

ABSTRACTS

CHANGES IN MATERIALISM AND POST-MATERIALISM (M. Croon & T. Heinen)

In this paper we investigated whether the attitudes of the Dutch population concerning the value orientations distinguished by Inglehart have changed. In a cross-sectional research design, in which data from random samples from the Dutch populations at three moments (the years 1974, 1979 and 1985) were used, we show that a marked change has indeed occurred into the direction of a materialistic value orientation that gives an high priority to economic stability and security. We made use of data-analytical procedures that were based on log-linear and latent class models that were specifically designed for the analysis of data consisting of rankings.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL MEANING (I. Glorieux)

It is often argued that work provides for an essential connection between the individual and the wider social circles in which he/she participates. Labor connects an individual with social ends, gives him a feeling of utility, a sense of duty and responsibility and it is a frame for social alliances. No other institution in our society, so it is said, would provide to the same extent for a sense of social connectedness.

Alongside this position an alternative approach is explored that predicts a shift in the way the unemployed orient towards the social world. It is assumed that the unemployed will attach more social meaning to other activities than labor.

Both approaches are tested by way of a time budget study in which, besides the classic parameters (activity, timing, duration, ...), the meaning of each activity is also measured. The survey was held by a group of employed (101) and unemployed (121) people who were matched on a great number of characteristics.

ATTITUDES ON DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE AND INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE NETHERLANDS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN 1976 AND 1987 (P.L.J. Hermkens & P.J. van Wijngaarden)

This article deals with a replication of a Dutch survey conducted in 1976, inquiring into the criteria people use to judge the fairness of income differences. The data were collected in 1987 (national survey sample of 795 individuals of the Dutch

population between 18 and 70 years old). The analysis showed that the criteria that justified income differences appeared to be criteria that an individual could influence himself, such as his own diligence or the characteristics of his work. Furthermore the occupational status and the presence of paid employment were considered as being important.

The analysis also made it evident that, from the point of view of fairness, the existing income differences were found to be too large. The respondents had a strong preference for reducing incomes differences in The Netherlands.

When the findings of 1976 and 1987 are compared, little changes appear in the judgement of fairness of income differences and in attitudes on income inequality.

ACTIVISM AND POLITICAL VALUES 1974-1985 IN THE NETHERLANDS (F.J. Heunks)

Survey-data from 1974, 1979 and 1985 have been compared in an investigation of changes in the Dutch political culture. As expected because of the economic recession and a hardened political climate, postmaterialism has become less popular, particularly among the youngest people. However, a leftist orientation as well as unconventional political behaviour at least recovered after 1979. Postmaterialism remained associated after 1979 with new left characteristics such as political efficacy, whereas a leftist orientation did not. Gradually, both became more associated with old left characteristics such as political distrust. In all three years three comparable structures of mobilization are perceivable. Their contents changed gradually. Conventional mobilization tended to become constricted to partisanship. At the same time its élan was taken over by the factor of autonomous democratic citizenship. Within unconventional mobilization the emphasis moved from postmaterialism towards political dissatisfaction. These tendencies may be interpreted as an erosion of old structures, a proces of liberalization and a widening societal split. The modernization process continued but interacted with the hardened climate of Dutch society.

POLICY RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF TENSION BETWEEN THE ACCUMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF KNOWLEDGE: THE DESIGN OF APPLIED RESEARCH (J.M. Hutjes)

In a previous article (*Sociologisch Jaarboek*, 1985), we observed that a critical contemplation is necessary with respect to the balance between, on the one hand, current expectations of policy and society towards policy research, and on the other, the scientific standards to be used. This article presents a review of the major developments in the field of applied re-

search methodology during the past fifteen years. One important question here is the increasing diversification of types of research questions (aimed at social problems, the design and/or implementation of policy), of intended products of knowledge (research for diagnostic or evaluative purposes or aimed at future developments), of the scientific approach used (quantitative or qualitative design) and also of strategies for implementation (dissemination of knowledge, recommendations or process support). Through such diversification, it will be possible to find a more balanced answer to the above question.

SUBSISTENCE MINIMUM IN BELGIUM: A SUMMARY OF RESEARCH RESULTS (D. Luyten)

This paper contains a summary of the results of research concerning the population of welfare receivers (receivers of the Subsistence Level Income) in Belgium. In this research that population and its evolution are described and analyzed for three sample points (29/2/1976 - 28/2/1981 - 28/2/1986). The significant findings are the great increase of that population and its rejuvenation. Also, the differences between municipalities are described and explained by social factors. Urbanisation seems to be an important factor of explanation. However, the paper argues that some of the differences of these population in the Flemish and the Walloon part of Belgium can not be explained by all factors. Proposals are made for other explanatory variables.

