



PREFACE

We are delighted to introduce the 2024 edition of Annali MEMOTEF, the multidisciplinary journal published by the Department of Methods and Models for Economics, Territory and Finance at Sapienza University of Rome.

Annali MEMOTEF is a peer-reviewed journal that compiles original studies across the department's disciplines, which include demography, economic geography, languages, mathematics, statistics, and economic history, as well as the broader field of applied and behavioural sciences. The 2024 edition continues to look to an international audience, fostering scientific, cultural, and multidisciplinary debate.

This year, Annali MEMOTEF has introduced a new section entitled Critical Reviews. This aims to showcase and disseminate works, mainly – but not exclusively – by young scholars and/or PhD students in the journal's research areas, offering a platform to discuss and present cutting-edge research, and includes comprehensive literature reviews, innovative approaches, methodologies, and data sources.

Annali MEMOTEF is now organized into the following sections: Research Papers, featuring innovative theoretical and empirical manuscripts; Notes and Discussions, serving as a forum for current research thought; Critical Reviews, providing detailed commentaries and evaluations of current research; and Book Reviews, highlighting new and significant volumes.

For each section in this printed volume, the order of the contributions follows the chronological order of publication on the journal's website. This volume's first research paper, *Dynamic optimal asset allocation in a multivariate setting*, by Sara Iannilli, investigates a multivariate portfolio choice problem when the market exhibits discontinuities to describe market shocks. The goal is to maximize returns while controlling the risk associated with the specific investment type, and the theoretical results are tested against real data.

The second research paper, *CDO su misura: la nuova era delle cartolarizzazioni*, by Maria Giuseppina Bruno, Maria Rita Scarpitti, and Luca Semerari, offers an overview of Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs) and Bespoke Tranche Opportunities (BTOs), discussing the role played by these financial products in the 2008 global financial crisis.

Our third research paper, *Location models of electric charging stations in the city of Rome* by Marisa Cenci, Massimiliano Corradini, and Francesca Luciani, uses quantitative methods to address the problem of locating electric vehicle charging stations in Rome. The methodology employed refers to operations research and exploits a p-median model for waiting time distribution and queuing theory, to measure the impact of the placement of new charging points.

The fourth paper to be published is “*Mobilità richiama mobilità*”? *Uno studio empirico sulle intenzioni di espatrio degli studenti dell’Università di Udine* by Gian Pietro Zaccomer and Laura Pagani. This manuscript analyses the emigration intentions of Italian students attending the university who were about to complete a bachelor’s degree, investigating factors contributing to their decisions to seek opportunities abroad, with a specific focus on the University of Udine, in Italy.

This is followed by our fifth research paper, *Educationally heterogamous unions and country level inequalities in Europe before and after 1990* by Alessandra Trimarchi, which analyses the association between the educational gradient in heterogamous union formation and country level indicators of socioeconomic inequalities before and after 1990 in fifteen European countries.

After this we present our sixth paper, *Settlement in the reclaimed Pontine Marshes during fascism in Italy: evidence from an unexplored archive* by Alessandra De Rose, Filomena Racioppi, and Elisabetta Barbi, which uses a previously unexploited dataset about allocated portions of land reclaimed from the marshes, to analyse the colonists who settled in southern Lazio during the Integral Land Reclamation carried out by the fascist regime in the 1930s.

The penultimate paper, *Tra dominio e affetto. Cani di razza e umani nelle aree cani* by Marco Nocente, contributes to current research on animal geographies by exploring the intricate relationship of dominance and affection between humans and purebred dogs.

Our final contribution, *Translating employment contracts: insights from corpus linguistics* by Vanessa Leonardi and Patrizia Giampieri, explains how corpus-based studies can be applied to the field of specialized legal translation. In particular, the article proposes an ad-hoc monolingual corpus of employment contracts, and the authors carry out a case-study regarding the translation of employment contracts from Italian into English.

This year we have not published any Notes and Discussions, meanwhile for the new Critical Reviews section, the first contribution *Bridging theoretical advancements and empirical practices in environmental justice research: towards a mixed-methods approach* by Giorgia Scognamiglio, explores the evolution of environmental justice research, highlighting the transition from a primary focus on the distribution of environmental “goods” and “bads” to a multidimensional approach that includes recognition, participation, and socio-historical analysis.

The second critical review, *The ecosystem services analytical framework in Italy. A human geography prospect* by Valentina Capocefalo and Flaminia Leuti, examines the ecosystem services (ES) analytical framework from a human geography perspective, with an in-depth discussion about the development of the ES paradigm within international and Italian scientific discourse.

The third and final contribution, *Mobility and innovation: a critical review*, by Francesco Castellano, critically examines key findings in the area of inventors’ mobility, and its rela-

tionship with regional innovative activity.

The last section of this volume contains Book Reviews of two important texts that have enjoyed great publishing success. The first review by Annalisa Spalazzi is of the manuscript *Geografia delle aree interne*, authored by Francesca Sabatini, while the second, by Roberta Gemmiti, is a critical view of the text *Conoscere i Castelli Romani. Risorse, attori e prospettive* by Giorgia Bressan.

We thank the authors of the contributions and all who responded to our call for papers. We also thank our referees for their commitment to reviewing the submitted papers. It is our hope that this issue will further stimulate interdisciplinary debate and will be an ongoing, valuable resource for the scientific community.

Finally, it is with immense sorrow that we must pay tribute to the late Dr Tommaso Fasciani, a promising researcher at MEMOTEF, much appreciated by his colleagues, who we sadly lost during the year. We wish to dedicate this volume to him. May this work be a tribute to his memory.

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Immacolata Oliva
Venere Stefania Sanna