

SUMMARIES

V. CESAREO, *Towards a more flexible society*

Modern research emphasises the rigidity of life, both individually and collectively, in advanced industrial societies. However, there are signs of possible future flexibility. The writer looks at these signs and concludes that there should be some sort of equilibrium between flexibility and rigidity, with possibly greater emphasis on the former since it leads to greater freedom of action.

F. CONSOLI, *Concepts and data in international comparison of work relations. Marginal considerations of the theoretical problems posed by international connexions of data banks*

The « Industrial Relations System » theories developed during last 30 years have played an important role in international comparison both on the empirical and theoretical level. The article is an attempt at refocusing on the « object » to further process the concepts/data and concepts/concepts relations in international comparison. The analysis is carried out from the point of view of empirical research and of international scientific communication networks. Within this frame, work translation, data processing and Thesaurus building are shown as sharing in comparison problems, although with their own specific features.

I. VACCARINI, *Symbolic-religious systems and historical-social dynamics*

According to functional analysis and fenomenological approach, this essay illustrates the concept of « life world » (*Lebenswelt*) and its expressive, political, economic, and ethical dimensions. From an historical angle, then, we argue that « life world » of traditional societies is mainly based on political and expressive dimensions, while Christianity emphasises its ethical and economic dimensions up to modern-industrial society. In contemporary post-industrial and « post-modern » society « life world » recovers the prominence of its political and expressive dimensions as it was in traditional societies.

F. DI MARIA - S. DI NUOVO - G. VENZA - I. ZINGALES, *The influence of sex, age, and educational level on the evaluation of crimes of various kinds*

The aim of the research is to study the influences of some variables (sex, age, educational level) on the subject's evaluation of three different crimes: « mafia » aggression, sexual offences and terrorist assault. For each crime, judgments were requested about seriousness, brutality and emotional reaction, then the subjects were asked to make inferences about the moral character of offenders, their cruelty, psychical disturbance and chances of rehabilitation; finally, severity and reasons for the punishment recommended for the offenders were taken into account. The sample was composed of 96 subjects. Results show that the attitude toward crimes and criminals is influenced — in different ways according to the type of crime to be judged — by the subjects' age and educational level, while sex seems to have less influence.

A. MERLER, *Evolution in sociological studies and national situation in Brazil*

The evolution in sociological studies in Brazil is characterized by a steady relationship between sociological analysis and the local situation. This explains its vigour and justifies its scientific peculiarities.

Such evolution is studied through five chronological periods: *a*) the pre-scientific, positivistic and evolutionistic approach; *b*) the spread of « social studies » and of « the explanations of Brazil »; *c*) the foundation of a scientific approach and scientific accuracy; *d*) populism and « developism » (not analysed here); *e*) theorization of dependence (not analysed here).

A. SCHIZZEROTTO, *The links between italian sociology of education and international research: some remarks*

The author hypothesizes that the links between Italian Sociology of Education and that of other countries (especially Anglo-Saxon countries) are limited. Particularly, during the 60s, the theory of human capital and technical functionalism, did not arouse interest within the Italian scientific and academic community; so too, as regards the debate on school inequality. During the 70s, while in other countries there developed two conflicting approaches to education — the neo-Marxist and the neo-Weberian — in Italy the former prevailed. In conclusion the article mentions three groups of subjects which have so far been practically ignored in Italy while, on the other and they have been widely developed in other countries: *a*) the relationship between educational credentials and socio-occupational stratification and mobility; *b*) problems concerning educational policy; *c*) interpersonal dynamics and the process of the transmission of knowledge within the classroom.

G. VESTUTI, *Schumpeter and the theory of imperialism*

The author examines Schumpeter's theory of imperialism which differs from that of Hobson and the Marxists. The writer illustrates how an economist such as Schumpeter has emphasized the political factor as an independent element in contrast to economic ruling conditions.