THE PROBLEM OF BEING YOUNG (M. Matthijssen)

The problem of being young as a sociological concept can be understood in terms of generational perspective. A generational perspective is the specific awareness of social reality and of social problems, that arises from the first reflection of a new generation of adolescents - as newcomers - on social reality and predominant social problems.

By investigating the generational perspective of successive generations the sociology of youth may contribute to the reconstruction of the logic of societal evolution.

This article offers an example by analyzing the generational perspectives of three successive generations in the Dutch population since 1945. Empirical data from surveys on the social-cultural orientation of Dutch youngsters indicate a trend of traditional cultural models in four crucial life-domains: religion, family, politics and labour. The author interprets this trend as an ongoing process of transition from a commanding to a negotiating society. A specification of this process in three phases is given by analyzing the generational perspectives of

young people in the fifties, the late sixties and seventies, and the eighties.

IN ILLO TEMPORE...

THE LISBON EARTHQUAKE (1755) AND THE TIME PERCEPTION OF PORTUGUESE PRIESTS AND RURAL POPULATION (A. Rentes Florêncio)

On 20 January 1756 Marquis of Pombal sent an order to all parish priests in Portugal. The minister wanted them to answer 13 questions about the damages of the Great Earthquake of the first November 1755. Lisbon was left nearly devastated, but what about the countryside?

The author, who is interested in understanding the structure and contents of the world views of those priests and 'their' rural populations, looked closely at the reported answers concerning the 'when' aspects of the disaster.

Because a world view typically must include some answers not only to a 'when?' but also to a 'where?' and to a 'why?', the author went on to ask about the ways priests saw the earthquake as something you can (re)place and try to explain (where did it come from? why did it happen?).

The collected answers to all these questions are surprisingly rich.

The analysis carried out suggests among other things

- that the social construction of temporality can be fruitfully understood as being part of a larger discursive activity that links the construction of place with notions of causality;
- that it would be better to avoid the use of the concept world view (or mentality) when referring to large categories of social actors;
- that it is highly incorrect to suppose that the mid eighteenth century (Portuguese) priests were totally unfamiliar with or at odds with the 'enlightened' world views of the despotism and of the "philosophers".

INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NETHERLANDS: SETTING OUT FOR EXPLICIT RELATIONSHIPS... AND THEN? (A.J.P.M. van der Avort)

During the last 25 years, the tendency to arrange one's intimate relationship according to traditional standardized patterns has clearly diminished. A new model for partner-relationships is arising, containing very few mixed standards and rules. In this model independence, balance of power and personal intimacy prevail. The relationship is moulded through negotiation and deliberation. The reverse of such an explicit relationship consists of the effort required to make arrangements: it is a "greedy" kind of relationship. It absorbs human energy. It allows partners a great amount of freedom, but demands in turn a considerable communicative investment. Present-

ly, this model for partner-relationships can especially be found among persons with a higher social status. Whether or not it will become widespread in the entire population depends on various factors, such as improvement of the social position of women, opportunities enabling the combination of paid employment and parenthood for both partners, the modernization of the marital institution, and last but not least the gradual development of routines and standards concerning negotiating in an intimate relationship.

WOMEN'S STUDIES AND THEORY. ON FEMINIST AMBIVALENCE AND THEORY CONSTRUCTION IN WOMEN'S STUDIES (A. van Drenth)

Two professors in the field of womenstudies have recently formulated their ambivalences about developments in this new area of social sciences. One of them is troubled by the abstraction of the process of theorybuilding, the other by the 'esoteric' of feminist topics in social sciences. In this article the main option is to place these ambivalences against the background of the debates on feminist theory in the Netherlands.

First a brief outline will be given of the history of thinking about the position of women since the second feminist wave. This development is characterized by a growing critic on the universalistic and monocausal analysis, pretending to account for the oppression of women.

The goal of a general theory of femininity is more and more replaced by a reorientation on general social theory. In this process problems from the general social theory became issues in the feminist debate. These issues are the concept of power, the constitution of the subject and the role of history. How much of ambivalence there may be, it is clear that in the feminist debate nobody can do anymore without taking a theoretical position.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES, NEW PATTERNS OF LABOUR-ORGANISATION, NEW PATTERNS OF LABOUR-RELATIONS? (G. Van Hootegem)

The investigation out of which this article grew, was set up to map the growing flexibility of labour. Twenty Flemish companies belonging to three sectors were drawn into the investigation.

