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WORLD SOCIOLOGY: THREE DEBATES

In the present issue, we pursue three debates in parallel. First, the debate on the history of sociology continues, with a paper by Stephen Turner (University of South Florida at Tampa). Second, we publish a first reply to the paper by Jean Remy (Vol. 22, N°1, March 1997) on transaction, by Gustavo Guizzardi (Università di Padova). Third, we start a new debate on the role of sociologists in relation to public controversies, in particular with regard to religious issues. Recently, in a number of trials in Europe, involving most notably scientology, the courts have drawn on sociological expertise. In his paper, Bryan Wilson (All Souls College, Oxford) defends the position that in his role as expert witness, the sociologist can act as a “translator”, thus allowing for a better communication between different institutional contexts. These three debates will continue in our journal.

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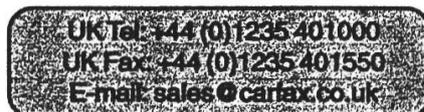
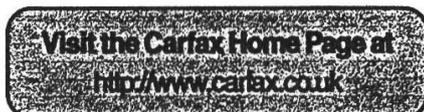
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