

Summaries

Friend or foe: Italian icecream vendors in Glasgow in the 1900s

By Lodewijk Brunt

Italian Icecream Parlours have become an integral part of Glasgow's recent history, as anybody can see who is visiting *People's Palace*. Close to the entrance of this famous local museum the interior of an authentic Italian parlour from the 1930s has even been reconstructed as proof of the warm relationships between the city and its newcomers from way back when. In this article the position of the Italians is analysed more closely and it is shown that in certain periods the Italians have been much less popular in Glasgow than is now widely believed. The first generation of Italian immigrants was considered to be undermining the moral order by opening their shops on Sundays and allowing a kind of behaviour no decent British shopkeeper would ever think of. Why? An attempt is made to explain this situation by referring to the theoretical framework of ethnic entrepreneurship. Many such entrepreneurs get into trouble because they form a threat to local economic activities. It is argued, however, that this perspective is not relevant in Glasgow. The Italian icecream vendors were developing a new market with very little local competition. It is suggested that a more general perspective – the need to discipline and civilize newcomers, irrespective of their economic activities – might yield more insight.

Youth centrism and conservatism in the Netherlands 1986-1994

by Henk Vinken

A basic controversy in youth sociology is the one between functionalists claiming that youth indulges in youth cultures to comply with societal values and neo-marxists assuming that youth establishes youth cultures that oppose dominant culture. This article puts this controversy in an empirical perspective comparing (shifts in) political orientations of youth, youth resisting adult culture, youth centrists, and adults. Two Dutch data sets, the cross-sectional value study SOCON 1990 (N=1200) and the panel study UTYCP 1986-1994 (N=145), show that youth and youth centrists follow the cultural trends with much precision. There is one exception preventing full support for the functionalist view: youth centrists have conservative views of women and in this respect oppose trends in Dutch society.

The quality of questionnaires on alcohol consumption. Comparison between desk research and fieldwork

by Harrie Jansen and Tony Hak

Data quality (validity, accuracy, completeness and reliability) is a generally acknowledged problem in survey research. One main source of error is the wording and presentation of questions. In this article we compare the results of two approaches applied to the same set of six questions on alcohol consumption, namely an expert review and a field study. The expert review involved close reading, comparison of questions with other survey questionnaires and interviewing authors of the questionnaire. The field study was a three-step procedure consisting of think aloud protocol analysis, cognitive interviewing and intensive substantive interviewing. In comparing the results of these two studies, it appeared that most problems identified in the expert review, were confirmed in the field study. But additionally the field study identified many problems that were not discovered in the expert review. These respondent problems mostly stemmed from 'irregular' drinking patterns and from local normative meanings. From these findings we conclude that the three-step test interview (TSTI) is an approach in its own right which identifies problems that cannot be identified through other methods. It should, therefore, be used more widely to pre-test and test survey questions.