Abstracts

The past as story: the narrative structure of historical films
Willem Hesling

The narrative formulas feature films employ in portraying the past, have three important implications for the kind of history that is produced. Because characters play a central role in film stories, they present a past that is to be understood mainly in terms of individual actions and motives. Moreover, in their representation of the past, films refer more to each other than to that past itself. An important consequence of this intertextual mechanism is the development of a 'filmic-historical reality' that can easily extricate itself from a 'scientific historical reality'. Finally, this impression of reality generated by the classical film story can easily lead to an 'objectivation' and 'homogenisation' of historical reality.

Key words: film, history, narrativity

Influence of academic science education on the perception of science by young adults
Sofie Van den Bossche and Jean-Pierre De Greve

With a focus on two specific initiatives concerning the popularisation of science towards young adults by universities, a study has been undertaken about the perception of science by young adults. First, the senders were analysed to find out how they are organised and what their activities are. Second, a random sample of young adults was interviewed regarding their perception of science. The aim was to find transformational effects that occurred as a result of the specific activities of the universities. The conclusion is that such activities have little or no influence on the perception of science by young adults. Their perception of science has clearly been defined by other media.

Key words: young adults, science, universities, popularisation of science, perception

Sex differences in interaction behaviour: a swing in explanatory paradigms
Agnetha Broos

Men and women communicate in different ways. Their interaction patterns differ at both the verbal and the nonverbal level. Next to descriptive analysis, research has also aimed to explain sex differences in interaction behaviour. The oldest explanatory paradigm, 'the dominance approach', considers women as a suppressed group. In this view, sex differences in communication behaviour can be attributed to male dominance and female subordination. However, in the past 10 years, the dominance approach is being questioned and is increasingly replaced by the 'difference approach'. This model emphasises the idea that men and women are socialised in two different subcultures and consequently develop different interaction patterns.

Key words: sex differences, interaction patterns, dominance approach, difference approach