

Summaries in English

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SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Relationship Without Exchange: Couple Rituals as Observed through Popular Literature

F. Gretillat, J.P. Keller, J. Kellerhals et L. Vonèche

As a result of the movement towards the conceptualisation of the family as a private unit and the increasing importance of the couple relationship, it has become imperative to examine more closely the cultural models which underly this relationship today. On the basis of material gathered from a large sample of illustrated popular fiction (which is very similar to other forms of sentimental literature), this article attempts to define the normative dimensions which constitute the ideological "grammar" of a couple relationship. By means of a method linking a system of nomenclature and attitude systems as well as the "operators" of narrative development, the emphasis is put on such processes as abstraction, meaning as perceived within the couple, and on the forms of causality. These processes are drawn from very general ideological elements. Thus one can sketch in the striking analogy – in spite of apparent discrepancies – between the images of "*homo oeconomicus*" and of "*homo amans*". (page 1)

The Changes in Attitude and Behaviour of Couples after the Birth of the First Child

Ch. Ryffel-Gericke

There have been very different studies for this subject which consider the processes by which parental roles are undertaken. The following findings are based on a long period of research and analyse the intra-familial dynamic processes. This was done by comparing – with the aid of a quasi-panel – the attitudes and behaviour of the mother as revealed in the surveys of two different periods following the birth of the first child. The results allow one to assume that a longer postnatal period of maternity does not necessarily lead to the reinforcement of traditional representations of the maternal role, but it may tend to be linked more closely to the questioning of stereotyped images of maternity and to move away from the concept of traditional role orientation. (page 25)

How to Form Humans: Strategies for Normalisation and Class Destiny

W. Fischer and L. Gillioz

This article is intended as a contribution to differential analysis of individuals who are socially perceived and defined according to homogenous and generic characteristics. Even if it is true in certain cases that the mentally handicapped are distinguished by biological characteristics, it is not these characteristics which explain the differences observed here. It can be shown, in effect, that the objective conditions and the representation of a handicap determine the family strategies of correction and of normalisation, which themselves condition the institutional

practices and level of performance. In other words, the general principles of differentiation and of social hierarchisation apply – perhaps even more so – to the field of human marginality, which, far from being attached to alien mechanisms, follows the same fundamental logic. The study of a field “at the limits of the human” constitutes a strategic position from which to observe the action of social processes when they are concerned with the transformation of the raw material by acculturation, in order to achieve, at least, the minimal properties for the definition of human characteristics of different social groups. (*page 41*)

“Cooperatization” seen from the Perspective of Cultural Sociology

R. Hettlage

Since the beginning of industrialisation until the period between the two wars the notion of “cooperatization” has not held an important role in sociological theory. Today, the concept is almost forgotten, or in any case, is not one of the usual “objects of research”. Even research on cooperative organisation, established though it is, has lost sight of the concept. However, in spite of this, it is vast enough and probably presents “a sensitising component” (Blumer). The present study refers to the concepts with a view to establishing a connection between the past debate and the current discussion concerning the fundamental changes in life style (industrial). Since the interpretation of the “world” underlying this concept explicitly proposes an alternative model of the structuration of society, it is thus in opposition to the dominant “Gehäuse der Hörigkeit” (“armour of obedience”) (Weber). Accordingly, some partial aspects of this cultural perspective are re-examined from the standpoint of equilibration of domination and of self-management. Cooperatization may also be used here as a point of crystallization amongst others to indicate – taking into account cooperative experience – that it is hardly sufficient to expect changes only from structural interventions. The chances of success for actions of a cooperative type are closely allied to the models of interpretation of the members of organisation. The conditions for their effectiveness have not, until now, been studied. Without a doubt, it would be useful to make it the pivot of research for a sociology of cooperative organisations. (*page 85*)

The Military, the Multinational Corporations and the Economy: A Cross-National Study with Particular Reference to Developing Nations

E. Weede

This article is concerned with the explanation of crossnational differences in economic growth and income inequality. In addition to domestic determinants, which are used here as control variables only, the context of the world system also may be of some importance. According to dependency theory, the capitalist world economy or the dependence of developing countries on industrialized countries is primarily responsible for slow growth and too much inequality. In Bornschier’s version of dependency theory, which is my sole concern here, it is especially penetration by multinational corporations which has major negative effects on developing countries. According to a “military sociology” point of view, power politics and competition between states positively contribute to growth and to the size distribution of income. Operationally, the military participation ratio is the decisive independent variable in the approach. In regression analysis, both world sys-

tem approaches to explanation of the size distribution of income received only marginal confirmation. As far as economic growth is concerned, particularly in the case of developing countries, the military sociology perspective may contribute more to an explanation than Bornschieer's version of dependency theory. *(page 113)*

World Economy, Growth, and Distribution

V. Bornschieer

Critical comments on E. Weed's paper in this issue. *(page 129)*

The Evolution of the Status of Women: a Selective Bibliography

R. Hettlage (page 137)

Book Reviews

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