

## SUMMARIES

### E. BESOZZI, *Society and images of socialization.*

This paper examines the model of socialization coming to the surface in contemporary society in the light of the transformations that are taking place. The viewpoint that the author assumes may be summed up as follows: in both theoretical and empirical terms, socialization can be seen as communication. This model (communicative model) can be compared with the classical model which places the stress on integration (integrationist model). The passage from one model to another can be shown in reference to a number of different aspects which relate to the basis of the models themselves, to the result of socialization, to the actors and various agents. The two models are clearly opposed to one another but the communicative model brings out a whole series of questions. The communicative model is essentially cognitive and constructivist, but it cannot exclude problems linked with social integration and community attachment.

### G. GASPARINI, *Cultural models of temporal dimension in advanced societies.*

This essay analyzes cultural models of temporal dimension in contemporary industrialized societies. Three main points are made by the author: the first one is an internal problem concerning the relationship between dominant culture and subcultures (with particular reference to the «green» movements); the second copes with a crucial external problem, that is the relationship between the cultural dimension of time in industrialized countries and in other cultures - with an assessment of their possibility to survive; the third, by linking internal and external aspects and by reassessing the technological and economic constraints, proposes a new perspective in order to overcome the difficulties outlined in the previous parts, in relation with the notions of post-industrial society and flexibility.

### G. Rossi, *Inequality and equity in the social service: the Italian case.*

Equality and equity constitute the object of a wide sociological reflexion which interpretes social policies in terms of the interaction between the public and private sector. The redistributive effects of social policies as well as their capability to produce equality and equity may vary. In this essay the attention is focussed on a specific sector - the health services - which have progressively taken a peculiar shape, at the crossroad between the individual and collective level. The right to receive health services seems to be part of a new notion of citizenship which, after having involved the civil and

political dimensions, is extending to new aspects (welfare services and the informal sector). It is in this respect that the post-industrial citizenship has to be defined. Though this right seems to be accomplished in the undifferentiated services, much more gloom is the situation as far as personal services are concerned. These services, in fact, cannot be standardized and are not homogeneous but have to cope with unique and original needs, related with specific physical or psychological pathologies and with social, economic or relational difficulties of an individual in a specific context and in a given historical time. In this sector there are major problems concerning the evaluation of inequality and equity, not only from a purely technical point of view. The question, in fact, is more general and concerns the definition of equity. In this realm, it is not possible to confuse uniformity with equity (that is, adequacy to personal needs), nor the equality of services with the respect due to human being.

M. BRUCHON-SCHWEITZER - S. LIEVENS - L. GIOSSI, *Selecting the personnel in some European countries.*

The research aims to identify the most widely employed means in selecting the personnel in some Western European countries. At first, the research focussed on the French case (102 firms have been interviewed) later, it was extended to other countries. The most impressive finding concerns the increasingly frequent use of selective techniques which do not dispose of any predictive soundness and are completely irrational (such as astrology or graphology).

L. BOCCACCIN, *Altruism, reciprocity and symbolic exchange in the third sector.*

This essay examines the sociological debate on the so called third sector, beyond state and market, in advanced societies. Its aim is to specify terms such as altruism, reciprocity and symbolic exchange which may better explain motives and interactions typical of the third sector. This reality includes a gamut of extremely different activities in terms of goals, motives, structures and concrete actions. Particular attention is given to non-profit organization. Explanations of this phenomenon cannot be satisfied by a monocausal perspective and require a multicausal approach in which economic and sociological concepts should find their own place. By that mean, a new social formation with specific communicative and symbolic codes which, although increasing the complexity of the social context, may represent a factor of social innovation seems to be outlined.

P. DONATI, *The university autonomy: why?*

This essay discusses the meaning of the university autonomy, as social institution and organization, in the present reorganization of the Italian university system. According to the author, the complex society introduces new scenarios in which the old conception of the university autonomy appears to be obsolete. After the examination of various positions (that is, the corporative, liberal, functionalist and rational-instrumental ones) and their comparison with the sociological aspects of the law n. 168, 1989, the author proposes to rethink this notion as cultural project. To the question «which autonomy should be given to the universities in the post-modern society?» the sociological analysis should reply by conceptualizing the university as a locus of interpersonal and generalized relation between the teacher and the student, oriented to the whole life and not only to scientific and technological knowledge. From this point of view of the university autonomy is viewed as an associative phenomenon in which the institutional reorganization takes the form and the structure of a relational guide.

G. LAZZARINI, *Paths of the elderly.*

From an empirical research on the elderly carried out in urban context (Turin) a bipolar situation emerged: on the one side, a small percentage of them does not carry on any cultural activity nor is aggregated in any social group but does only housework; on the other side, a large percentage do carry on cultural activity (often more than one), takes part to social groups and has an autonomous, dependent or voluntary work. Yet, this last condition is usually a private dimension which does not modify in any significative measure the cultural model of the industrial society in which retiring is independent on personal conditions. Moreover, the only role of the pensioner is to rest and it is considered detached from the surrounding society. Thus the condition of the elderly may be described like an interlacement of paths, a wandering along paths, a imagine which decribes the precariousness of those who lose their main road and find themselves in a secondary one. It is in this fragmented world where the life of the elderly is reorganized, between the sense he gives to his own life and the meaning the surrounding society attributes to him.

G. MANGIAROTTI FRUGIUELE, *From the discovery to the disappereance of childhood.*

This essay aims to contribute to the debate on childhood and its social representation by exploring the most remarkable interpretations offered in the last years. By reviewing Aries' contribution - which favoured the discovery of childhood in the modern society - the author analyzes the Postman's position which talks about its disappearance in order to enlighten some points recently made by Italian sociologists. The discovery of childhood seems to be ambiguous and to get mixed up with that of its disappearance: the structural absence of childhood goes together with the apparent emphasis put on it. It is not simply a matter of a fall of birth rates but of all those aspects of the social life in which childhood is entangled and which do not have any public interest, as the social policies for the family and the childhood confirm. Moreover, the progressive fall in the educative performance hides the complete lack of interest towards the future of the society, that is towards new generations and the possibilities children entail. This attitude is in tune with other main aspects of the social life such as the environmental deterioration. Since childhood means change for the future, to debating childhood means to discuss manhood, as well is the sistem of primary relations which allow men to live, its social goals, since the dependence of the child from the adult is not only biological but also cultural. The social relevance of childhood depends, on all that and on the giving up of the ambiguity between discovery and disappearance.