

A cross-section of mostly **S**egregated **T**erritories **R**ace **A**merican **C**ommunities **T**ransition **S**ystem

ABSTRACTS

Blaž Mesec Evaluation of voluntary work

Psychologist Dr. Blaž Mesec is a senior lecturer of methodology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

With reference to some of the concepts of the systems theory the author concludes that for an autopoietic system - that is what a volunteer projects is, or should be - to exist, it does not need evaluation but a reflexive description of what is going on inside the system. Evaluation is requested for the assessment of the functionality of the system from the standpoint of an external observer and his needs. Three approaches to evaluation are described (the experimental model, opinion polling, detailed description of activities and processes), and an original model of complex evaluation of four aspects (effort input, process, goal attaining and unintended effects) on three levels (individual, group, organisation/community) is presented in the form of an "evaluation grid".

Srečo Dragoš Social work - a systemic view (III)

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Initially, the author refutes the commonest over-generalised critiques of the systems theory, surveyed in the second part of this discussion (in the previous issue of this journal), according to which it is too abstract and non-verifiable, refers to analogies, and is unsuitable for application in working with people. He points out the basic accents of the systemic approach that are particularly significant in social work: the role of communication as the elementary operation of social systems, the delimitation of (sub)systems, the distinction between "hard" (linear) and "soft" (circular) models of thinking, self-referring as a mode of organising interior and exterior complexity, the use of paradoxes, etc.

Zoja Skušek Ritual forms of fatherly behaviour - Anthropology and the couvade

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The couvade - "father's behaviour related to the birth of a child" - is an exceptionally interesting institution for the research of fatherhood, and anthropology has always been concerned with it; the interpretation of this institution is a sort of signpost for the development of anthropological thought. The author reviews the most important interpretations, starting with Tylor's from 1865, and then in particular two significant influences in anthropological thought: the theory of an Oxonian anthropologist, Peter Riviere, who advocates the thesis of double birth, corporal (mother) and spiritual (father), and the theory of a French anthropologist, Patrick Menget, who relates the couvade with the prohibition of the incest, the former regulating the internal linkage of a social group and the latter constituting its external linkage.

Darja Zaviršek Psychiatric ward between illness and its cultural manifestation - A case study (IV)

Sociologist Dr. Darja Zaviršek is an assistant lecturer for anthropology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

Relating personal biographies that sum up events in a meaningful continuum of experience is rather neglected in psychiatric hospitals. But it is very important to collect life stories in which

ABSTRACTS

women recollect mostly negative events from their lives. The greater part of the article consists of conversations with two women who have the experience of class deprivation and their husbands' violence. Both are under the impact of the patriarchal ideology and both have to fight for their rights while dividing joint property with their husbands. One is also marked with her ethnic origin which reinforces her alienation from the culture where she lives. Psychiatry is for them a "retirement from unbearable conditions" which they enter as a consequence of "disordered nerves" brought about by a variety of deprivations.

Milko Poštrak

Where have all subcultures gone? (IV)

Sociologist Milko Poštrak, M. A., is a junior researcher at the University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

Subcultural practices have always been ascribed political undertones. Yet the question whether a subcultural form involving a specific way of life (spectacular as it may be) has any real political power should be answered in the negative. The political dimensions of a given (sub)cultural practice can be read on the symbolic level, i. e., on the level of sign, attitude, manifestation, and on the level of reality, i. e., how a social group organises itself politically in relation with a pattern of (sub)cultural behaviour. The reverse may also be true: the pattern may represent one (innovative) dimension of the political organisation of a given social group. In any case, the political significance of a cultural practice is real - actually producing effects - only in the context of a social movement, but even as such, without this reference, it is an important dimension of human survival.

Lea Š. Bohinc

Social cultural work

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At School of Social Work in Ljubljana the field of "social cultural work" has been developed, using creative cultural activities in the form of "social work with drama, movement-and-dance, art, music and video". The author presents social cultural work from a few selected aspects: why social work with creative cultural activities; the performers and the users in the system of social cultural work; a circular model of planning and performing social cultural activities; a model of social cultural work in groups; the knowledge, competence and qualities needed to perform social work with creative cultural activities.

Milko Poštrak

In the sign of the triad

Sociologist Milko Poštrak, M. A., is a junior researcher at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

With consideration of, and assistance by, psychological, sociological and anthropological knowledge about the entities called individual, society and culture, which are roughly covered by the said disciplines, the author offers a multiplex and comprehensive theoretical basis of relating to the multi-layered phenomenon of human existence. To rely on social theorists who always take into consideration the entwinement of these entities or aspects of human existence plays an important part in the theory of social work as well. Thus the article presents one possible general theoretical starting-points for the so-called social cultural work that is being gradually introduced into the curriculum of School of Social Work.