

## SUMMARIES

### M. COLOMBO, *Communication and environmental information.*

This article is focussed on risk communication with special reference to the role played by the media. The object of the analysis is the environmental communication, a complex concept which is defined with reference to three elements. Recent studies on the relationship between media and environmental issues are reviewed and categorized. The Author distinguishes among studied on media as transmitters; on media as receivers; and on institutions as environmental communicators. Moreover, the article considers the role played by the press in the Acna-Valle Bormida affaire, as an example taken from a research on high environmental risk areas.

### M. LOMBARDI, *Credibility and perception of qualified informers in emergency situation.*

The article discusses the perception of individuals and organisations as informers in situations where there is a high level of industrial risk. Particular attention is paid to the clarity of communication, the degree of professionalism of the information sources, the extent to which the message attributed to important informers was credible. The researches decided to treat as a comparative study under the terms of Article 8 of the Seveso Directive which invites public authorities, as well as so-called «risk» industries to keep the population informed of the potential dangers which they are exposed to as a result of industrial activity. The discussion shows the complex inter-reaction of informers and processes concerning risk communication is a direct result of the nature of risk itself: a multi-faceted and polyhedric subject which touches on individual perception in many different ways. Strategies, based on empirical findings, establish that it is absolutely necessary to favour informative preventive actions and suggest a need for prompt and careful attention to those forms of communication which encourage individuals and systems to adopt appropriate behaviour.

### C. BRUMAT, *Which kind of connection between sociology and geography?*

The article intends to analyse the relationship between sociology and geography through the examination of some authors belonging to both these disciplines. The development of the history of geography and of Durkheim's thought in the definition of *social morphology* puts into evidence a number of striking parallels and overlapping elements. According Durkheim, the study of the environmental basis of social organization, of population and spatial distribution converges with human geography. The space of geography is a social space. Thus, it should be necessary to work together in an interdisciplinary way.

### D. SARACINO, *Institutional reforms, political coalitions and oppositive strategies: The Belgique case (1946-1991).*

By analyzing the Belgique case, the Authors aims at analyzing the role of oppositions in western liberal democracies. Above all, the focus is on cooperative and conflictual strategies in relation to winning elites. This topic is particularly relevant in the perspective assumed by the Author, according to which political action implies the employment of resources and strategies in order to achieve the collaboration of other actors. By reconstructing an historical context, the Author aims at identify the

relation between institutional framework, distribution of political resources and behaviour of the oppositions.

S. SGROSSO, *Youth condition, identity and deviance.*

Starting from the sociological discussion about the existence of a «youth condition», this work outlines the elements of specificity marking the juvenile segment and the identity construction process of a young person and the eventual outcomes of marginality and deviance.

By following the juvenile paradigm parabolic trend, from the discovering period during which the «integrationist» interpretation prevailed, through the expansive period where the «conflictualist» approach took place, until the decline period when the «subjective» analysis predominated, a distinctive youth character dilatation, a diffusivity which determines the flattening of the generational difference and a growing youth subjectivity differentiation marked by an «existential plurality» are outlined. In front of the complex and changeable social reality, the youth identity (a meaningful nucleus socially oriented to reach the adult status), is more and more destructured becoming a subjective meaning elaboration process, open and flexible, but weak in singling out selective criterion choices; deviance too from an infrequent and pathologic happening, becomes a casual and possible outcome.

On the whole, the interpretative categories considered (youth condition, identity and deviance), even if weakend in their explanatory capability — continue to represent a critical point from which it is possible to reflect about young people.