sociological aspects of firms' human resources management, with particular reference to training and education. After the PhD, he has done research on labour markets and industrial relations, with particular reference to atypical employment and to the processes of tertiarization of the occupational structure. From here, his interests moved to the relations among educational systems, labour market and social stratification, at both the micro and macro level. He has been doing research on these topics both at the Italian and the European level, has presented his work in many international conferences and published with the major Italian and European journals. At this moment, he is working on four main topics, both on the Italian case and in comparative perspective: a) inequality of educational opportunities and its pattern over time; b) the institutional structure of the transition from school to work, with regard to both technical-vocational education and tertiary education; c) the patterns over time of the occupational returns to education; d) institutional change of european educational systems, and the role of economic actors therein.

He is director of the CHESS interdepartmental centre of research of the University of Milan. From 2006 to 2009 he has been secretary of the Italian Association of Sociology, section Economy, Labour and Organizations (AIS-ELO), and he is since 2001 a member of SASE (Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics) and since 2005 of the International Sociological Association, Research Comitee 28 (Stratification and social mobility). In 2009 he was visiting researcher at the Juan March Institute, Madrid. He was associate expert in the Equalsoc project (VI FP UE) and researcher in the GINI project (VII FP UE).

Among his recent publications in English are:

- "Persistent inequalities? Expansion of education and class inequality in Italy and Spain" (w. F. Bernardi, M. Requena e H. Schadee), *European Sociological Review*, 2009, 1, pp. 123-138.
- "Field of Study and University Graduates' Early Employment Outcomes in Italy during 1995–2004", (w. M. Bratti), *Labour*, 2009, 23 (3), pp. 421-457.
- "Allocation and distribution. A discussion of the educational transition model, with reference to the Italian case" (w. H. Schadee), *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 28, 2010, pp. 45–58.
- "Occupational outcomes of PhD graduates in Northern Italy" (w. S. Colombo), *Italian Journal of Sociology of Education*, 2, 2010, pp. 149-171.
- "The Bologna Process in Italy" (w. L. Perotti), *European Journal of Education*, 47, 3, 2012, pp. 348-363.
- "Participation, equality of opportunity and returns to tertiary education in contemporary Europe" (with F. Bernardi), *European Societies*, 16, 4, 2014.
- "More investment – but less returns? Changing returns to education in Italy across three decades" (w. S. Scherer), *Stato e mercato*, 99, 2013, pp. 359-388.
- "The Occupational Integration of Male Migrants in Western European Countries: Assimilation or Persistent Disadvantage?" (w. N. Panichella), accepted by *International Migration*, 2/2013

- “School expansion and uneven modernization. Comparing educational inequality in Northern and Southern Italy” (w. M. Triventi and N. Panichella), accepted by *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 1/2014.