A Note on the Texts and Their Translations

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As this is the first and long overdue English edition of Scipio Sighele's writings, the texts included in our volume aim to offer an overview of the author's contributions to topics that have consistently engaged him in his career as a public intellectual, namely, the crowd, the woman question, sociological literary criticism, and politics.

With the exception of *La folla delinquente: Saggio di psicologia collettiva*, which we have translated in its entirety because of its seminal role in Sighele's overall investigation,¹ the excerpts here collected are chapters from works that highlight Sighele's major theoretical breakthroughs at pivotal moments in his epistemic journey. They aim to show the continuity but also intriguing turning points in his thought, and at the same time the breadth and interconnectedness of the original topics he explores. Within each area of Sighele's investigation, texts are arranged in chronological order and trace the emergence of the author's conceptualization of the crowd as a criminogenic subject and of the laws able to explain

1 In order to give readers an idea of how Sighele's pioneering ideas on the crowd were first circulated in book form, we have chosen to translate the first edition of *La folla criminale*, where all the main points of Sighele's overall argumentation are already clearly expounded. As mentioned in the introduction to this volume, apart from minor changes and a slightly longer conclusion, the second edition reproduces the first and adds selected correspondence between Sighele, Ferri, and Tarde on the intelligence and morality of the crowd, the physiology of success, and contagion in popular riots, followed by the texts of several Italian court rulings on collective crimes.

collective behaviour from couples to masses, as well as other crucial highlights such as analogies between the crowd and the public; the application of collective psychology to the study of female behaviour amid the ideological tensions in the turn-of-the-century woman question; the power of crowds as both agents of destruction and promoters of change in the social, political, and literary domains; and, hence, ultimately, an understanding of crowds not only as occasional regressive aggregations, but also as forward-looking models of mass society that epitomize modernity.

Our interventions as translators have involved the following three main areas, of which we provide here some representative examples.

1 Word Choice

Sighele draws terminology from many disciplines such as science, sociology, criminology, law, and philosophy. Finding English equivalencies often required much debate and no less creativity.

As Sighele follows in the steps of Italian positivist criminology, he alternates two kinds of terms in his discussion of individual and collective deviant behaviour, namely, “*delinquente*” and “*delinquenza*,” on the one hand, and “*criminale*” and “*criminalità*,” on the other. Since his word choice does not seem to lay out a systematic difference between the two notions in his argumentation, we have decided to privilege “*criminal*” and “*criminality*” throughout his texts. In so doing, we think we are aligned with the most recent English translations of Cesare Lombroso’s own pioneering works, which inaugurated the Italian school of criminal anthropology. Lombroso’s *L’uomo delinquente* has been mostly rendered in English as *Criminal Man*, especially in most recent decades, down to its 2006 English translation by Mary Gibson and Nicole Hahn Rafter, who throughout their book also adopt “*criminal*” to qualify all the categories of anomalous behaviour for which Lombroso had originally used the term “*delinquente*.”

In his shift from individual to collective deviance, Sighele maintains an evident connection with the tenets of Lombroso’s investigations, starting from the titles of his own books. We thus felt it crucial to reflect such connection by translating *La folla delinquente* as *The Criminal Crowd*, and proceeding accordingly for his other works, so as to foreground also the continuity of his thought. Moreover, even when anglophone critics refer to his works in Sighele’s time and later, they translate “*delinquente*” and “*delinquenza*” in his titles as “*criminal*” and “*criminality*.” One example among many can be found in *Literary Digest*, vol. 16 (2 April 1898), 401.

For their part, the English “delinquent” and “delinquency” mainly evoke, respectively, a minor crime, and the tendency to commit it, typically by a young individual, while Sighele adopts those terms for *any* kind of offender and *any* degree of wrongdoing. Therefore, we have designated with “delinquent” and “delinquency” only those social phenomena that Sighele explicitly associates with youth, whenever they clearly appear as not attributable to atavistic deviance à la Lombroso, but, rather, as misdemeanours caused by the environment—initially not serious, but potentially degenerating into criminality.

For the Italian expression “a due,” with which Sighele defines any criminal action performed by two people—be they perverse, insane, immoral, or simply weak—under their reciprocal influence, we have adopted the French “à deux” because this is the locution that widely circulated in that period and that is still being used in current psychiatric scholarship. Sighele’s own *La coppia criminale* [*The Criminal Couple*] was translated into French as *Le crime à deux*.

