

Summaries

On time in Bombay

by Lodewijk Brunt

In this contribution the monochronic time regime of the local railways in Bombay are contrasted with the polychronic time regime in which many inhabitants of Bombay spend their everyday life. It is often thought that the globalisation process makes for a uniform time regime all over the world, based on the Western standardised clock time. Very similar to the way in which the clock time has conquered the Western world during the period of the industrial revolution in the course of the nineteenth century. At that time especially the railways appeared to be a strong force in bringing this new standard about. Provincial and local ways of measuring time had to make way for the seemingly universal clock time. Are we witnessing a corresponding process on a global scale? It is argued that as far as the railways are concerned the polychronic regime of Bombay has been perfectly capable of absorbing modern, Western standards. Both systems can exist next to each other in relative harmony even after many years of co-existence. On the basis of this experience we can perhaps conclude that the globalisation process will not be capable of radically undermining the Bombay time regime.

Memory as metaphor for the city? Some notes on a many-sided metaphor

by Dieteke van der Ree

Is memory the latest organic metaphor for the city? In comparison with other organic metaphors, it is more versatile: it allows analysis, not only of the life of the city, but of that of its inhabitants as well. Research among a heterogeneous group of city-dwellers in a late 19th-century Amsterdam neighbourhood shows that the past serves as a mental point of reference particularly when touched off by some occurrence in the present. Furthermore, memories of the local past appear to be seen as a particular kind of knowledge, which is entrusted to rememberers in order to socially secure the city-dwellers' access to the past.

Participation and the formation of social capital: An exploration of the causal relation between participation and social attitude

by Marc Hooghe

This paper is based on the results of a face-to-face survey (n=1.340), which is representative for the Flemish population. The main feature of the survey is that it contains a host of indicators for participation behaviour, thus allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the

relation between participation in voluntary associations and the formation of social capital. In the analysis we use not only data on the number of associations, but also on the time spent in associations and the various kinds of organisations. Previous memberships are shown to have enduring affects on attitudes and feelings of political empowerment, which offers new evidence for the debate on the causality of the correlation between associational involvement and social capital. A tentative conclusion would be that this effect relies both on a process of selective recruitment, as well as on a socialisation effect, occurring simultaneously and thus reinforcing one another.