First of all the profoundness of the developments concerning functional flexibility was examined. It was determined that important shifts do occur, but new labour-organisational paradigms aren't so wide-spread as generally supposed. A lot of companies stick to the Tayloristic-Fordistic patterns of labour-organisation. Multiple machine-operation and task-rotation are trends of frequent occurrence, though.

Concerning the numerical flexibility a distinction is drawn between temporal and contractual flexibility. Temporal flexibility is obtained when labour-time and production-time are disconnected. Almost all companies use this possibility, but to a widely varying extent. The situation on the consuming market seems to play an important part in that.

Contractual flexibility can be obtained by variations in the number and the kind of the labour-contracts. It is striking that some companies never change their number of employees, whereas in other companies the contractual flexibility is a constant in their staff-policy.

Relating those three sorts of flexibility, a growing segmentation between high and low skilled labour is perceptible.

PERSONALIA

M. Croon (1947) studeerde psychologie aan de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Is sinds 1976 verbonden aan de vakgroep Statistiek en Methoden en Technieken van Onderzoek van de Katholieke Universiteit Brabant (Tilburg). Zijn onderzoekactiviteiten richten zich op geavanceerde statistische methoden voor het sociaal en gedragswetenschappelijk onderzoek en op schaal- en meettheorie.

I. Glorieux (1958) is assistent aan de Vrije Universiteit van Brussel. Zijn interesse gaat vooral uit naar de sociologie van de tijd en de problematiek van de werkloosheid. Momenteel is hij bezig met een studie rond tijdsstructuren.

T. Heinen (1955) studeerde sociologie aan de Katholieke Universiteit Brabant (Tilburg). Is sinds 1978 verbonden aan de vakgroep Statistiek en Methoden en Technieken van onderzoek aan deze universiteit. Bereidt momenteel een proefschrift voor over latente klassen en latente trekkenmodellen voor het meten van attitudes.

P. Hermkens is socioloog en werkzaam bij de vakgroep Planning en Beleid, Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen, Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht. Promoveerde in 1983 op het proefschrift 'Oordelen over de rechtvaardigheid van inkomens; verslag van een vignetonderzoek'. Verricht onderzoek op het terrein van verdelende rechtvaardigheid en inkomensverdeling.

F.J. Heunks (1936), doctor sociale wetenschappen, socioloog aan de Katholieke Universiteit Brabant, vakgroep bestuur en organisatie, postbus 90153, 5000 LE Tilburg, Nederland.

J.M. Hutjes (1939) is werkzaam als hoofd van de themagroep Methoden van het Instituut voor Toegepaste Sociale wetenschappen in Nijmegen. Voordien werkzaam als wetenschappelijk medewerker in de Vakgroep Methoden en Technieken van de Katholieke Universiteit en als hoofd van de sectie Welzijnszorg en Volksgezondheid van het ITS. Publiceerde onder meer de studie "Sociaal-wetenschappelijk onderzoek in het overheidsbeleid" (1983) en "Beleidsonderzoek in de jaren tachtig, een poging tot een balans" (Sociologisch Jaarboek, 1985).

D. Luyten (1953), socioloog, is als wetenschappelijk medewerker verbonden aan de Afdeling 'Sociologie van arbeid en sociaal beleid' van het Departement Sociologie van de KULeuven. Zijn aandacht gaat uit naar de sociologie van het welzijnsbeleid en hij bestudeert de rol van de OCMW's in de armenzorg.

M. Matthijssen studeerde politieke en sociale wetenschappen aan de Katholieke Universiteit van Leuven en promoveerde in 1958 op 'De intellectuele emancipatie der katholieken van Nederland'. Van 1965-1976 was hij hoofd van de sector Onderzoek van Onder-

wijs van SISWO. Sedert 1981 is hij hoogleraar in de Sociale Pedagogiek aan de Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht. Publiceerde onder meer Klasse-onderwijs, Sociologie van het onderwijs, Deventer, 1971, De elite en de mythe, Deventer, 1982 en De ware aard van balen, Groningen, 1986.

A. Rentes Florêncio (1949) studeerde Sociologie en Wijsbegeerte. Hij is werkzaam in de centrale bibliotheek van de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam. Als toegevoegd lid van de Faculteit der Historische en Kunstwetenschappen werkt hij, onder toezicht van Prof. Dr. W. Th. M. Frijhoff, aan een dissertatie over facetten van mentaliteit in de Portugese samenleving van de tweede helft van de XVIII eeuw.

A.J.P.M. van der Avort (1957), Dr., is verbonden aan de Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht, Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen en verricht onderzoek op het terrein van de gezinssociologie.

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