

## Summeries

### **Het Instituut voor Sociaal Onderzoek van het Nederlandse Volk**

by Jeroen Winkels

Het Instituut voor Sociaal Onderzoek van het Nederlandse Volk (ISONEVO), which was founded by H. N. ter Veen (the successor of S. R. Steinmetz) in 1940, was one of the first institutes for (mostly applied, but also basic) social research in the Netherlands. It contributed a lot to the establishment of sociology as a social science because of the central position of some of its members: F. van Heek, E. W. Hofstee, S. J. Groenman (leading sociologists from the 'first generation') and J. A. A. van Doorn. From the beginning ISONEVO tried to perform a function between social research, which was just in its initial stage, and the implementation by policymakers. It organized congresses about actual problems (b.e. population growth in the Netherlands) for a large audience and workshops for social researchers. As a research-institute ISONEVO was seriously handicapped by its weak financial position. The unaffiliated institute was almost completely dependent on clients or sponsors. From 1940 till 1957 the direction was busy to reorganize the institute in such a way that a Government Department paid the salaries of the staffmembers. In vain: when the last attempt to persuade the Department of Education, Arts and Sciences failed, the institute was closed after the last studies were completed (in 1960). Important background for not financing ISONEVO was the typical Dutch political constellation of 'verzuijing' (which has been translated by pillarization). The foundation and support of religious institutes for social research after the second world war put ISONEVO in an awkward position. It rightly claimed to be an unaffiliated national institute for social research, which also performed a coordinating function in the field of (applied) social research outside and inside the universities, but nevertheless became a victim of the attempts to pillarize social research. ISONEVO was succeeded by the still existing SISWO, which concentrated on 'inter-university'-research.

### **The new middle class in Marxist Sociology**

by A. P. M. Lucardie

In recent years more and more Marxists have come to accept the notion of a new middle class or new petty-bourgeoisie. They define this class in different terms, emphasizing either its function in the social division of labor (coordination and control of production, reproduction and ideological legitimation) or its relation to the means of production (relative autonomy, power without property, appropriation of surplus value). They tend to neglect the political and ideological position of the new middle class. The article gives a short, summary of the theories of Carchedi, Lindsey, Ehrenreich, Poulantzas, Urry, Skotnes and Baudelot et al.. It concludes with a few hypotheses concerning the political and ideological tendencies of the new middle class.

**Diversity and Progress in Sociology**

by A. T. J. Nooij

Empirical sociology is characterized by a wide variety of rather isolated research traditions. Mostly a situation like this is looked upon as a negative indication of scientific progress. In this article a short description is given of various research traditions with their theoretical backgrounds and their methodological devices. If these traditions remain on their own, a stagnation of progress is unavoidable. Among the strategies to overcome this situation, special attention is given to the approach of a group of Dutch sociologists who combine an individualistic sociological theory with a critical-rationalistic methodology. The author takes the position that empirical sociology should consider the various research traditions as heuristic devices, aiming at a description of reality that meets, as far as possible, both the condition of theoretical orientation and external validity.

**Progress in sociology is possible – but in The Netherlands false pluralism is endemic.**

by W. C. Ultee

This paper gives a global description of the state of dutch sociology in the seventies in terms of a Popperian critical-rationalistic philosophy of science, and some specific recommendations for improvement in the eighties. The concentration of attention in the seventies on theoretical perspectives in sociology had led to a false pluralism as their potentialities for the development and empirical test of alternative falsifiable hypotheses were neglected. The explanation of the unequal distribution of scarce goods should take higher priority as it links up the present activities of theoretical sociologists, empirical sociologists and practical sociologists.