

## Summaries

### **Wishes, Wants and Action. Values as determinants of behaviour**

by G. H. G. Pelkman

The aim of this paper is (1) To re-examine the value concept (2) To draw theoretical relations between the aspects of the value concept; and between these aspects and the behaviour an actor holding a specific value will display. (3) To try to make a start constructing theories of value change.

ad. 1 – Values are defined as concepts describing ideal states of affairs. The aspects specified are: a describing, a legitimating, an affective and a conative aspect. The latter is defined as the course(s) of action the actor would intend in order to realise the value. Such a course of action can further be distinguished in a content (direction) and the power of the intended action (the amount of resources the actor is willing to spend on realising the value).

ad 2 – It is supposed that an actor will choose the direction of his action in such a way that his values will be realised as well as possible. Except for the content of the describing aspects of the value concerned the knowledge of the actor about the ways realising it are of relevance.

The amount of resources the actor is willing to spend on realising the value is supposed to be determined by the product of the affective aspect of the value on one hand, and the perceived discrepancy between the ideal state of affairs and the state of affairs as perceived in reality. Finally is supposed that complicated choice problems may be psychologically facilitated by considering only courses of action of which the effects are reasonably predictable.

ad 3 – Three models for explaining value change are examined.

### **Social causes of environmental problems**

by N. J. M. Nelissen

In the Netherlands little research has been done regarding the social causes of environmental problems. In the research to date two main perspectives may be distinguished: (1) that focussed on individual attitudes and behaviour and (2) that in which the causes are posited in the structure of society. The relatively sparse research as to the social causes of environmental problems is due to the lack of organisation, institutionalisation and adequate funding of this field of study. Due to the importance of a systematic approach, an outline of research steps is delineated, and guidelines for a more inclusive approach to researching this area is presented.