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## Summaries

### **Viricentrism in feministic anthropology**

by S. van der Geest

Feminist anthropologists, who have exposed the viricentric character of much anthropological work, are themselves affected by viricentrism. Many of them use viricentric definitions of such crucial concepts as 'power', 'status', and 'authority'. Partly as a consequence of this, many also have a viricentric bias in their study of womens roles in various societies. A model is proposed for the unbiased study of male-female relationships. In this model 'the ideological inversion of reality' plays a central role. A number of studies which have applied such a model are cited.

### **Interorganizational problems in social work**

by A. J. A. Godfroij

Interorganizational relations should be studied from a 'dialectical' perspective, based on a synthesis of the 'actor-approach' and the 'structural approach' *within* a social system approach.

Interorganizational networks are analyzed as 'developing structures', the dynamics of which are dependent on the strategic actions of motivated actors.

Fundamental to the strategies of service organizations within their networks is their need for legitimation of their claims on a 'domain of competence' as a condition for the acquisition of finances.

Ideological motives play an important role with respect to the legitimation proces. Organizational claims on a domain of competence can be supported or weakened by ideological claims of professional groups, especially with respect to the 'integral approach' of the clients' problems. The effect can be 'expansion of domain' or 'cooperation'.

Those claims, and the pressures from the macro-system to enhance rationalization, result in a re-assessment of the local service network in terms of market-orientation, coordination and effectiveness. This re-assessment is basic to the institutionalization of new structures in the local service system. Attention must be paid to diffrentiation and integration between the strategic and operational levels. The key instrument for working out new network structures is joint strategic (long range) planning.

**Merger versus co-operation: inter-organizational decision-making  
in the hospital field**

by E. Können

The year 1967 signalled the start of a wave of mergers among the general hospitals in the Netherlands. On the basis of 10 case studies of merger, it is argued that merger is not simply the evolutionary end of co-operation, but frequently serves as a strategic alternative for co-operation. It may be seen as an attempt to solve inter-organizational problems in an intra-organizational way. Many of these problems can be seen in the context of government policy to control costs and quality of health care. The active proponents and opponents of merger plans, however, are mainly inspired by their professional bias regarding large scale organizations, and by personal benefit or damage expected of a potential merger. It is also important to study the power differentials between hospitals, since they determine the power structure in a merged facility to a greater extent than one might infer from public statements. The study of inter-organizational relations in general should include the structure of interests, transactions and professional ideologies. A framework to explain the instability of co-operation in contrast to merger, is derived from Blau's Exchange and Power in Social Life.