

Abstract

The *Second Generations* are a recent and complex phenomenon of the history of immigration in Italy. The present study aims to delineate the main aspects and characteristics that the phenomenon is taking on. According to the scientific definition, the term "second generation immigrants" refers to individuals born in the immigration State who have one foreign born parent at least. This definition is too general and shows some ambiguities and has attracted criticism due to a perceived self-contradiction. Critics say, a "second-generation immigrant" is not an immigrant, as being "second-generation" implies that the person's *parents* are the immigrants. The general definition of immigrants assigned to both first and second generation is further complicated by the fact that immigrant generations may not correspond to the genealogical generations of a family. For this reason the general definition is replaced by a more accurate one, like the "decimal method" elaborated by the Cuban sociologist Rubén Rumbaut who distinguishes the children of foreign origin on the basis of the time of their arrival in the host country.

The birth and the growing up of the foreign origin people in the territory of a host State reveals a trend towards a stability and radicalization of migration in that country. Migration can be imagined as a "cycle", the cycle of migrations, which is articulated in various steps: the first one is the decision to emigrate. Generally only a single member of the family emigrates to monitor the situation of immigrants in the host State and tries to find a job to gain an economic safety. The later step can take two forms: the homecoming or the stabilization in the territory of the immigration State; this stage can be followed by a family reunification or by the birth of their sons in that territory. The last step characterizes those countries where immigration has become permanent and peopling, based on durable and stable settlements where the second generations can challenge.

Second generations are composed of young girls and boys, without a migration experience, but they were born and grown up in the country elected by their parents at the time of migration, and naturally they consider it their country. The facility of the second generation to assimilate the culture of the host country and their natural feeling to be Italian, is contrasted when they are eighteen and they discover themselves as foreigners. Soon they have to know the ritual of renovation of the residence permit and have to deal with the bureaucracy and they have to understand that not having citizenship means a lot of things, even if they feel "Italian citizens". The second generations have suffered a significant expansion, in fact in the last few years the attention of the political and social system on this topic has been growing a lot and the papers on this theme are going to become extremely wide in the Italian literature recently.

This paper analyzes the results obtained by the second generations in their fitting in the social network and their relationship with the institutes of socialization, like family, school and work and in the end their problems with the granting of citizenship.

The first chapter tries to identify the category precisely, relating to the main definitions recognized in the field of the sociological studies with a particular deepening devoted to the “decimal definition” suggested by Cuban sociologist Rubén Rumbaut and its further integrations. After the description of the category, some statistics is shown to point out the characteristics of the phenomenon and the effects of this new kind of “Italians” on the social network. Then we try to explain the concept of integration according to different points of views considering some theoretical models from the past and the present request of integration of the second generation. Besides we analyze the real integration of young people of foreign origin, but born in the host country, in the specific instance Italy. The first chapter ends with the results of a remarkable survey made by Cittalia in 2011, reported in the publication “*Da residenti a cittadini*”, which shows the perception of Italian citizens both about immigration and phenomenon of the second generations.

The second chapter examines the relationship between the young people of the second generations and the institutions of socialization of their life such as family, school and work.

The relationship between first and second generation of migration is very difficult because the boys of the second generation have a complex identity and that is caused by their “dual membership”. Families represent to their eyes a connection with the ancestral culture of the country of origin and an obstacle to a full assimilation of the culture of the host country. The relationship with parents is often altered by the tensions between the preservation of the cultural codes of the ancestral country, desired by the parents, and the aspiration of integration and social promotion, felt more by the guys. The scientists Portes and Rumbaut, demonstrate how the guys that have adopted an approach of “*selective acculturation*” to the culture of the host society, present good levels of integration and social promotion and a low level of conflict in the relationship with their parents. *Selective acculturation* means that the second generation guys have accepted and interiorized their “double membership”, becoming ambassador of the culture handed down by their parents, without giving up a high level of integration into the community where they are born.

Within the emigrated families, peculiar negotiations process between fathers and sons are established for the definition of the children identity and these processes lead to different results that we present in the paper, with reference to a study carried out by the sociologist and professor Maurizio Ambrosini, in his essay “*Sociologia delle migrazioni*” (2011).

After analyzing the context of the family and the generational relationship we consider the way of socialization of the second generation within the educational institutions. A statistical overview on

the impact of foreign students in Italian classes and its implications is provided in the study sponsored by the Agnelli Foundation and realized by the scholars Molina and Fornari "*Figli dell'immigrazione sui banchi di scuola: una previsione e tre congetture*" (2010). The statistical data show a substantial difference between national students and students with an immigrant background in educational choices related to high level education instruction. A dangerous trend of concentration of foreigners students in technical and professional institutes, which often precludes them the opportunity to go to university and to get a high-level professional careers.

The effects of a "subordinate integration" can be tolerated by parents but not by the sons who have the same expectations of autochthonous guys and the chapter ends with a paragraph about the job integration of the second generation. The field of research about professional integration shows a scarcity of data due to their age (a lot guys of second generations are not yet adults) and partly due to an unjustified indifference related to the phenomenon. The fitting into the working world is extremely important in the process of social development of young people with an immigrant background in the key areas of the community.

