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Abstracts

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ABSTRACTS

Roger LEVASSEUR et Yvan ROUSSEAU: *Le pouvoir des régions dans le mouvement des Caisses Desjardins: l'exemple de la Fédération régionale du centre du Québec (1920-1970)*

The formation and development of the regional federations within the Desjardins movement are the focus of this article. These intermediary powers built themselves up between the autonomy of the local caisses and the prerogatives conferred on the provincial Federation by the Québec Government. Beginning with the example of the Union régionale de Trois-Rivières — the oldest of the eleven regional federations — we emphasize the constant negotiations that it carries on with its affiliated caisses, on the one hand, and with the provincial Federation on the other, in order to establish and broaden its space within the movement. The relationships of tension between these entities are studied from two distinct but closely related angles: centralization, and relations between the agents as seen from their positions within the regional representative bodies. From a mode of representation that drew on networks of well-known or powerful individuals and religious communities, things have been gradually replaced by an approach based on the technostructural agents, particularly the local and regional managers.

Pierre PAILLÉ: *L'intégration des jeunes travailleurs dans des usines du secteur manufacturier*

The major socioeconomic upheavals of the past ten years have made it difficult for young people to enter the labour market, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which is deeply affected by the recession. In this context, we wished to learn about the experience, in terms of organizational integration, of young new workers who have left the school system more or less recently. With a view to describing the direct experience of the first few months of organizational life in plants in the manufacturing sector, we conducted research of an ethnographic type in the field, covering young people just entering organizations. Upon completion of the research, we were able to distinguish certain basic characteristics of the universe studied: firstly, the minimal degree of formal socialization practices implemented by the enterprises; and secondly, the essentially adaptive nature of the logic applied by youth in their new professional environment.

Raymonde BOISVERT et Maurice CUSSON: *L'homicide conjugal à Montréal*

This article brings forth the elements of variation and continuity with regard to conjugal homicides committed on the Island of Montreal between 1954 and 1962, comparing them with those committed between 1985 and 1989. In these latter years, conjugal homicides have been subject to a threefold increase, with the increment primarily occurring among unstable or broken couples. However, at present as in the past, this type of violence is primarily directed toward women, and for the most part occurs in the place of residence that a woman shares with the very man who will eventually take her life.

Jean-Paul BAILLARGEON: *Les pratiques culturelles des anglophones du Québec*

Quebecers whose principal language is English show preferences in the area of cultural practices that are quite different from those of the French-speaking majority. In contrast to recent experience in most western countries, Québec anglophones have increased the amount of television that they watch, as well as the amount of time that they spend reading books and newspapers. In contrast, they have attended fewer shows. Their cultural practices have focussed inward toward the home, which supports the hypothesis that they underwent a sort of social implosion following the emigration that took place among their ranks and the resulting demographic age increase.