

Giacinto Froggio

**PSICOSOCIOLOGIA DELLA DEVIANZA E DEL DISAGIO GIOVANILE -
MODELLI INTERPRETATIVI E STRATEGIE DI RECUPERO**

Laurus Robuffo, Roma 2002

Giacinto Froggio, psychologist and psychotherapist, in this book puts at the readers' disposal the skills on juvenile deviance he got during his career of research worker, dealing with the different aspects of this argument in an innovative way. This book overcomes many of the limits connected to the analysis of juvenile delinquency in Italy.

Not only it increases the knowledge on this argument, but it also offers an interesting practical approach, suggesting some strategies of intervention and prevention. In the first of the nine chapters of the book, the author describes the terms *discomfort*, *deviance* and *delinquency*, stressing the differences between them. Subsequently he introduces the latest psychosocial theories about delinquency, describing their theoretical structure and calling the attention to the new researches and experiments. He also puts in some stories of life, to illustrate his opinion according to which juvenile delinquency is a dynamic phenomenon and its actor doesn't play a passive role, but is a conscious and rational protagonist.

According to Froggio, youths that express their discomfort through delinquent behaviours are not mad nor at the mercy of the unconscious determinism. They are only people whose life lacked important opportunities of growth. Essentially, these youths didn't receive help or didn't want to take the responsibility of their life.

Starting from this assumption, the author affirms that it doesn't exist an exact and certain indicator of deviant behaviour. He also underlines the impossibility of making a prediction of these behaviours and says that doing it can be stigmatising.

A preventive action should so take form like an interlacement between network's actions, programs for families, teachers and also educative projects turned to the boys that seem to be less gifted socially and culturally and for this reason unable to take their responsibility and to face the risks connected to the practice of their own freedom.

This means, at the end, the necessity of devising a really complex educational project, starting from the idea that if delinquency is a complex phenomenon, then only a preventive program with these features can be effective.

At the end, according to my opinion, is possible to say that the book under review offers interesting and useful hints to a lot of different professionals. Scholars can find in it new theories, new

interpretations and late researches, whereas workers can find all the necessary tools of prevention and rehabilitation.