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ABSTRACTS

Georges MATHEWS: *L'avenir démographique des régions : analyse critique et implications des plus récentes perspectives démographiques du BSQ*

Each five-year census is followed by a new population outlook analysis, in the course of which the assumptions of the reference scenario are generally updated to take into account the most recent developments. The most recent perspectives of the Bureau de la Statistique du Québec are no exception to this rule. The assumptions of this scenario, as well as the results obtained for the administrative regions of Québec, for the forecast to 2016, are analysed in this article. The Montreal/rest-of-Québec dichotomy stands out more than ever, even though a decline in total population affects only four peripheral regions. But the criterion of total population proves deceptive, and other more judiciously chosen criteria show that the "decline" will soon affect nearly all regions outside the greater Montreal region. There is also a dynamic of decline, which points to the conclusion of a gloomy future outlook for a few outlying regions.

Myriam SIMARD: *La politique québécoise de régionalisation de l'immigration : enjeux et paradoxes*

Since the late 1980s, the regionalization of immigration has become one of the concerns of the Québec Government, which wishes to achieve a more spatially balanced distribution of immigration. Beginning with the history of this policy and its development over a period of nearly ten years (1987-1996), the author begins a first critical analysis of the policy, covering both the underlying objectives and the central strategic concepts. The interrelationships are identified between multiple issues that are territorial, demographic and political as well as economic. Situated in the context of globalization of the economy, neo-liberal restructuring and a worldwide crisis faced by governments, the analysis deals with the concepts of decentralization and partnership, which are central political axes, in order to identify the thrust of this new mode of government controls of immigration. Certain ambiguities and limits are underlined, particularly regarding the role of the State in the global development of the regions, in the power of local actors, and in the status of the regional nuclei of cultural communication.

Bernad VACHON et André LEMIEUX: *Les régions intermédiaires et périphériques : de nouvelles possibilités de développement ?*

In the context of revitalization of the non-central areas of Québec, a forecasting analysis of economic and social developments identifies indicators of profound changes, the combined effects of which could facilitate the deconcentration of economic activities and of populations and thereby provide real possibilities for development. This points to the challenge, and to the direction of territorial dynamics.

Juan-Luis KLEIN et Jean-Philippe WAAUB : *Reconversion économique, développement local et mobilisation sociale : le cas de Montréal*

When there is a reconversion of industrial space, the social and economic actors confront one another or associate according to a post-Fordian type of management framework characterized by partnership and flexibility. The analysis covers the role of the internal and external actors in this process which, although it is induced by economic globalization, takes on precise local orientations in accordance with the actors present and the compromises that they make. The authors compare two cases of reconversion under way in Montreal, one in the central neighbourhood of Rosemont and the other in Ville Saint-Laurent, a nearby industrial suburb of Montreal. These two cases bring into action large external enterprises and the local community. But they are divergent when it comes to the role played in the community. It is shown that social mobilization is determinant in the orientation and choices of local development projects, which has consequences on the actors directly concerned, and on the community as a whole.

Serge CÔTÉ : *Relations économiques régionales et hétérogénéité de l'espace québécois*

The economic relations of manufacturing plants and services to businesses in four regions of Quebec were measured by means of a questionnaire. Intraregional relations, namely links with economic agents in the same region, are very intense. Extraregional relations underline pronounced differences between economic agents in Montreal and those in the non-metropolitan regions : a deficit of reciprocity in the relationships between them, on the one hand, and a differentiation as compared to relations with the continental economy on the other. These results underline the heterogeneity of Quebec's economic space and the problematic of its integration.

Raymond BEAUDRY et Hugues DIONNE : *Vivre quelque part comme agir subversif : les solidarités territoriales*

Drawing on Québec's tradition of monographic studies, the authors recall the importance of space in the formation of basic solidarities, and of social bonds. Manifestations of territorial solidarity could well take on a subversive nature in view of the instrumental and functional nature of the current social relations and the requirements of mobility demanded by the structure of work. The resistance of the population of Saint-Clément for the maintenance of its post office serves as an illustration to indicate how the struggle was the expression of the rejection of a society without territory, as well as a time to reflect on social bonds.

Odette VINCENT : *Le Nord-Ouest québécois, un carrefour d'influences culturelles : de la frontière à la région*

In the broad debate concerning the construction of a more or less homogeneous Quebec culture, the north-western region (Abitibi-Témiscamingue) presents some original aspects. It is not a question of doubting its belonging to Québec as a whole, but rather of defining its particular forms of attachment. Abitibi-Témiscamingue had in its pioneering stage a hybrid, mixed profile characterized by its proximity to English-speaking Ontario and the ethnic diversity of its founding populations. Even though there are many links with southern Québec, the region has from the outset had problems of communication with the rest of Québec. This distance and the feeling of remoteness that is still typically present in the minds of the region's residents is thus not purely symbolic ; it has taken root through a gradual evolution of the physical attachment to the rest of Québec. The examination of certain characteristics of sociocultural life during the pioneering period and a summary analysis of recent cultural production allow the author to underline the particular dynamic of the cultural landscape of the northwestern part of Québec and its contributions to Québec's cultural life.