

SUMMARIES

P. DONATI, *The growth of the third sector in the process of modernization.*

After the crisis of socialist societies, the neoliberal ideology seems to dominate the cultural and political debate. In fact, modernity itself is in disarray, in its utilitarian and individualistic version at least. This is because both marxism and liberalism do not recognize the role of intermediate social formations between the individual and the state. Recent international research on the Third Sector show that this perspective is to be abandoned: beyond Tocqueville, the Author suggests that nowadays it is this context that is possible to look for a way out to the present crisis. Only by creating a community of communities it will be possible — according to the Author — to avoid the disillusion towards democracy and the passage from a procedural to a substantive notion of this kind of political institution.

C. FORTUNA, *Tourism, authenticity and urban culture*

Tourism is a phenomenon which has been widely studied from a sociological point of view in recent years. The article reviews a large part of the sociological literature on the topic, focusing especially on urban and cultural tourism. Moving from the contributions offered by other components of contemporary sociological thought, the Author claims that tourism should be analyzed by keeping into account: *i*) recent transformation of capitalism; *ii*) the hegemony of visual culture and consumption; *iii*) symbolic universals and tourists' motivations. In the final part, tourism — as an expression of modernity and as a disordering element — is proposed as a factor which is potentially able to subvert identities.

R. BICHI, *Globalization and management: the expatriated managers.*

A way to analyze empirically the impact of the process of globalization is to study managers working abroad, who are absorbed more than others in the necessity to conjugate differentiation and integration, obliged by their role to cope with the challenges of construction and direction of global companies. This essay explains some issues connected with expatriates' life drawing upon the existing literature and empirical research. The Author suggests that the main tendency is towards the persistence of cultural differences instead of culture interlacement and the development of situations of «strangeness», instead of a new capacity of living with the «different».

P.L. DI GIORGI, *Max Weber and the Russia. On the deep structures of the Russian society.*

The article aims at analyzing the weberian study on the deep structures of the Russian societies at the beginning of the XX century. This is based on two outstanding articles Weber published in the «Archive für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik», based mainly on the German historical literature produced in the XIX century. Weber moves from a crucial question: what is historically specific of the Russian condition — that is what is vital, deeply embedded in this historical experience — and what is ahistorical — that is



artificial and not belonging to the Russian people? His answer is clear: the agrarian and rural community, the Orthodox church, the intelligencija.

R. FREITAS, *On fictional relations.*

New communication media are based on a paradox: they construct relational networks that are virtual as well as real. The Author discusses this hypothesis from a theoretical point of view and presents the main results of an empirical study concerning the comparison between two chat lines — a Brazilian one and Minitel in France. By this comparison, the Author is able to show that subjects easily mix reality and virtuality. A main example of this tendency is the relation between a man and a woman established by the mediation of a chat line.