

## SUMMARIES

M. AMBROSINI, *New actors between economy and society: the young craftsmen.*

The article focuses on a peculiar aspect of the Italian economic system: the persistence of a high rate of independent work (28% of the workforce), and in particular of a large artisan sector (1,300,000 firms). Then the author examines the reasons of this phenomenon, not only from the point of view of the demand of independent labour, but also from the point of view of the motives that push people to initiate an independent activity. In the second part, he presents the main results of a survey on a national sample of 1,000 craftsmen.

M. MAGATTI, *Ethical implications of economic action.*

The article focuses on the ethical implications of economic action in advanced societies. The social responsibility of the firm is usually analysed within two theoretical perspectives: the first stems from the notion of individual action and considers the conditions which can promote such an attitude; the second points to the institutional organisation and its relevance in spreading responsible behaviour within a market environment. Both these positions are criticised since they hide the crucial aspect which is at stake: the tension between ethical impulses and technical constraints, which is inevitable – and fruitful – in modern economies.

E. MORA, *Family, television and intergenerational relationship: the continuing negotiation.*

According to Meyrowitz, the presence of electronic media, especially that of television in the everyday settings of our home, re-shapes relationships among people and modifies structure of the median «generalised other». Starting from this point of view, the paper presents some findings of a qualitative research (an explorative approach) conducted through focus groups in family settings, viewing and commenting a piece of Italian fiction. The objective was to explore the communicative practices about values, pieces of common culture, existential questions arising among adolescents. We found different communicative patterns related to family structure (class, education, marital status, etc.). Furthermore different cognitive and moral competence in managing TV cultural models, differences which are related to generational status.

B. CATTARINUSI, *The roots of social behaviour: towards a sociology of emotions.*

Although some marginal interest in emotions can be found in the work of the founding fathers of sociology (Weber, Durkheim, Tonnies, etc.) it is only in the 1970s that the study of emotions becomes an identifiable branch in the area of the discipline. Different contemporary approaches to the study of emotions are then presented and briefly analysed. The second part of the article is focused on the study of some of the emotions that seem to have a strong relevance in the contemporary social system and modern lifestyle, such as trust, loneliness and fear. In the end the culture of

emotions is considered especially in the ways in which it is expressed by some of the most common means of communication.

G. SCIDA, *Development and crisis in East-Asia. A social balance with lights and shades.*

The paper offers a critical outline of the social and economical development pattern of Newly Industrializing Countries (NICs) in East-Asia. Of such a pattern are here presented the trade off between the market and the State role in the economic development along with the cultural values of human resources, functional to it. Then it offers some critical comments on NICs' delays about social and cultural promotion of human rights, as for instance the acquiescence towards the lack of democracy or the plague of child labour. In the end the paper questions about the future perspectives of Asian NICs and their trade relations, charged of social dumping, with Western countries.