Other crucial and frequent terms in Sighele’s thought are the verb “suggestionare,” the noun “suggestionatore,” and the adjective “suggestionabile.” Given their pivotal role, it was necessary for our English equivalents to be as faithful as possible to the originals. Starting from the English verb “to suggestionize,” we have hence coined “suggestionizer” and “suggestionable.”

Whenever Sighele refers to the charismatic, spontaneous leader of a crowd, he adopts the French term *meneur*. Since he borrows it from Gabriel Tarde, we have kept it.

As for the term “follia,” although more politically correct terms could be chosen for mental illness in our time, we have usually translated it as “madness,” as it is contextually more relevant to the nineteenth-century lexicon and culture. Likewise, whenever Sighele refers to a subject in its singularity (either “uomo” or “individuo”), we have not eliminated the evident masculine bias in our translation. Apart from those occasions where Sighele explicitly designates an all-inclusive collectivity or mankind as a whole, we felt it would be ahistorical to opt for gender-neutral alternatives, a fortiori because Sighele devotes separate discussions to the female subject.

2 Style

Sighele’s expository style is quite verbose and at times redundant. His tone is often oratorical and sententious, particularly in the texts that

were originally conceived as public lectures, but also, more generally, whenever he engages with his sources, trying to persuade his audience of his own standpoint.

In our translations, we have preserved Sighele's rhetoric, yet we have simplified his longest and most convoluted claims, which often make it difficult even for an Italian native speaker to identify the main idea. For instance, in the case of very long sentences with numerous incidental and subordinate clauses nested into one another, we have decided to break them into multiple statements, and to reconnect their respective ideas more clearly. Likewise, we have rephrased frequent negative rhetorical questions.

Another area that required considerable intervention was Sighele's quite idiosyncratic use of punctuation. In all his works, we frequently found multiple sentences connected through colons, each of them comprising, in their turn, several subordinate clauses connected by dashes or semicolons. In order to render the main subject, verb, and object more evident, we have restructured those long paragraphs, separating sentences by full stops, and, whenever necessary, by adding some transitional expressions that serve to clarify the relationships between the different ideas.

3 Citations

Sighele's argumentation results from an intense dialogue with a surprising array of European scientists, sociologists, and humanists. His writings are a collage of often very extended citations that are an integral part of his reasoning. *The Criminal Crowd* is paradigmatic in this respect, but we see this tendency throughout his oeuvre. As most scholars of his time, Sighele is well versed in French language and culture but does not seem to know English. Whenever foreign works (especially English and German) are not available in Italian, he reads and quotes them in French. This additional linguistic filter is often a hindrance in the translation process. Indeed, Sighele is frequently not faithful in his transcriptions. At times he quotes from the same work in French and at other times in Italian without distinguishing his own translations from the official ones, and he does not quote passages in their original sequence. Furthermore, he does not always signal ellipses, he alters some terms, and at times he does not provide page numbers or specify his textual source altogether—as happens systematically in his essay on Honoré de Balzac, for instance.

We have traced back the original texts of the scientific, sociological, and philosophical works to which Sighele refers most frequently and extensively in his writings—such as those by Hyppolite Taine, Herbert Spencer, Arthur Schopenhauer, and John Stuart Mill—and have provided the English translations already available. We have proceeded likewise for the quotations by literary writers—such as Gabriele D’Annunzio and Honoré de Balzac, among several others. We have given our own English translations of Italian and French citations from other foreign scholars’ works that, besides being less known and more difficult to find, did not present particular lexical sophistication or ambiguity. For the sake of documentation, however, we have kept all of Sighele’s footnotes with the bibliographical references of the editions from which he is quoting.

We hope that our juggling between domestication and foreignization will pleasantly carry readers across two quite different languages and cultures without carrying them away too much from either one.

As Sighele already includes peritextual material, Nicoletta Pireddu’s notes (as new, self-standing additions to Sighele’s own or as supplemental comments in brackets within Sighele’s original notes) aim to add information without excessively overburdening the primary works. In most cases, their main function is to identify individuals, places, and contexts with which the general public today might not be familiar and for which Sighele provides no details. Additional editing was necessary to highlight and rectify several incorrect references, terms, and titles, and to standardize the spelling of some foreign names.

Biographical and historical information derive from *Enciclopedia Treccani*, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Biographie universelle ancienne et moderne*, and various editions of Albert Bataille’s *Causes criminelles et mondaines*.

