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Abstracts

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ABSTRACTS

François GUÉRARD : *L'hygiène publique au Québec de 1887 à 1939 : centralisation, normalisation et médicalisation*

The rapid improvement in the health of Québec's population between the end of the XIXth century and 1939 coincided with the organization by the Québec Government of public health services covering virtually the entire inhabited territory. The author describes the evolution of these services, while identifying the main actors in this field of intervention, their means of intervention and the stakes involved in health reform. In particular, he focuses on three central processes in the formation of the public hygiene system, namely a gradual centralization of the decision-making power and the organization of services by government agencies, a centralization trend that met resistance from local authorities, a standardization of services and the designation of the State as a major agent of the medicalization of Québec society. A dual case study of Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan is used as a basis on which to gauge local reactions to the activities of provincial public health agencies.

Alain MARCHAND, Marcel SIMARD : *Les facteurs influençant l'appui des travailleurs au comité de santé-sécurité du travail*

Workplace health and safety committees were created to facilitate workers' participation; however, the latter gave them only limited support. Regression analyses on 79 committees in unionized shops in the manufacturing sector show that this low level of support can be explained by an instrumental and political logic. The authors interpret this political connotation in light of the fact that in Québec, the workplace health and safety committee participates in the "governing" of the workplace in terms of preventing occupational injuries, and possesses regulatory power apt to affect the working behaviour of the employees.

Lucile CIPRIANI : *L'échange conjugal devant la justice québécoise, 1983-1991*

In 1981, the Québec legislator brought in article 559 of the *Civil Code of Québec*, concerning compensatory allowance, which gives a spouse the right to obtain compensation for a contribution of goods or services that enriched the patrimony of the other spouse. The author studied 161 judgements relating to compensatory allowance and the application of article 559 of the *Civil Code of Québec*, between 1983 and 1991. She analyses this period of transition between exclusive appropriation and equal sharing of the conjugal patrimony from a feminist perspective on the basis of the narrative discourse of the parties and of judges. The quantitative and qualitative analysis of this unique moment in which conjugal exchanges have been subjected to a judicial examination gives access to the profile of the couples, to the rules and standards governing conjugal relations and to their appreciation by judges as well as to judicial resistance to changes in them.

Marie Mc ANDREW, Marianne JACQUET: *Le discours public des acteurs du monde de l'éducation sur l'immigration et l'intégration des élèves des minorités ethniques*

The authors analyse the reactions of various actors in educational circles before the Parliamentary Commission on the document entitled *Énoncé de politique en matière d'immigration et d'intégration: Au Québec pour bâtir ensemble*, which was held from February 21 to March 27, 1991. The quantitative analysis of the 12 briefs deals more precisely with the main issues that they raised concerning the adaptation of the Québec school system to multi-ethnic reality, as well as the shared and contradictory positions adopted with regard to the impact of immigration on the school system and society in Québec, and the results of school and social integration of students from ethnic minorities. Two streams of discourse arise out of this analysis: the first, shared by the majority, is alarmist while the second, on the part of a minority, is more open. Although the alarmist comments are present to a greater degree in the part dealing with the selection of immigrants than in that covering integration, in view of the complementary nature of these two sections, this concern inevitably colours the opening discourse. Furthermore, while in certain briefs the adherence to one or the other of these approaches is quite clear, the two streams of discourse are generally intermingled to varying degrees within a given brief.

Michel BEAUCHAMP, Yvan COMEAU: *La promotion de la coopérative par le vécu: le cas des caisses étudiantes*

The student "caisse" (cooperative credit union) is an original cooperative educational activity for young people at the secondary level. In order to appreciate the effects of this activity, the authors compared students participating in student caisses and those involved in other extracurricular activities, considering three factors: adherence to cooperative values, personal development and knowledge acquisition. Their observations led to the conclusion that, on the one hand, the student caisses represent a worthwhile experience with regard to secondary socialization, especially regarding personal development and the acquisition of certain knowledge, and on the other hand that the format of the student caisse could be improved, particularly by avoiding the simulation of all the practices used in the "caisses populaires".