

S U M M A R I E S

P. DONATI, *The Social Worker and the Crisis of the Welfare State*

This paper analyses the present role played by the social worker, and the possible dilemmas he faces in the Italian Welfare State. Initially, the writer examines the difficulties met with by the social worker in the light of the assent and dissent in the Italian Welfare State during the 70s. He then goes on to suggest that future solutions will be acceptable and efficacious only if they are able to give valid and meaningful solutions to the structural contradiction of *double bind* inherent in the role itself. The answers will depend on the model of the Welfare State which will be adopted as a main criteria of social policy. The writer feels that such a model in Italy is tending towards "totalising" position which would render the role of the social worker even more rigid and sterile. Only a new ("institutional" model of *welfare* understood as a coherent, open, and competent exchange of views between *life-worlds* an systematic institutions could open up new horizons for the social worker, who in such a context could provide new collective assistance for people's needs.

G. GIOVANNINI, *Teachers in the years of uncertainty*

On the basis of a research conducted in four scholastic districts of Northern and Southern Italy in 1979-1980, the paper analyses the image that High School teachers have of their profession, in terms of contents, prestige and training.

In a period of uncertainty in economic development and educational processes, teachers still have good margins of gratification from their job, above all with reference to expression and relationships. A salient finding is a new demand for competence and professionalism, which must be linked to necessary reforms in the educational system, particularly in the High School.

L. RIBOLZI, *The new teacher's role in italian High School*

In this paper, we examine the results of two field researches on a samples of more than a thousand teachers in upper secondary schools: we have analysed the current trend and new ideas in the image of the teacher's role.

Power and ideology in education, social selection and stratification, relationships between teachers and students were focused by educational research in the early '70: opinions about these arguments are changing, and there is an increasing demand for professionalism and higher performances. Secondly, school decisionmakers are beginning to evaluate the pertinence of education to the student's needs, and the organizational structure and new educational roles are taking on greater importance.

E. BESOZZI, *The Teaching Profession: Sociological Research on Teachers in Italy from 1960 to the present time*

This article starts by examining the course of Italian sociological research on teachers. Four research phases are then considered. It is pointed out how research work on teachers, in Italy, was often carried out taking into consideration important institutional changes in the educational system. The second part of the article examines various aspects of the teaching profession through a comparison of the results of the various types of research. Finally, there is an analysis of how and why the teaching body has changed in structure, attitudes, and behaviour.

G. GUARNIERI, *Max Weber in Italy: an introduction*

Since the position of idealism toward sociology was one of suspicion, Max Weber was for a time ignored Italian scholars.

After the First World War, Italian culture began to be interested in some aspects of his work. In particular his study on the relationships between the protestant ethics and the spirit of capitalism aroused great interest in Italy. Nevertheless both the methodology underlying this work and its results were almost always misunderstood. The true sociological meaning of Max Weber's thinking and research began to be understood in Italy only after the fall of Fascism, with the revival sociological studies. After an "American" reading of Weber's thought the need for a reinterpretation closer to the spirit of the German scholar, began to be felt. The Marxists were particularly critical towards him saying that his work had a negative impact on the substantial rationality of Western civilization.

M.R. RAVELLI, *Problems and tendencies in evaluation research*

Evaluation research intends to provide the most suitable methods for studying planned social change in an attempt to "evaluate" the purposes and the effectiveness of such a change. These studies attempt to apply social science methods to social services and social action programs in order to obtain objectives and valid measures of what such programs want to accomplish. In this sense evaluation research is generally concerned with applied or administrative research; in fact, the effects of a program measured against the goals it set out to accomplish is a means of contributing to subsequent decision-making about the program and improving future programming.