With the exception of *L’intelligenza della folla*, of which we used the second edition amended and expanded by Sighele in 1911,² our translations are drawn from the following first editions of Sighele’s works (the numbers in square brackets below indicate where translations from each work can be found in this volume):

2 In the preface to the second edition of *L’intelligenza della folla*, which Sighele defines as more complete and organic than the previous one (*Intelligenza* 9), he rearranges chapters and adds a new one on “La folla and Gabriele D’Annunzio” [The Crowd and Gabriele D’Annunzio], as well as his essay *Contro il Parlamentarismo* [Against *Parliamentarism*], which had already appeared in *La delinquenza settaria*.

La folla delinquente. Turin: Bocca, 1891. [3–75]

La coppia criminale. Turin: Bocca, 1892:

“Prefazione”: vii–viii. [76–77]

“Introduzione. La suggestione nel delitto”: 1–14. [77–78]

Capitolo I “La coppia sana, la coppia suicida e la coppia pazza”:
15–30. [88–100]

Capitolo II “La coppia criminale”: 31–52. [100–17]

Capitolo III: 53–78. [117–37]

Capitolo IV “La coppia criminale (continuazione e fine)”: 79–92.
[137–47]

La delinquenza settaria. Milan: Treves, 1897:

Capitolo II “Psicologia della setta”: 69–121. [148–73]

Capitolo IV “Il delitto settario”: 181–227. [173–95]

Appendice *Contro il Parlamentarismo*: 231–74. [195–220]

L'intelligenza della folla. Turin: Bocca, 1911:

Capitolo II “L’arte e la folla”: 35–56. [221–33]

Capitolo IV “L’opinione pubblica”: 65–119. [233–64]

La donna nova. Rome: Enrico Voghera Editore, 1898:

“Ottime o pessime?”: 13–42. [265–71]

“La questione femminile”: 75–95 [271–75]

Eva moderna. Milan: Treves, 1910:

“La donna e le ingiustizie della legislazione”: 129–57. [276–89]

“L’istruzione della donna”: 161–91. [290–303]

“Per i nostri figli”: 227–56. [304–17]

“L’anima del fanciullo”: 259–87. [317–30]

Letteratura tragica. Milan: Treves, 1906:

Capitolo I “L’opera di Gabriele D’Annunzio davanti alla psichiatria”:
3–94. [331–76]

Nell’arte e nella scienza. Milan: Treves, 1911:

Capitolo II “Leggendo Balzac”: 37–102. [379–411]

Bibliography of Sighele’s Major Single-Authored Books and Their Translations

Un paese di delinquenti nati: Con quattro figure nel testo. Turin: Bocca, 1890.

In French: *Un pays de criminels-nés*. Lyon: A. Storck, 1896.

Note critiche di diritto penale. Civitavecchia: Strambi, 1891.

La folla delinquente. Turin: Bocca, 1891. [2nd enlarged ed., 1895.]

In French: *La foule criminelle: Essai de psychologie collective*. Translated by Paul Vigny. Paris: Alcan: 1892. [2nd ed., 1901.]

In Spanish: *La muchedumbre delincuente: Ensayo de psicología colectiva*.

Translated by Pedro Dorado Montero. Madrid: La España Moderna, 1892.

In Russian: *Prestupnaâ tolpa: Opyt kollektivnoi psikhologii*. Translated by Aleksandr Petrovič Afanas'ev. St Peterburg: Izd. F. Pavlenkova, 1893. [2nd ed. 1896.]

In Polish: *Thum zbrodniczy: Szkic psychologii zbiorowej*. Translated by Antoniny Morzkowskiej. Warsaw: G. Centnerszwer, 1895.

In German: *Psychologie des Auflaufs und der Massenverbrechen*. Translated by Hans Kurella. Dresden: Reissner, 1897.

In Dutch: *De menigte als misdadigster: Een studie over collectieve psychologie*. Translated by Anna Sophie Polak. Amsterdam: Mij. voor Goede en Goodkoope Lectuur, 1906.

La coppia criminale: Saggio di psicologia morbosa. Turin: Bocca, 1892. [2nd ed., 1897; 3rd ed., 1909.]

In French: *Le crime à deux: Essai de psychologie morbide*. Translated by Vincent Palmet. Lyon: A. Storck; Paris: G. Masson, 1893. [2nd. ed., *Le crime à deux: Essai de psycho-pathologie sociale*. Paris: V. Giard et E. Brière, 1910.]