There are different ways of setting in of the second-generation guys in the labor market and four of them have been theorized by Silvana Greco, professor and researcher at the department of social and political studies at the University of Milan. They are discussed in her paper "*Seconde generazioni: il passaggio dalla scuola al mercato del lavoro tra opportunità e rischi*". At the end of the chapter we made some notes about the implications that the working segregation of the second generations may have on the stability of the host society.

The third and final chapter points out the grant of citizenship to the second generation guys. We analyze the legal, bureaucratic and legislative issues that live out young people of the second generations from the national community. Firstly we debate the law in force (law 91 of 1992), and the main ways of access to citizenship that it provides. The main way to acquire citizenship appears to be descendants from parents or close relatives, who are Italian citizens by birth and it is called "*jus sanguinis*" principle, so different from the condition of the second generations, which are born and grown up in the territory of the Italian Republic, but they are descendants from immigrant parents.

For this reason, those who are born in Italy and have foreigners parents require a reform of the law 91 \ 1992 through the draft of the popular initiative called "*L'Italia sono anch'io*". The bill of the popular initiative to amend the 91 law, is a part of wider category of various reform projects recently presented in parliament. One of them is the draft legislation Sarubbi - Granata, which is analyzed in the aspects affecting the second generation, through a comparative reading with the current legislation and the bill "*L'Italia sono anch'io*".

The work ends with the outlining of the coordination network of the second generations: the Rete G2, telling the birth, the main activities, the instruments and the “modus operandi” as presented on the website of the organization www.secondegenerazioni.it. Finally in the last paragraph we analyze, through interviews, the point of views of the protagonists about their problems and we point out which are the values these girls and boys of second generation give to the status of Italian citizens, and especially what is their perception of the condition of *Italians without citizenship*.

The second generation tries to challenge the Italian system on its ability to adapt the concept of Italian nationality to the instances of cultural and civil integration. It could value the meaning of the Italian citizenship through a setting in of a cultural pluralism requested by the transformations of Italian demographic field. There are many different models of integration, such as the multiculturalism in France or the universalism tested in Holland. Italy has developed a specific policy for the integration of immigrants “*integrazione ragionevole*” introduced by the law 40 of 1998 better known as Turco-Napolitano. This model provides an indirect integration of foreigners based on four possibilities: interaction as security; full integrity for the regulars; essential integrity and recognition of human rights for irregular and lastly interaction as communication and pluralism. The model of “*integrazione ragionevole*” is considered an important step forward in the Italian migration policy, but it is not appropriate to face the current issue of the integration of second generations of immigrants.

Today there is a necessity to move towards a further integration model, which focuses on young people born and grown up in Italy. The second generation present a complex identity due to their “dual membership” which is a resource for them but it turns often into an obstacle to an higher integration. The government offer of integration must take into account this dual nature of the second generation and must provide a model of bi-directional integration where our society should accept the diversity. In the bi-directional integration model the aspiring citizen that wants to realize his ambition has only to show his desire to live in Italy, respecting the laws and the constitution. Furthermore the foreigner establishes a relationship with the host state based on mutual respect and willingness. Citizenship stops being a concession and becomes a right, it becomes a recognition based on the degree of integration of foreigners and a conscious act of willpower.

The G2 network requests in a letter to the President Napolitano to consider the Italian land as the main criteria to obtain Italian citizenship for these people , through the inclusion of the principle of “*jus soli*” in the Italian legislation. Many of the proposals of reform provide a “*jus soli*” conditioned by the completion of a cycle of instruction in the host country. The school has an important role in the social promoting of guys with foreigner origin. In this respect, it is necessary to provide the right tools to the school to realize this fundamental mission. In this way, the

dangerous trend of grouping the guys of foreign origins in technical and professional institutes, precluding them the opportunity to go to university and to aspire to higher level professional careers will finish at last.

For the young people of the second generations being recognized as citizens in the state where they were born and grown it is a significant step to come up to future expectations, that is to get the same possibilities of the Italian people.

Nowadays, as in 1992, the need of innovating the legislation of the citizenship is felt strongly in the political and social world. In 1992 the problem was to be conscious of the phenomenon of migration and the great changes introduced in the Italian system. Nowadays, in 2012, the problem is to reform the current legislation in a more suitable way to the second generations' expectations to avoid the loss of others citizens for Italy.

The time to reform the 91 law seems right. All political parties are unanimous in decreeing the urgency of an intervention and during the current legislature 19 projects to reform the 91 law have been presented. The most debated issues are essentially three: the option of abandoning the principle of "*jus sanguinis*" as the main channel of acquiring citizenship; the possibility to introduce a untainted "*jus soli*" and therefore to provide the automatic acquisition of the citizenship for people born in Italy when they are eighteen years; and the third option that points out the acquisition of citizenship through an effective way of integration into Italian society. The political and social attention on the issue of citizenship for the second generation has not yet become final law and all issues are in "standby". Political and institutional agenda is congested by economic and financial issues and the technicians are always working on these problems; but the politicians could approve the reform project of the law 91, not to waste the great opportunity to start a new policy. The reform of legislation is substantial to avoid that the second generation, excluded from the national community, become a "*time bomb*" (Ambrosini, 2011) ready to blow up the equilibrium of the host society.

The practical application of the law 91 of 1992 shows several complications as: slow bureaucracy, an high level of discretionary of the operators, an high rate of uncertainty and a deficit of information among the guys of the second generation.