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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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The article analyses the early diffusion of Italian sociology in the age of triumphant positivism and accounts for the reasons of its sudden crisis and unachieved institutionalisation, in spite of important theoretical developments, such as Pareto's theory of elites, ideologies and social change, the analysis of criminal behaviour by the school of Lombroso and Ferri, and the empirical research on various aspects of Italy's 'social question'. By reviewing the relevant structural and cultural determinants and the social and political background of Italian modernization and nation building, the diffusion of sociology and its incipient crisis will be discussed. At the turn of the century, the shift from the hegemony of positivism to that of idealism in Italian culture had considerable implications for the academic institutions and in particular for the development of sociology. The relevant institutional framework can be depicted in terms of the development of disciplines, scientific reviews, publishing projects, museums, and other institutions aiming at the diffusion of higher education. This leads to the analysis of the main reasons for the weak institutionalisation of Italian early sociology, which are the fierce opposition of idealistic philosophy to any kind of knowledge in some way related to positivism, the aversion of the fascist regime to free intellectual inquiry into Italy's social problems, and finally the hostility of more established academic disciplines like law, philosophy and economics.

207 Moral and Lifestyle : Situational and Normative Aspects of Abortion [G] |

Peter Voll

Conflicts over values tend to become conflicts over lifestyle, because decisions in this matter are considered to be moral decisions and thus are attributed to the person as a whole. An example of this can be seen in the political and moral conflict over abortion. Using data from the Swiss Family and Fertility Survey 1994/95, this article analyses attitudes toward abortion, but also the factors influencing women's decision in case of pregnancy. Both, attitudes and behaviour are correlated with the traditional ideal of the nuclear ("bourgeois") family. However, this ideal is also the point of reference for evaluating the situational conditions of an eventual childbirth. Therefore, the probability of an abortion increases with the distance between a woman's lifestyle – as a way of life and its normative-evaluative interpretations – on the one hand, and this ideal on the other.

241 **Education and Marriage. An Event-History Analysis of Swiss Family Biographies** [G] | Andreas Diekmann and Kurt Schmidheiny

We investigate the effects of sociodemographic characteristics on the divorce rate using retrospective data from the Swiss Environmental Survey 1994. Data were analyzed by methods of event-history analysis. We focus primarily on educational effects. The statistical analysis shows that the level of education as well as educational homogamy have an impact on marriage stability. Other things being equal, marriages are most stable in the upper stratum of education with educational homogamy of the spouses. Moreover, we report estimates of the effects of various sociodemographic variables (cohort, age at marriage, education of parents, religious belief, area of residence etc.) on the risk of divorce.

255 **Divorce in Switzerland : Impacts of Individual Factors, Partnership Formation and of the Couple** [F] | Laurence Charton and Philippe Wanner

Nowadays in Switzerland, more than 25 percent of marital unions end in divorce. This high prevalence of divorce must be linked to the fact that marriage is a forced ritual for the Swiss partners. Factors modifying the probability of divorce were discussed on the base of the Family and Fertility Survey (FFS) Data. This survey was carried out in 1994/95. Survival models allow for measuring factors influencing the risk of divorce. Among individual factors, the absence of practice of religion and a former divorce of parents seem to have a positive effect on the risk. Other factors, describing the status of the couple at the date of marriage, may modify the risk of divorce, for example the age of the spouses and a premarital union. Moreover, data show that the presence of children in the union can also have an impact. It seems that the meaning of divorce will be more and more linked to the significance attributed to marriage.

281 **Journalism as a Modern and Anglo-American Invention** [F] | Jean K. Chalaby

This essay argues that journalism appeared after the birth of the press and following the formation of the journalistic field during the 19th century. According to this thesis, journalism is an Anglo-American invention for a journalistic field emerged first in the United States and Britain. It is also in these two countries that the modern daily newspaper – based on information and extended news-gathering services – was born, and that proper journalistic discursive practices such as reporting and interviewing were invented. This argument is developed by comparing the evolution of French and Anglo-American journalism in the 19th century. The comparison also provides an analysis of the cultural, political and economic components that have favoured the emergence of journalism in Anglo-Saxon countries.

297 **Leisure Activities and the Positioning of the Self 1900–2000** [G] | Alexander Salvisberg

Hand in hand with the increasing structural significance of leisure in the society of late modernity, the cultural self-understanding of human nature also changes. The dominant social conceptions are no longer shaped by the ethos of duty of the “working man”, but by the search for inner satisfaction and the demand for authenticity. Primary space for the realisation of these requirements is provided by the leisure time, which thereby becomes a crucial place for the construction of individual identity and public self-representation.

The content analysis of personal advertisements from the years 1900–2000 presented here shows convincingly how leisure interests during this century have become a central feature of a personality. The temporal evolution – with a striking period of radical change in the 60's – can be easily traced. It is shown that younger people, and in particular upper-class advertisers, are the initiatory group in this process. At the end of the expansion period, however, leisure becomes a “universal property”. With the expansion, internal change and a new differentiation of the world of leisure also take place. Because everyone speaks of leisure, but not necessarily with the same meaning, leisure becomes a distinctive indicator for the individual.

### 329 **Careers of Computer Scientists: Determinants of Management Functions and Earnings [G] | Irene Kriesi and Andrea Pfeifer**

IT professionals are currently the most inquired after specialists in the Swiss labour market. Until now, hardly any empirical research on this occupational group exists. This article examines the determinants of management functions and of high income among the computer specialists. It makes use of survey data about graduates of the Department of Computer Science at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich. Firstly, the results show that performing a management function depends not on individual characteristics, but on the labour market segment and working place conditions. The chance of assuming management responsibilities is, for example, rather low in software development, but high in the consulting area. Secondly, the income level depends mainly on experience, the industrial sector and the field of activity. The general trend, which shows that basic training is losing its value and has to be supplemented by continuing education, has not (yet) been observed for computer scientists.

### 351 **Book Reviews**

