PREFACE

It is with pleasure that I present the 2020 issue of the *Annals of the Department of MEMOTEF,* despite the difficult times it has been for everybody.

As announced in the 2019 volume, the Annals migration process on the Sapienza University's Open-Access Journal system (OJS) is still ongoing. The achievement of the digital turn is the most relevant development of the Journal, along with its international orientation, with increasing collaboration from international scholars in the peer review system and a growing number of contributions by colleagues from international research institutions. The expanding international orientation has allowed the Annals to be included, since 2018, in the list of scientific journals recognized by the Italian Institution for the Evaluation of Academic Research (ANVUR) for most of the scientific sectors active in the Department, and in the Class A list of the most prestigious journals for Economic Geography.

In pursuing our mission, this volume wants to further promote the multidisciplinary scientific debate in the field of applied and behavioural sciences, presenting a selection of articles from both internal and external contributors, representing the variety of scientific disciplines in the Department of MEMOTEF (Sapienza).

As regular readers will know, the journal is divided into three parts: the main section is dedicated to *Research Papers* selected following a peer review procedure, a second section of *Notes and Discussion* is aimed at representing a forum for thought on current research, and a third section on *Book Reviews* acknowledges new studies aimed at deepening and disseminating knowledge.

The 2020 selection of research papers includes contributions from colleagues from national and international research institutions; the section of notes and discussions section contains three scientific applications in the field of political economy, applied geography and empirical research.

The last section presents two reviews of scientific research dealing with the subject of nature and sustainable development.

I thank the authors of the articles and all who responded to our call for papers. I 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 a precious resource for the Department of MEMOTEF.

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