

## SUMMARIES

L. BOVONE, *Life stories as reflexive work.*

The first part of the article discusses the usefulness of the biographical method in order to solve some epistemological crucial issues: the integration between comprehension and explanation, the possibility of an objective (or at least intersubjective) knowledge, the overcoming of the micro-macro dichotomy. The second part holds the utility of such a method in order to study the reflexive post-modern society and especially the contribution intellectuals can offer to the post-modern culture. Results from recent empirical research are discussed. The last part—though recognizing some methodological problems linked with life stories — stresses flexibility and openness as the main virtues of this method.

G. POLLINI, *Dynamics in the social action system: the contribution of V. Pareto.*

The article is focused on the dynamics in the social action system moving from the V. Pareto's sociology. After having reconsidered the main concepts of his sociology, the Author compares Pareto and Parsons by making the most diverging points emerge. He concludes that while the integrative and the latent functions are superimposed in Parsons, they are more distinguishable in Pareto. As a possible outcome, social integration is not a *a priori* necessity but a contingent result. Moreover, while the analytical framework proposed by Parsons ends up by substituting the elementary unit act scheme, in the approach held by Pareto the two dimensions of elementarity and of complexity are considered in a more unitary way.

G. CAPRARO, *Religiousness in Italy between personal experience and institutional belonging: elements for a typology.*

The lack of empirical studies on a national level on the phenomenon of the religiousness in Italy has been partly overcome by an initiative of the *European Values Study* which promoted a social research on value orientations in nine European countries in 1980 and 1990. The Italian data concerning the religious experience has been elaborated with the second level techniques (factor analysis and multiple regression) in order to analyze the main elements affecting the religious experience. One of the most important results is the gradually growing gap between the personal dimension and the institutional one. The belief in God and particularly its importance for everyday life, are today indicators more significant than ritual participation and confessional belonging. The analysis offers the possibility of elaborating a typology in four modalities: individualistic religiousness, community religiousness, religious ethics and profane ethics.

A. AGUSTONI, *Toward a sociological interpretation of the studies on subjective image of the city.*

In this paper, the author tries to show the sociological relevance of studies about the image of the city. He starts with a critical review of the two chief traditions of research in this field. The first one is the «cognitive mapping», developed within the American Environmental Psychology, following the pioneer work of Kevin Lynch (1960). The second one is the *espace vécu* (lived space), characteristic of French Human Geography of the Seventies. This first part is followed by an analysis of structural and

human components of the image of a city. After this explanation, the author maintains that the social relevance of this kind of studies is due to the social origins of the city representations (we can take, as an example, the role of the mass media) and to their social effects (for example, their influence on the use of public spaces or collective patterns of migration).

M. BURGALASSI, *One the concept of citizenship in the sociological analysis.*

The present sociological debate on the crisis of the welfare state and on the future of social policies has contributed to the rediscovery of the notion of citizenship. Firstly launched by T.H. Marshall as the final phase of the process through which civil, political and social rights — linked with full belonging to the national community — emerge, this term is now connected to a different and more complex theoretical frame. More in particular, there are two basic orientations which can be distinguished in the present debate: the first one maintains a universalistic and formalistic approach which develops the traditional vision of citizenship as a sum of individual rights; the second one stems from a solidaristic vision, which is characterized by a post-marshallian understanding of the same concept.

H. WINTERSBERGER, *Childhood condition in contemporary society: rights and policies.*

Childhood condition in contemporary society is characterized by ambivalence and ambiguity. The Author analyzes not only the demographic evolution but also the socio-economic and socio-political changes which occurred in Europe, trying to prefigure their main consequences. In order to reduce the negative effects produced by modernization, the Author maintains that it is necessary to guarantee an active role to the children in society, by creating economic and legislative conditions so that they can participate to the social life in a complete and equal way together with adults.