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Abstracts

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ABSTRACTS

Serge COURVILLE: *Tradition et modernité: leurs significations spatiales*

For a long time, studies on Québec have been characterized by dichotomies resulting in the dissociation of the territory occupied from realities that often develop in close association with others. In place of these parallel paths of research based on the opposition between traditional and modern societies, a more relational concern should be substituted, to foster a more unified vision of reality. This text is intended as a step in this direction; rethinking the basic definition of tradition and modernism, it seeks their spatial meanings in order to show what forms are derived from them in spatial terms and how these interact. Applied to Québec in the 19th Century, this process brings out the context of complimentary relationships in which the rural society developed, and specifies the spatial parameters of its observation. It also suggests better ways of intergrating the aspects of permanence and change.

Jean-Pierre DUPUIS: *Le développement minier de l'Abitibi: les projets des colons*

Abitibi's development is often presented, on the one hand, as the failure of the traditional elite's agriculturist ideology and project and, on the other hand, as the success of the North American mining and forestry entrepreneurs' capitalistic ideology and project. However, this argument has the disadvantage of largely neglecting the settlers' projects and practices. In fact they had their own projects in this adventure and were able to achieve a great number of them, even in communities supposedly completely subject to industrial order. This can be demonstrated through the analysis of the settlers' practices in two mining communities.

André BILLETTE et Mario CARRIER: *Régulation socio-identitaire des activités économiques beauceronnes*

The authors' study fits within the recent current of studies of «industrial districts», aligned with Alfred Marshall, a current that has had little impact in Québec. However, they demonstrate that there is a mode of industrial development here that is centred on local entrepreneurship, in diversified sectors of production, where the collective identity is linked with territorial proximity over a long period. Two main observations are made in their article: in the transition from farming to industrialization, markets have to a large extent been deregionalized; on the other hand, regionalization has been renewed by rules for cooperation that are more clearly defined than before, in order to protect and develop local production.

Jacquesy ROUILLARD: *L'image du pouvoir syndical au Québec (1950-1991)*

On the basis of many opinion surveys, the author examines the trends in the perceptions held by men and women in Québec on the labour union movement since the 1950's. Although the population at large

does not question the necessity of unions to protect wage earners, it nevertheless criticises them for holding too much power and for abusing it to often. This feeling, which was particularly strong from the late 1960's until the mid 1980's, seems to be linked with the frequency and scale of labour disputes during that period. A comparison with the rest of Canada and other countries shows that Québécois have a more positive attitude toward the labour union movement than the average for Canada or Britain, but that they are more critical than our neighbours to the South. Finally, the author tries to explain the contempt that unions face for various reasons, in particular the difficulty that the population has in accepting the conflictual nature of labour relations.

Benoît GODIN: *La politique scientifique et la notion de culture scientifique et technique: les aléas politiques d'une idée floue*

The concept of scientific and technical culture has become a cliché in the many public and private interventions in the fields of science and technology and its meaning varies according to the actor who espouses its cause. It is the meaning of this concept in the Quebec Science Policy that will be deconstructed in this paper. Using key concepts in the sociology of science, different (alternative) interpretations are reconsidered in the discourse (political documents). Political, administrative and historical constraints are proposed to explain government choices.