

Gennaro Iorio

Sociology of Love

The Agapic Dimension of Societal Life

SERIES IN SOCIOLOGY

Summary

This short book deals with a sociological concept: love-agape. It is an attempt to demonstrate that love-agape resists, indeed insists, as a fact that cannot be reduced or concealed. Its simple goal is to introduce agape into the vocabulary of sociological analysis by demonstrating its potential to demarcate and to interpret social phenomena. Love-agape is presented as a critical concept. On the one hand, love-agape denounces the risks linked to the needs of closed groups, often absolutist and fundamentalist. On the other hand, it represents a concrete reality, lying at the root of a particular type of sociality. A sociality that, rather unconventionally, recognizes differences and distances, but also characterizes their condition of being together, as community founded on the recognition and respect of subjectivity.

About the author

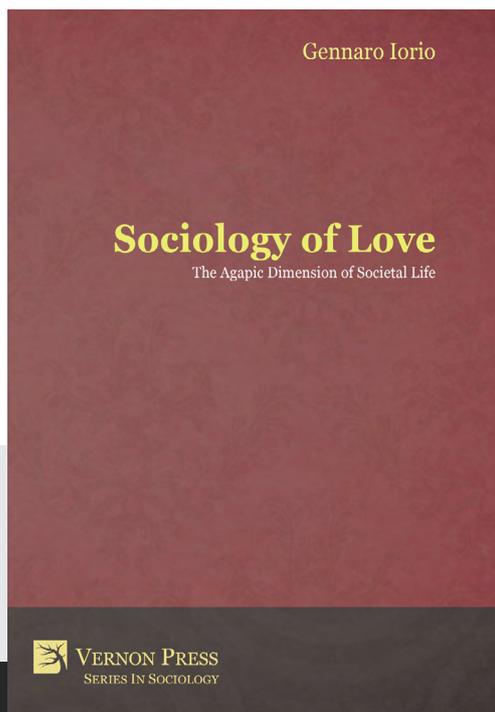
Gennaro Iorio, PhD., is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Salerno. He has published a number of works on classical sociology, sociology of poverty and sociology of new technology. He teaches sociology in postgraduate, masters and doctoral courses.

“For far too long, love has been considered a private concept, closed in the sphere of intimacy, friendship or religiosity. Yet love has also a social and public value. This is what Gennaro Iorio states in his new book Sociology of Love thus introducing love not only as a new critical concept for the social sciences, but also as a new principle for social and political emancipation of humanity. The aim of the sociologist, professor at the University of Salerno, is ambitious and innovative: bucking the pessimistic trend of contemporary sociology, he discovers that the reality we live in is impregnated with love. The challenge is to recognize it and to call things by their proper name; gratuity, overabounding and creativity are aspects that we experience in everyday life, but they are also expressions of small-great heroisms, which offer an alternative to instrumentalism, uncertainty and consumerism, typical of contemporary social life. The book by Iorio deserves to be read, because it flies in the face of the weak thought emerging in social sciences, and proposes a new direction for the contemporary debate: on the shoulders of giants such as Sorokin, Simmel, Giddens, Boltanski and Honneth, it is time to go back and rediscover the ordinariness of the relationships which makes love something extraordinary for the whole society.”

Silvia Cataldi

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