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SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Interrelation between the Desire for Children and Subjective Values

F. Höpflinger

Within the framework of a research project on fertility in Switzerland, 600 Swiss couples were interviewed. The present article analyses the interrelations between the desire for children and subjective values (attitude towards kinship, professional orientation, religious ties, etc.)

The findings confirm the dynamic theories of fecundity: the relationship between desire for children and subjective values is modified by the number of children already born. In addition, the analysis indicates that the wife's desire for children is influenced by the orientation of the husband and vice versa, which supports the husband/wife model of decision-making.

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The Family in Crisis Phenomena of Disunion or Consolidation

N. Bottani

This article is the result of a consideration of policies towards families (which are emerging in a more and more structured form) in relation to the increased strength of the "familialist" movement in advanced industrial societies.

The number of families is increasing, as is their longevity, in spite of the ruptures caused by divorce; the ascendant and descendant generations, which previously succeeded and replaced each other, are, under contemporary demographic configurations, coexisting and intermingled; the children are kept longer, or stay longer, within the household. Alarmist views about the immediate disappearance of the family seems, from this perspective, excessive; the familial model continues to show a lively success but this popularity is not without risk.

(page 237)

Management of Conflicts by Couples
K. Noschis

Management of conflicts by couples – in case of problem solving and decision making – has been the object of intensive studies. In this paper an analysis of familial activities, obtained from interviews, is combined with the analysis of a non-artistically induced interaction of decision-making. The process that was observed concerned a problem that was highly relevant for a small sample of couples. They were observed while they simulated their future apartment at full-scale; the partners had to reach an agreement about floor-plan that would then be used by architects to develop construction documents. The analysis suggests that momentarily observed interaction modes of couples, when related with categories of organization of familial activities, develop along lines sustained by specific domestic roles. (page 259)

The Return of Women to Professional Activity
Anna Borkowsky and Ursula Streckeisen

The return of women to professional activity is assuming a new controlling pattern. The article proposes a theoretical clarification of the factors influencing this return to professional activity. It analyses, on the one hand, the conditions and capacities for domestic work as well as the relations of domination and, on the other hand, the segmentation of occupational structure and of the structure of the professions. From this analysis we conclude that there is a considerable gap between the desire of women to return to professional activity and the real possibilities available for such a return.

In addition, subjective and objective barriers make women's return to professional activity in no way modifies specially sex-linked domination. (page 279)

WORKSHOP

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Katharina Ley

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