

SUMMARIES

A. ARDIGÒ, *Possible Evolution of the Italian System and of the Main Subsystem in the Next 20 Years*

The evolution of the Italian system in the next 20 years is not easy to predict: forecasts require first of all an answer to the question whether national identity will hold on in front of growing external conditioning and increasing internal complexity. There are two possible answers to the above question: the first one predicts an integrated Italian society, based on Japanese, North American consumistic models; the second one predicts a developed, post-industrial democratic society with a strong, competitive participation in the international system of division of labour and with a corresponding increase in identity and national autonomy. This second model is to be better defined, so as to favour its evolution in spite of all the difficulties and improbabilities of its full realization.

J. JERSCHINA, *Catholicism and Political Ethos in Poland*

The traditional catholicism of Poland is undergoing very deep changes. Indeed during the past 40 years of its history the Polish society has experienced essential changes, too. The élite on power, that initiated the changes, has now to cope with development of social ambitions and national consciousness and it is not able to satisfy them. The Church has strengthened its position because it is the only institution enabled to articulate national expectations and to mediate between the power élite and the nation.

M. AMBROSINI, *The Technological Change in Recent French Sociological Research*

This paper discusses the main results of some recent French researches about technological change in industrial firms. These seem to reject the argument of a massive downgrading of the quality of work, laying emphasis on the possibilities of bargaining and flexibility in the application of new technologies, according to an undeterministic approach.

M. COLOMBO, *Sociological Thinking and Cooperation in the Mid-80's*

The objective of the second workshop was to focus upon, communicate and discuss the present state of sociological research on cooperation in Italy. The first contribution by E.M. Tacchi proposed a systematic survey of the Italian sociological studies on cooperation; the second one by E. Minardi in cooperation with M. La Rosa had a more theoretical approach and dealt with « Sociological thinking and cooperation in the mid-80's ».

E. FRANCESCHINI, *The Notion of System in Luhmann's Adaptive Functionalism*

Niklas Luhmann's sociological theory can be considered as an original synthesis of two different philosophies: functionalism and systemic theory. Luhmann intends to identify what function social systems fulfil in a difficult world. Luhmann's theory is based on the following dual schema: system/environment. A social system is in fact determined and characterized by its limits within an environment. Luhmann's sociology is defined as « adaptive functionalism », because the system's main objective consists in searching for elements that may enable the system to adapt to coming from outside its boundaries.



A. FRANCHI, *Some Proposals for a New Theory of Migration*

In these pages we try to describe some of the analytical problems which are associated with the most treated concepts of the theory of migration. After having underlined the main features which discriminate the American from the German sociology of migration, our analysis criticizes the notion of «culture» which so often appears both in migratory and integrative themes. We suggest to correct this notion by considering the cultural background of the immigrants in a new and active way.

C. LANZETTI, *Procedural Aspects in Path Analysis Technique*

This short study presents the basic information required for understanding the data processing technique known as path-analysis. First of all the Author points out the constraints of the causal model, then he clarifies the value of this technique, according to which the linear correlation coefficient can be decomposed into its components: direct and indirect causative effects and non-causative or spurious effects. For a better understanding of the logical and procedural steps to be followed, an example is described, in which path analysis technique was applied: it concerns a piece of research on the elderly population of Como. The Author develops the aspect concerning the mathematical procedure and points out that on one side it facilitates avoidance of mistakes when indicating paths from a variable of a model to another variable, and on the other side it makes all paths available for a comparison.

F. VILLA, *The Sociology of Professions in Italy*

The Sociology of Professions has been recognized as a specialist branch of Sociology for about half a century now, but Italian contributions have been neither numerous nor very original so far. Most of the published studies trace the state of the debate as it developed in North-American and Anglo-Saxon circles: they propose criteria for interpretation and issues for further study, or they investigate specific professions through empirical research work. This article examines the main contributions of Italian scholars in the field of General Sociology of Professions: it deals with problems concerning the reframing of the discipline.