
Summaries

Muslim-fundamentalistic women in discussion

by Joke van Reenen

In the western world the veiling of muslim women is often considered a symbol of their oppression. However, nowadays many islamic women embrace fundamentalistic ideologies and deliberately veil themselves.

During her anthropological fieldwork in a small town in Tunisia, Joke van Reenen discussed male-female relationships with a girl who belonged to a group of muslim-fundamentalistic women. Each Sunday afternoon these women gather in the mosque and discuss women's issues from an islamic point of view. To them not Islam itself, but precisely the neglect of islamic rules, is the main cause of the actual inferior position of many Tunisian women. They seem to use their religion as a means and a strategy to ameliorate their position. The main aim of this article is to outline some of their ideas. Besides these ideas will be tentatively related to the sociological context in which they occur.

Journalism, sociology and social reality

by Godfried Engbersen, Ed van de Beek en Romke van der Veen

Journalists are well-known for their criticism of sociology and sociological research. In this article the hypothesis that journalists are better sociologists than sociologists themselves – *their pretention* – will be tested. This hypothesis is confronted with the results of a research-project by the authors into the way newswriters have written about riots in Amsterdam on April 30th 1980 (the inauguration of Queen Beatrix). An analysis of the news concerning these riots and a number of interviews with journalists made them reject this hypothesis.

The naive-empiricist conception of reality and the preoccupation with the so-called 'institutionalized reality' of journalists do have far-reaching consequences for their description of social reality. These descriptions and the explanation of that reality by journalists are seen as inadequate and too superficial to give sufficient support to the hypothesis.