

### **Occupational prestige ladders and country characteristics, an international comparative investigation**

by Herman Sixma and Wout Ultee

This paper raises the question to what extent a country's occupational prestige ladder is influenced by its economic development and political regime. This question is answered by a comparison of ladders for twenty industrial nations. In a multi-variate analysis it is shown that the correlation between the ladders for pairs of countries is larger when countries are more similar in economic development and in political regime. Another analysis shows that, after controlling for economic development, differences in prestige score for manual and non-manual occupations are smallest in communist nations and largest in conservative ones, countries with social-democratic government having a position in between. A similar conclusion is obtained for differences in prestige scores for skilled manual occupations and routine non-manual occupations.

### **Dutch Unions of Junkies**

by W.M. de Jong and W.J. van Noort

In this article the Dutch unions of junkies (*junkiebonden*) are described and analyzed. Although drug users have a marginal status in the community and can hardly be organized, tens of *junkiebonden* have been founded in the Netherlands. Some of them have not only tried to influence the policies of the city-councils, but have succeeded in mobilizing their constituency, too. The authors show which factors determine the participation of drug users in the activities of the '*junkiebonden*'.

### **The construction of a psychiatric case**

by Tony Hak

In this paper, psychiatry's judgement of a patient is understood not as a judgement of the *behavior* of the client as such but rather as a reformulation of *accounts* given by the patient and others. On the basis of a report from a practice of emergency psychiatry, a textsociological analysis is presented of how, in that text, a psychiatric judgement is constituted by reformulating and transforming the accounts of the patient and of others, and how, consequently, these reformulations are put into a 'psychiatric' context.

This analysis of the psychiatric process of reformulation and contextualization suggests that Garfinkel's thesis that a 'literal description' of sociological evidence is not possible, is valid only in the case of description of *behavior*. However, a 'literal description' of *textual* processes is possible. This implies that, because of the fact that many societal practices (like politics, education, law and the media) are of a textual kind, a lot of sociological evidence can be described literally.