In Spanish: *El delito de dos: Ensayo de psicología morbosa*. Translated by Pedro Dorado Montero. Madrid: La España Moderna, 1895.

La teoria positiva della complicità. Turin: Bocca, 1894. [2nd expanded book-length edition of Sighele's thesis "La complicità," published in *Archivio di psichiatria, scienze penali ed antropologia criminale* IX (1890).]

In Spanish: *La teoría positiva de la complicidad*. Translated by Pedro Dorado Montero. Madrid: La España Moderna, 1894.

Contro il Parlamentarismo: Saggio di psicologia collettiva. Milan: Treves, 1895.

La morale individuale e la morale politica: Saggio di sociologia. Rome: Casa editrice italiana, 1896.

La delinquenza settaria. Milan: Treves, 1897.

In French: *Psychologie des sectes*. Translated by Louis Brandin. Paris: V. Giard et E. Brière, 1898.

La donna nova. Rome: Enrico Voghera Editore, 1898.

Mentre il secolo muore. Milan-Palermo: Sandron, 1899. [2nd revised ed., *Idee e problemi di un positivista*. Milan: Sandron, 1907.]

I delitti della folla. studiati secondo la psicologia: Il diritto e la giurisprudenza, e coll'aggiunta di tutte le sentenze pronunciate dai tribunali e dalle Corti d'appello in tema di delitto collettivo. Turin: Bocca, 1902.

L'intelligenza della folla. Turin: Bocca, 1903. [2nd revised and enlarged ed., 1911.]

Letteratura tragica. Milan: Treves, 1906.

In French: *Littérature et criminalité*. Translated by Erick Adler. Preface by Jules Claretie. Paris: V. Giard et E. Brière, 1908.

In Spanish: *Literatura trágica*. Madrid: Enrique Teodoro y Alonso, 1910.

Eva moderna. Milan: Treves, 1910.

In Spanish: *Eva moderna*. Translated by Cristóbal de Castro. Madrid: Calpe, 1921.

Il nazionalismo e i partiti politici. Milan: Treves, 1911.

La crisi dell'infanzia e la delinquenza dei minorenni. Florence: La rinascita del libro, 1911.

Nell'arte e nella scienza. Milan: Treves, 1911.

La donna e l'amore. Milan: Treves, 1913.

In Spanish: *La mujer y el amor*. Translated by Pedro Pedraza y Paez. Madrid: Imp. La Morena y Manzanares, 1921. [2nd ed., 1931.]

Information was taken from WorldCat, Index Translationum, and the catalogues of the national libraries of France, Great Britain, Germany, Spain, and the Netherlands.

WorldCat and the catalogue of the Biblioteca Nacional de España also list a Spanish volume by Sighele with the title *Las Ciencias sociales y sus aplicaciones*, translation and appendix by Alberto Lasplaces (Montevideo: Claudio García, 1917). No information is given about the original work in Italian.

In the last decade, new editions and translations of Sighele's works have appeared in Europe, including: a Spanish translation of *Eva moderna*, published in Madrid in 2005 by Editorial Espasa Calpe; a reprint of the German 1897 edition of *The Criminal Crowd—Psychologie des Auflaufs und der Massenverbrechen*, translated by Hans Kurella—published in 2007 and in 2015 by VDM Verlag Dr Müller in Saarbrücken.

Through a partnership between Hachette Livre and Bibliothèque nationale de France the first French translations of several of Sighele's works have been reprinted, including:

Littérature et criminalité (2010, 2016)

La foule criminelle (2013)

Le crime à deux (2013)

Psychologie des sectes (2013)

A French edition of *Sectarian Criminality*, as *Psychologie des foules*, appeared in 2015 by Éditions Dupleix.

Many of Sighele's works have been recently reprinted or re-edited in Italian, including the following titles:

L'intelligenza della folla (Genoa: Name, 1999; Reink Books, 2017)

Il nazionalismo e i partiti politici (Nabu Press, 2010)

La complicità (Nabu Press, 2010; Reink Books, 2017)

Pagine nazionaliste (Nabu Press, 2010)

Contro il Parlamentarismo: Saggio di psicologia collettiva (Kessinger Publishing, 2010; Nabu Press, 2012)

I delitti della folla (Nabu Press, 2012)

Un paese di delinquenti nati: Con quattro figure nel testo (Nabu Press, 2012)

La folla delinquente (La Vita Felice, 2015)

La coppia criminale (Musso, 2008; Yume, 2016)

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