

SUMMARIES

Z. BAUMAN, *Sociology in front of a new human situation.*

The interview to Zygmunt Bauman is divided into three broad parts. In the first one, the crucial passages in his intellectual trajectory are reconstructed – in particular, the authors and fields of reflection that he considers essential for the structuring of his own thought. In the second part, the questions focus on the status of contemporary sociology with some refers to the decline of the previous process of structuring commonly defined as «society», and with the emerging of a radically more individualised social context. The concluding part centres on the present social situation, in which our lives and scholarly endeavours are embedded.

Key words: post-modernity; responsibility; contemporary sociology; social change.

L. BOVONE, *From morals to communication? Sociology as account of accounts.*

The communicative turn of contemporary sociological theory has not to be read as a true position of indifference towards the moral instances which were central in classical approaches summarized by Parsons. The main thesis of the article is that the interest for moral problems does not take anymore the way of an interest for the intergenerational socialization process seen as a guarantee of a shared morality. From a comparative study of three very different contemporary authors – Goffman, Habermas and Bauman – we notice an emerging idea of society where nobody has the authority for teaching but everybody has good reasons for its choices. An ethical dualism is making its way, dividing universal principles from individual opinions. The result is a general emphasis on a communicative solution of problems of living together and, as regards the sociologist role, a particular stronger invitation to listen to the others, to bring out and collect new ideas for such a new society that we are not even able to describe. In this sense, we can conclude that the communicative turn does not exclude both a moral interest and a prescriptive indication.

Key words: morals, communication, socialization, sociologist role.

C. COMINELLI, *Philippine immigrant workers and domestic job between opportunities and limits.*

This article reflects on the relationship between immigrants and work. It refers to a specific community, whose presence in the local domestic sector is characterised in a very particular way. The Philippine community bears particular traits of working and fitting into society such as the high feminine connotation, the cohesion of the internal network, the colonisation of a specific niche on the labour market, namely the domestic sector and family care, and the high concentration in local contexts. The considerations illustrated are the result of empiric research carried out in two urban areas in Lombardy, Milan and Brescia, throughout the spring and summer of 2001. This study gathers and analyses quantitative data from Istat, Home Office, the Rome Caritas, the Ismu foundation in Milan, and qualitative data collected through semistructured interviews with native and Philippine key infor-

ments in Brescia and Milan. The article ends underlining advantages and limits of an integration which is subaltern and protected.

Key words: immigrants, local labour market, Philippine community, social network.

M. TRAVAGLIATI, *Émile Durkheim and the death penalty*

Intended as a particular form of punishment, the death penalty displays an inherent social dimension – the traits of a social fact – in that it constitutes the attempt of a certain society to protect its distinctive way of life, codes of meaning and collective bases. From this standpoint, Durkheim's concept of «collective conscience» appears to be of paramount importance for framing the issue theoretically. Collective conscience, in fact, is – in Durkheim's model – the moral focus of every society, by means of which its collective «presence» gets sacred. Exactly here we may see the social role of punishments and therefore of the death penalty: where is a strong collective conscience, there we find also an adequate and correspondent penalty; in this light, the deep sense of such a practice lies in its capacity of permitting reactivation of society by public vengeance. In conclusion, the death penalty can be conceived as a social dimension which is intrinsically characterized, first, by moral features and foundations and then – generally – by juridical/judicial outcomes. This could be one of the factors enabling us to explain why today this topic is at the heart of an intense public debate going on in many areas of the world.

Key words: death penalty; social punishment; social protection; collective conscience.