

# Pluralismo alimentare e giustificazione pubblica

CHIARA TESTINO

## *'Dietary Pluralism' and Public Justification*

**Abstract:** In many contemporary liberal democracies there is increasing public interest in food from citizens and institutions alike. Certain public institutions control the production, sale and, at times, even the distribution of foodstuffs – for instance in public canteens at schools, hospitals and prisons – by means of regulatory provisions. At the same time, in societies where food is hardly ever a question of survival, and where it has symbolic, religious, cultural and ethical meaning, individuals value dietary choices that might contrast with publicly recognized and adopted standards. This state of affairs potentially raises issues of justice and legitimacy with respect to dietary practices and food policies. This work aims to clarify the nature of *dietary pluralism* and to provide an account of how institutions should respond to minority claims for differential treatment or bringing laws up to date by analysing two examples of such claims in terms of liberal public justification.

**Keywords:** Pluralism, Public justification, Dietary standards, Food policies.

*notizie di POLITEIA*, XXX, 114, 2014. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 13-30.