

SUMMARIES

M. DEPOLO-F. FRACCAROLI-G. SARCHIELLI, *Work, Unemployment and psychological welfare*

The relationship between occupational condition and psychological well-being was examined in a longitudinal study of 115 young people (58 males; 57 females) belonging to two age groups (aged 17-19 and 22-24 years old). In the first time all interviewees were in search of permanent employment; in the second (conducted 18 months after the first) around one third of the interviewees had found steady jobs. The aim of the study was to examine: a) the subjects' various transitional paths from unemployment to work; b) the incidence of transitional paths on stability and change in the psychological well-being and in the affective attitude towards the future of the young people. The results show an improvement in psychological well-being only among those young people who had found permanent jobs congruent with their expectations.

F. FRACCAROLI, *The experience of unemployment and meanings of work: a longitudinal study.*

The relationship between unemployment and the meaning attributed to work is examined by carrying out a critical survey of recent psycho-social analyses of the topic. The paper then presents a longitudinal study of 115 young people (58 males and 57 females in two age groups: 17-19 and 22-24 years) with prolonged experience of searching job and with different patterns of work and non-work. The application of a structural equation (LISREL model) reveals substantial stability over time in the meaning of working. However, those who move from unemployment to work tend to increase the importance of intrinsic work aspects compared with the past.

A. BAUBION BROYE-J. CURIE-V. HAJJAR, *Interdependence and autonomy of work and extra-work activities: towards a systemic approach.*

The article reflects on the advisability of sharply distinguishing — as often happens in the social sciences — between working life and life outside work. It explores the possible contributions of empirical enquiry into the activities belonging to the various settings in which subjects construct their trajectories of socialisation. A theoretical model is described which takes account of the relations of interdependence and autonomy among these activities and settings, and some empirical results are presented which concern psychological reactions to unemployment.

M. COLASANTO, *Social policies and social theory.*

The question of social policies cannot be simply reduced to a matter of reorganization of the welfare state according to more rigorous economic and financial criteria. Social policies, as an occasion of societal self-reflexivity, are closely connected with social theory, especially with those paradigms which shape their development. That is why, according to the Author, the adequate reshaping of the social services cannot be produced unless new theoretical paradigms in social theory emerge.

I. COLOZZI, *Ethics and democracy: beyond the crisis of modern politics.*

The article moves from the discussion of the structural factors which are offering new legitimation to right-wing political movements whose aim is to break the nexus between democracy and emancipation. To cope with this challenge, the «new left» reacts, beyond Marx, by rediscovering its

ethical roots. However, this position is considered inadequate since it remains within the interpretative paradigm of modernity, which is derived from a strong illuministic approach. This explains why, paradoxically, in this situation postmodernism seems to be unbeatable. Though almost forgotten and much less diffused, is rather another way to interpret modernity which allows the reconciliation between democracy and emancipation in a realistic, not utopistic way. It is this position which is particularly discussed in the article.