

The current state of development sociology, in The Netherlands and elsewhere
by B.F. Galjart

Is development sociology an academic discipline in its own right or should it form part of, multidisciplinary, development studies as far as theory-building is concerned? And what contributions, if any, can it offer to practical problems and policy? Development is seen as a long term evolutionary process, revolving around labour productivity, with necessary but not concomitant changes in other institutional areas. Functional equivalents are only possible to a limited degree. Sociological theory should be about the regularities of the enduring conflict over the distribution of life chances, but for this a comparative, interdisciplinary and long term perspective is necessary. Also for at least one kind of applied research, a comparative perspective is needed. Area specialization can be dysfunctional in this respect. Although interdisciplinary knowledge is essential, a good library is regarded as a better means to acquire this than a multidisciplinary institute.

Social reproduction in Czechoslovakia and The Netherlands. A comparative study
by Sjerp van der Ploeg

In this research the effect of differences in political-economic systems on social reproduction is analyzed. Czechoslovakia and The Netherlands, countries with highly different postwar political-economic developments, are compared in order to trace the effects of changes in these systems on the mobility process. Data consist of national samples from 1978 (Czechoslovakia) and 1982 (The Netherlands). Analysis showed that relations between social background, education and occupation in Czechoslovakia and The Netherlands differed. However these differences were constant over time, so they could not be attributed to differences in political-economic development.

Why the Dutch agree or disagree with affirmative action
by W. de Jong, C.N. Masson and M. Verkuyten

This article sets out to examine the question why Dutch people are pro or contra affirmative action programs. Several explanations are being distinguished and tested. These include: racial affect; political orientation; opinion about labourmarket mechanism; cultural anomie; contact with ethnic minorities; sex and age. The first and the last two have an independent effect on affirmative action attitudes. There was also an interaction-effect with socio-economic status. For the low SES, racial affect was the only important factor. For the high SES, however, the opinion about labourmarket mechanism was important.