

'The failure of the soft approach'. Informalizing and control in public transportation by Lodewijk Brunt and Kees Bruin

In the sixties and seventies the Dutch Railway Company responded to the increasing popularity of private transportation by taking all kinds of measures ensuring its accessibility for the public. When this process of 'informalizing' was at its height in the beginning of the seventies, the concept of the Family Railway was pushed. Together with the guards, all travellers were supposed to constitute one big, happy community, where all sorts of behaviour were permitted and encouraged. At the same time the dark side of this process began to show. It took the form of aggression, frauds and vandalism. Seemingly as a reaction, a process of formalizing began to take shape at the end of the decade. The image of Family Railway was shattered and people demanded stricter social control. We are at the crossing of these two contradictory trends. We can describe what is happening, but can we also explain it?

Localism and cosmopolitanism among Dutch burgomasters: an exploration by H. van Goor and G.M. Breembroek

In this paper we take the concepts of localism and cosmopolitanism as developed by R. K. Merton as a starting point. Based on their massmedia behavior (reading habits) a fourfold typology of localism and cosmopolitanism for a sample of Dutch burgomasters ($N = 55$) was constructed. We studied the relationships between these four orientations and three types of variables: (1) career, background and contextual variables; (2) memberships and contacts; (3) attitudes towards growth. The analysis shows a number of differences between the four orientational types, especially between the cosmo-locals on the one hand and the 'pure' local and cosmopolitan types on the other. The cosmo-locals distinguish themselves by a faster career, a higher geographic mobility, a greater number of memberships and contacts of various kinds and a more favourable attitude towards economic growth. This last point also holds for the 'pure' locals. These results suggest that the cosmo-locals represent a powerful and successful type of burgomaster. In addition we can conclude that the distinction between the four orientational types is useful and interesting as it indicates differences between local officials in strategies of and bases for power and influence.

Sociography and the colonies overseas by H.J. Heeren

This article presents an overview of the attention given to colonial social studies by Dutch

social scientists in the period before World War II. Both in Amsterdam and in Utrecht attention was given to these types of studies, but among the Amsterdam sociographers the field was broader. Four main topics of interest can be indicated: colonization of tropical areas by white settlers; estate versus native agriculture; industrialization and modernization. Common characteristic of the Amsterdam studies was that they took population growth as their starting point; while in Utrecht the geographical factors predominated. Although most authors accepted the colonial system, the majority of the studies provided rich empirical material on a variety of subjects. Theoretical depth was lacking, however.

Luciano Mecacci

Signalement van het brein

Vertaling: Marguerite Seton



Over het algemeen bestudeert de wetenschap het menselijk brein alsof het een computer is, een standaardbrein. Materiaal uit de geschiedenis van de mens, de antropologie, de psychopathologie, onderzoeken naar hersenletsels bij grote kunstenaars en bij mensen die tot verschillende culturen behoren laten echter zien dat het door de wetenschap geconstrueerde doorsneebrein niet bestaat. De Italiaanse psycholoog Luciano Mecacci maakt dit duidelijk aan de hand van een keur van voorbeelden – Leonardo da Vinci, Beethoven, Freud, Einstein, een Japanner, een astronaut, een atleet en anderen. Individuele en culturele verschillen kunnen niet langer genegeerd worden, wil men de organisatie van het menselijk brein in zijn volle verscheidenheid in kaart brengen.

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