

SUMMARIES

L. BOVONE, *From the theory of action to the theory of communication: a postmodern route*

The contemporary communicative approach is proposed as a typical example of the transition from modern to postmodern in the field of sociological theory.

For this purpose, contrasting elements between the classical-modern theory of action and the postmodern theory of communication are summarized in five sections: 1) reality versus social construction of reality, 2) actor's meaning versus common sense, 3) a priori rationality versus a posteriori rationality, 4) morality versus practice, 5) project versus everyday life.

All these elements are identified considering the works of a few wellknown authors: A. Schutz, P. Berger, T. Luckmann, H. Garfinkel, E. Goffman, A. Giddens.

M. COLASANTO, *Crisis of development and sociological tradition*

The theoretical insufficiencies of the traditional explicatory patterns used in social sciences are particularly obvious when facing the subject of development. The article examines some limitations peculiar to deterministic views, characterized by their double prejudice, the industrialistic and the evolutionistic one, and it goes through some recent attempts to overcome them with a conception of development of pluralistic type.

F. CRESPI, *The end of secularization: from the sociology of progress to the sociology of existence*

Since its origins sociological theory has had an ambivalent attitude towards the secularization process: on one hand, sociology appears as a product of the scientific progress that provoked the desecularization of the world, both in its natural and social aspects, on the other hand, the development of social sciences can also be considered as the beginning of a more problematic interpretation of modernization. The postmodern evidence of the limits of knowledge allows sociological theory to recognize, better than in the past, the fundamental contradictions within our social condition.

B. BERTELLI - F. NERESINI, *Social complexity, deviance and control theoretical hypothesis of re-definition*

The essay deals with the concepts of deviance and social control within the framework of most recent acquisitions concerning complex systems. In particular, it analyzes the category of «complexity» to catch the relation of mutual codetermination between social organization and deviance. The authors suggest to overcome the pathological conception of deviance and propose a reinterpretation of the empirical importance of deviance and social control in the light of increasing social complexity.

F. FILENI, *The play as assumption of mental structures: the case of videogames*

The starting point is the assumption of a positive correlation between the mental processes which are actuated in relationship with videogames and the cognitive structures required in postindustrial societies. In this framework, the necessary abilities are analyzed together with those which are acquired by playing with these electronic instruments.

Therefore, it is assumed that through the use of videogames an intensive socialization is infor-

mally and unconsciously developed as anticipation of cognitive models which are more and more required by the society of the future.

D. PETROSINO, *Ethnic identity construction: the case of Sardinia and Veneto*

Ethnicity is a very debated concept, mainly due to the difficulty of defining it. The author maintains that in the cases of ethnic emergence the definition belongs to the arguments that ethnic actors use to affirm the existence of ethnicity. The principal thesis is that the markers of ethnicity are a product of ethnic actors' actions. To confirm these arguments two Italian regional cases are analysed: Sardinia and Veneto. In these cases it is impossible to decide about the existence of the ethnic group without analyzing the ethnic organizations' actions.

G. PIRZIO AMMASSARI, *The political and electoral influence of the trade-union movement in the U.S.A.*

The approaching of presidential elections has brought again to the scene the debate on the political and electoral role of American trade-unionism. After briefly recalling the main economical and theoretical challenges faced by the trade-union movement in the eighties, some hypotheses are put forward on the political impact of the unions on the present U.S.A. conjuncture.

J.M. QUINTANA CABANAS, *Present trends of the sociology of education in Spain.*

The sociology of education is a relatively young discipline, which in many countries is affirming itself autonomously, detaching itself from pedagogy. In Spain this process is accelerated by two concomitant phenomena: educational reforms in the seventies and the academic acknowledgement of the discipline. The still lasting contrast between social pedagogists and sociologists of education is partly based on the fact that the former prefer the structural-functionalistic approach and the latter the conflictualistic approach. The different schools share the commitment to enlarge the concept of formative agency, following quite similar routes as those of the sociology of education in Italy.