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401 Editorial [G] | Beat Fux

403 Risks and Uncertainty: Strategies of Swiss Families about the Mad Cow Crisis [F] | Claudine Burton-Jeangros

Considering that risk is a social construction, this article examines how the public faced the uncertainty and risks associated to the mad cow crisis. Quantitative and qualitative data collected in Switzerland measured representations built around this risk and the impact of the crisis on food habits. On the representational level, the risk is considered as possible, but since it remained abstract and surrounded by uncertainty, it is not truly feared. On the practical level, the important adoption of individual measures for health protection seems to correspond mostly to a need to tame risk, rather than to a strategy aiming at eliminating danger. The heterogeneity of lay logics is emphasized through an empirical typology linking the representations elaborated and the practices adopted by individuals.

425 Arguments of Usefulness and Acceptance of Video Surveillance: An Experimental Study [G] | Ralf Hansmann and Roland W. Scholz

A survey concerning acceptance of video surveillance systems at waste collection sites in Winterthur showed that a majority (76,5%) evaluate these devices positively whereas 16% rather reject them. A experimental study of this issue showed that information about positive effects of surveillance increased acceptance, whereas general information about the large spreading of such measures did not. A consideration of positive and negative effects of the surveillance appears thus central for their evaluation. Analyses of acceptance of such measures should consider therefore functionality, problem situation and setting. The scientific analysis and the communication of negative effects of surveillance appear necessary, in order to make a balance possible between pro and cons.

435 (Dis)credited Concerns? Fears of Risky Food among the French [F] |

Patrick Peretti-Watel

Some sociologists claim that contemporary risks are especially feared by an educated elite, where as others assert that such fears are unreasonable and expressed by vulnerable and unskilled people. Concerning fears of risky food, quantitative data from a French telephone survey lead to different three response profiles. Only one of them match with the portray of uneducated and poor people, frightened by many different risks and very vulnerable. Furthermore, their vulnerability can be considered as an indicator of a perceived exposure to risk, so that their fears are not necessarily unreasonable.

453 Evolutions of the Industrial Relations and “Refondation Sociale” in France: Material for a Socio-Historical Analysis [F] | Michel Lallement

In France, the so-called “Refondation sociale” has been launched in 1999 by the Medef, the most important employers’ organisation. The “Refondation sociale” structures today a large part of the debates between the actors of the French system of industrial relations. One could not understand the stakes of the reforms currently in progress without analysing the basic transformations which burden the model set up after the second world war. Two main trends can be noted: a movement of institutionalization of the employers’ and trade-unions’ collective actions on the one side, a process of “desinstitutionnalisation” of the industrial relations on the other side. Such a dynamics makes it possible to clarify the existence of inertias which, even in the employers’ world, are likely to strongly limit the advent and the importance of the reforms promoted by the Medef. It also explains why the transformations of the French industrial relations have already gone much deeper than the different discourses which justify the current social changes may show.

475 Situation of Women and Men Concerning Professional Measures of Readjustment and of Rents in the Invalidity Insurance [F] | Diana de la Rosa

This article deals with the result of an inquiry led by the Office of the Invalidity Insurance in Geneva. It permits us to define discrimination against women, the conditions of the attribution of rents and professional measures, and, finally, the representation of women in the system of the Invalidity Insurance. The methods of evaluation of the invalidity which distinguish the economic activity on the one hand and the activities related to the education or the family on the other hand, play an important role the structuration of the differences observed between women and men. The applications of these methods of evaluation provoke a more general debate on the different forms of discrimination against women. Finally, the article also deals with different ways of possible reforms.

- 505 **Psychiatric Conceptions of “Social Phobia”: A Comparative Perspective [E] |**
 Alain Samson
 This article analyzes cross-national differences in the psychiatric conceptions of “Social Phobia” (“Social Anxiety Disorder”). A description of Swiss and American psychiatric differences and discourses, including the history of Social Phobia in diagnostic manuals, serves as the context for a quantitative and qualitative analysis of a survey administered to a small sample (n = 63) of Swiss and American psychiatrists. An exploration of the data suggests some differences in the way in which SP/SAD has come to be conceived of across nations and cohorts, largely influenced by changes in the psychiatric discourse on neuroses. These differences are discussed in terms of emotional and behavioral, as well as symptomatological and etiological conceptual dimensions. A possible effect of the labels “social anxiety disorder” versus “social phobia” on conceptions of SP/SAD is also investigated.
- 529 **Is there a “Swiss Model for the Integration of Immigrants”? [F] |**
 Gérard de Rham
 The author shows the existence of a Swiss model of immigrant’s integration. It is an implicit and contradictory model, without guarantee of rights, based on a hierarchical system, where the free will of those who are already citizens allow those who are defined as foreigners to obtain the status of citizen. In that sense, the real model of integration of immigrants is not a republican one, in the sense of the French model, but rather a neo-patrician or post-corporatist one.
- 547 **From Artistic Vocation to “Talent” for Music [F] | Papadopoulos Kalliopi**
 Are there differences between musicians and other artists? Can we speak of musical vocation? The answers to these questions are interesting because the music and its representatives enrich the sociological reflexion. We comment here on the concept of “talent” and we describe the conditions of its accomplishment and management inside the family context and between professionals. The article concludes with the belief that family and professional groups both work on the assumption of their musical talent.
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