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ABSTRACTS

Daniel FOURNIER: L'interattraction spatiale: analyse historique, 1871-1985

After an era of geographical expansion, for the past half-century the population of Québec has been moving back toward the Saint Lawrence Valley. In general, it tends to meld together into a megalopolis into which the former localities are absorbed. These movements of dispersion followed by regrouping have substantial effects on social relations and consequently on behaviors, especially here where relations of chance encounter and between neighbors and blood relations were more significant than in the more modern and mobile societies in the rest of North America.

Jacques BEAUCHEMIN, Gilles BOURQUE et Jules DUCHASTEL: L'Église, la tradition et la modernité

Relations between tradition and modernity have been and still are a major research theme in Québec's historiography. However, studies have mainly focused on the traditional aspects of social representation while neglecting their modern dimension. The discourse of Québec's bishops, through their *mandements* (1935-1960), appears as a unique standpoint to analyse the articulation between these two universes of meaning. In this article, we show that while the main concepts of modernity are present in this religious discourse, such integration jeopardizes its traditionalist and religious basis.

Danielle LABERGE et Pierre LANDREVILLE: La justice pénale au Québec, 1960-1990

The authors draw a portrait of the transformations that have marked, in Québec, the justice question during the last thirty years. Legislations, public inquiries, bureaucratic structures and penal agencies are used as indicators. The first part is devoted to a chronological presentation of these transformations. The main events are compared to the situation on the federal scene. In the second part, two topics are used to analyze these changes: citizens and justice; functioning of penal apparatus.

Éric GAGNON: Les comités d'éthique pour la recherche comme entreprise d'interprétation

Research ethics committees, in place for the past several years in Québec hospitals, have the role of ensuring that research carried out in an institution is done ethically, in other words that the safety of human subjects participating in the studies is protected and that their consent is obtained. An examination of the procedures adopted by these committees for this interpretative work, and for the modification of protocols if necessary, reveals that they do not respond only to requirements of an intellectual, scientific or ethical nature, but that they are also to a large extent a function of the authority and legitimacy of the committees, as well as of institutional constraints. The classifications, oppositions and distinctions that the committees apply to the different aspects of the protocols in order to perform their ethical evaluations have the effect of limiting the scope of these evaluations and of causing a dilution of responsibilities.

François CHARBONNEAU et René PARENTEAU: Opération 20 000 logements et l'espace social de Montréal

The social space of the city can be viewed dynamically if one considers it as a system of actions that forecast rapid transformations of the social fabric. Beginning with a study of the acquisition of property in Montréal, we are led to believe that the socioeconomic stratification of the population is no longer the only factor to be considered in analyses of the social space. Certain sociocultural aspects must be raised in order to account for the diversity of new clienteles which regenerate central cities. The consumption of centrality by new affluent households goes beyond the simple logic of economic and social segregation; others who are not at the summit of the social structure share this new form of urban housing. Together, they perpetuate the complex plurality at the very origin of the definition of a city.