

Fantasy upon fantasy and
the love for nostalgia



The fieldwork sites



Research method

mixed tools : 

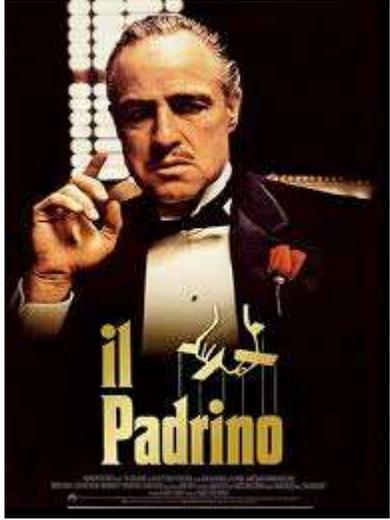
- *semistructured interviews*
- *participant observation*
- *Theoretical approach: phenomenological approach*

New forms of connection used by young diaspora generation

- Tattoos as a way show their **identity** and their **sense of belonging**
- **Ethnic tattoos** used by young Sicilians in Perth, Western Australia
- The **distance** from the home-village, together with shared memories, feelings and experiences play an important role in the creation of the **mythology of the abandoned village**
- Role of **family** and **intimate culture** in sustaining **ethnic identity** in multicultural societies like Australia (Sala and Baldassar, 2018)

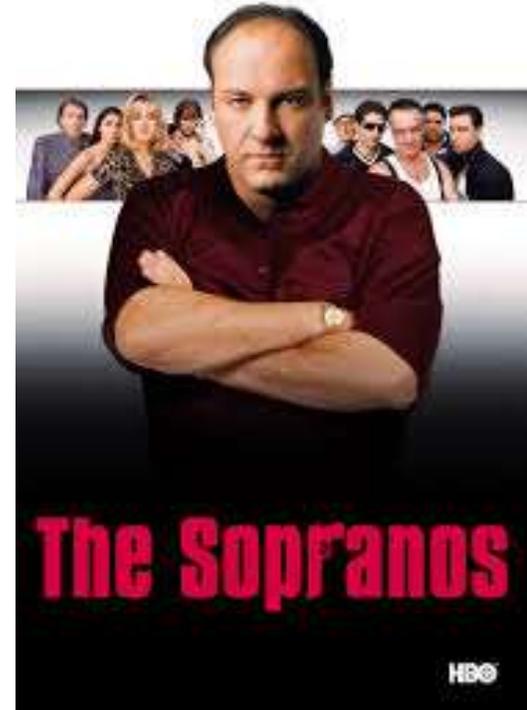
The Godfather and the Sopranos' influence on the imaginary about the homeland

I think to be in Sicily and Calabria would be very different to here. I think it would be more traditional, the housing, the mountains, I think it would be like in the movies. I haven't been there myself to experience it, but from what I have been told, from what I have seen, all that sort of stuff, it is like the Father movies. I have got that picture in my head, I hope it is like that. I'm looking forward to going



Fantasy upon fantasy

These boys watch The Godfather and The Sopranos and they act as those in the movies because they think Mafiosi were good and bad, as they acted badly against bad people. So, when these guys are one by one, you don't see this behavior but when they are in groups, the way they move, the way they speak is exactly as in the movies.



The love for nostalgia

- In a multicultural environment, the reference to an ancestral past becomes valuable, attractive
- For young Italian-Australian generation to be a «wog» is a merit rather than a cause for shame
- The perception of the personal connection with the homeland can be romanticized and even mystified in the emotional connection to the homeland that is shared with fellows, creating a love for nostalgia

This boys who have those tattoos and think they are Sicilian, have got no idea of what it means to be Sicilian. They don't have the connection me and my wife have, they don't know what those symbols mean. They are in love with nostalgia

The tribe of ethnic friends

- Social ethnic boundary
- Collective rite of passage
- Connection to a shared ideal *nostos*
- Long-life visible symbol





New religious practices

- Faith as a means of **urban space appropriation** through a public display of Catholic belief
- Tattoo as a **performance** of faith
- Tattoo represents the **return/no return** of younger generations for whom the host and homeland mix up an overlap

- The importance of the *ideal* of family unity
- Ideal reunification of the family made tangible in the somatic depiction
- the family is made sacred through a ritual

They have tattoos with <<Siciliano, famiglia>>, but they can't speak Italian. Famiglia is a very interesting tattoo. If you go around Perth you will see wogs with tattoo that says familia and it's written in Spanish because they are influenced by the American TV and Mexican immigrants who write familia and that's how little they understand Italian as they don't get the right Italian spelling of what they meant



- As a common, women are often represented as roses
- This highlights their central position in the family domain and their association with the sacred realm
- Two antithetical aspects of femininity are represented: purity and sexuality

