

Summaries

Anton Blok

The Narcissism of Minor Differences

This essay explores the theoretical implications of Freud's notion of 'the narcissism of minor differences' - the idea that it is precisely the minor differences between people who are otherwise alike that form the basis of feelings of strangeness and hostility between them. A comparative *tour d'horizon* shows that minor differences underlie a wide range of conflicts: from relatively benign forms of *campanilismo* to bloody civil wars. Freud's tentative statements link up with the insights of Simmel, Durkheim, Lévi-Strauss, Dumong, Elias, and Girard. Especially helpful is what Bourdieu writes in *Distinction*: social identity lies in difference, and difference is asserted against what is closest, which represents the greatest threat. An outline of a general theory of power and violence should include a consideration of the narcissism of minor differences, also because its counterpart - hierarchy and large differences - makes for relative stability and peace.

Frank van Gemert

'You are going to write down that Moroccans are bad aren't you?' *Methodological obstacles and cultural origin*

Ethnographers researching young Moroccans, often find it hard to recruit respondents. Moreover, there is reason to believe that respondent's answers are not always to be trusted. The marginal position of criminal youngsters cannot serve as the only explanation, because non-criminal Moroccans turn out to confront researchers with the same methodological problems. In order to come to a more appropriate explanation, cultural elements must be added. It is argued, that since for Moroccans, the distinction between us and them, honor and especially distrust, play an important role in their everyday behavior, these elements can also account for the methodological obstacles researchers encounter.

Christian van 't Hof

Art and Anger in Public Places

A constructivist approach to artistic controversies and the destruction of art

In Holland quite a number of sculptures and other works of art in public places have been subject to vandalism or simply been severely damaged. Between 1980 en 1995 at least 160 cases were reported. Especially when the work of art is somehow controversial people wonder as to the motives of the perpetrators. The ensuing discussions indicate that journalists, artists, art advisors, local politicians and angry civilians tend to hold very diverse opinions. But scientists also offer a variety of interpretations of the destruction of art. By confronting these different perspectives and following some of the controversies very closely, hidden values and meanings about art in public places become visible.

Erik Snel

Sociology in the Countryside

Post-war sociology used to present itself as a typical intervention science. Sociologists did not just want to understand the world, they also wanted to bring about change. This article describes what became of these ideals and pretences in practice. The article offers an historical analysis to the social policy in the so-called Dutch development areas in the 1950s and 60s. At the time sociologists played an important part in the policy making. The development areas at hand were usually agrarian regions with a high unemployment rate for which the government developed a special industrialisation programme. An active social policy was to create the social limiting conditions or, as the case may be, limit the social consequences. A reconstruction of the social policy carried out in three villages in the region shows that sociological knowledge and ideas did indeed reach the local level but that these ideas were interpreted in other ways than originally meant. In other words, one finds that in everyday practice scientific ideas get to be *translated*. This article distinguishes three specific translation mechanisms: selective use of scientific insights, fitting ideas into existing organisational patterns, and finally, specification or radical rewriting of scientific notions and results.

J. Dronkers & S. Hillege

Membership of Boards of Student Fraternities between 1920 and 1960 and Access to Dutch elites between 1960 en 1980

This article examines to what extent members of boards of three types of male fraternities (corpora, orthodox-protestant, catholic) have greater access to Dutch

elites. The study covers different types of elite position during the period 1960 to 1980 and to all 3775 members of boards of these three types of fraternities between 1920 and 1960. The aim of this article is to establish whether the trends in mobility found for the general populations of European societies in the 20th century can also be found for the opportunities of these board members of fraternities to enter elite positions, as a follow-up of Dronkers & Hillege (1995). The results indicate that the importance of board membership of these three types of fraternities did not diminish during the period studied, nor did the importance of other ascribed characteristics, like being a member of the nobility. The hard core of the results of the 1995 article by Dronkers & Hillege are confirmed by this broader study, which includes different types of fraternities and more cases. However, the importance of the corpora fraternities for access to Dutch elites is larger than that of the orthodox-protestant and catholic fraternities. These results support the thesis that Dutch selective fraternities fulfill the role of selective universities of France, UK and the USA.