

Long Abstract – Monographic Section

INVESTING IN THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION CARE FOR DETAINEES: TRENDS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES OF THE ITALIAN WELFARE SYSTEM

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Inside a “ghost” women’s section

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Female detention is a phenomenon that remains largely in the shadows both epistemologically and in terms of its administration and management in Italian prisons. The female sections – forty-five in Italy, which encompass two-thirds of the total female population – within this framework, represent the quintessential space for identifying and studying the terms of this general condition.

Through an ethnographic research in a female section in central Italy, it will be possible to immerse oneself in the daily life of these places, giving voice to the incarcerated women.

The specific case study is proposed in order to reflect more broadly on the phenomenon of detention, within detention that characterizes Italian female sections, starting from the well-known fact that these places lack resources, activities and attention, and even research directed towards them.

The research seeks to answer several questions: what does it mean to be a minority inmate in a prison? What material consequences result from this?

To answer these questions, several analytical dimensions must be examined. First, the closure and the impermeability of the section in relation to the free world. Second, how the treatment develops within it: work, education, recreational and training activities. And finally, how the materiality of closure and the scarcity of resources translates into social interactions, particularly with (women) prison officers.

The rehabilitative and educational functions of punishment maintain a central position throughout the text. In fact, the question that encompasses all others is whether these functions are in any way realized in the section under examination, or if, on the contrary, they are not even conceived by the penal institution as achievable goals.

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