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## Abstracts

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Québec et Canada : deux références conflictuelles

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## ABSTRACTS

Jacques BEAUCHEMIN : *La question nationale québécoise : les nouveaux paramètres de l'analyse*

In Canada, the debates on politics and identity have, until recently, taken shape within the space of Canadian federalism which, while being conflictive, is relatively closed onto itself. Now, however, we observe the increasing influence of certain « external » determinations, driven by a dynamic that goes beyond national spaces. More specifically, we deal with the globalization, the shift to neoliberalism, the renewal of the debate on law, democracy and multiculturalism. We put forward the hypothesis according to which these new parameters modify the prevalent political discourses and have a corresponding influence on the analysis of the issue of Québec nationalism.

Gérard BOUCHARD : *Le Québec et le Canada comme collectivités neuves. Esquisse d'étude comparée*

The author outlines his concept of new collectivities (or founding cultures), as the basis of an original approach for the study of the New World societies (including Australasia and South Africa). Essentially comparative, the proposed analytical framework is built around a set of far-reaching interrogations pertaining to the formation of these collectivities and the institution of their relationship to the new land : continuity and rupture with European mother countries, definition of self-representations, collective goals and values (e.g. through utopias), emergence of nationhood, construction of a memory, the quest for an identity, the symbolic appropriation of the territory in both elitist and popular cultures, etc. The author believes that the confrontation of the various historical itineraries pursued by the New World collectivities will help us better understand each of them and further our knowledge of the basic processes that govern the formation and the evolution of the collective imaginations. For the sake of Quebec studies in particular, this call for comparison and for a widening of the analytical perspectives seems pertinent enough.

Claire DURAND, Sébastien VACHON et Isabelle TANGUAY : *La méthodologie de sondage, une question de sociétés distinctes*

A survey of polling firms in Canada, focusing on methodological practices, indicates that certain of these practices vary from region to region : method of selecting respondents, number of attempts to reach them, recuperation of refusals, and practices aiming to guarantee a rate of response, among others. The perceptions also differ with regard to the rate of response judged to be acceptable. The situation is attributed to the historical and economic characteristics of the development of the polling industry in the two linguistic regions.

Sylvie LACOMBE : *Le souverainisme dans la presse canadienne-anglaise*

Starting from the perception of the Québec sovereignty movement – its leaders and their political project – as portrayed in the Toronto daily newspaper *The Globe and Mail*, the author explores the ideas and values implicitly associated with Canadian federalism. She brings to light the pretense of the federalist option to a monopoly on political and moral legitimacy, and

at the same time brings out an aspect of the mutual incompatibility between that option and Québec sovereignty.

Leslie LACZKO : *Inégalités et État-providence : le Québec, le Canada et le monde*

Are social inequalities perceived in the same way in Quebec and in the rest of Canada ? In Canada and in other countries ? These questions are examined through a secondary analysis of data from the 1992 International Social Survey Programme study of inequalities, carried out in 18 countries. The results are interpreted in light of Esping-Andersen's typology of welfare state régimes. Compared to other Canadians, Quebecers are more conscious of social inequalities and also more supportive of state intervention to reduce them, but these differences appear slight when viewed from a broader international perspective.

Michel LORD et Nicole CÔTÉ : *La nouvelle québécoise et canadienne-anglaise : le spectacle d'une mosaïque*

In English Canada, as in French Canada, the short story has long been prospering as a form, although apparently in quite different ways, especially if it is examined from the angle of spatial representations. A reading of collections published between 1930 and 1980 reveals that the effect produced is that of a mosaic. This is reflected by esthetic standpoints that themselves reveal different existential positions, according to whether one belongs to one group or another. In Québec, the short story often deals with the issue of spatial disconnection, the shifting of space itself, whereas in English Canada, short story authors emphasize movements within space. As a result, the short story in Canada is a prime forum for the bicultural and binational dichotomy, as the French-language short story illustrates the drama of a space that eludes a certain control, whereas in English Canada, it serves to show the elusive nature of Canada from coast to coast. The Canadian imagination reveals some of its secrets through the decortication of a genre, the short narrative text, the construction of which always takes on the appearance of a mosaic.

Georges MATHEWS : *L'essoufflement de l'économie québécoise face à l'économie canadienne*

The study of the economic relationship between Quebec and the rest of Canada must start with the long-term trend in the relative weights of both economies. Quebec's share of the Canadian economy has been declining almost without pause since 1966. After 1974, the modernization of its industrial structure brought a reversal, albeit a slight one, in the relative productivity of the Quebec labor force, but this catching-up phase seems to have stopped at the end of the Eighties. Indeed a more appropriate measure of relative labor productivities would indicate a larger gap between Quebec and the rest of Canada than is commonly acknowledged in Quebec. The reduction in federal deficits since 1994 does not explain the relative stagnation in Quebec : the global equalization envelope that is provided by the rest of Canada has not, contrary to public opinion, been reduced. Neither do the new currents in world trade, which have seen Quebec perform as well as the rest of Canada in the North American market. It thus seems the development of high-tech sectors in Quebec will not suffice all by itself to kick-start the process of catching up with the rest of Canada in economic matters.

E.-Martin MEUNIER et Jean-Philippe WARREN : *De la question sociale à la question nationale : la revue Cité libre (1950-1963)*

The categories upon which the debate on the political future of Québec is based all too often remain the prisoners of the current political discourse. In portraying federalism and nationalism as inalienable and incommensurable entities, there is often a tendency to relate their contemporary forms to those of the pre-war period. Those who drew, in part, on a similar

political philosophy during the 1960s are then left out of the picture. By exploring the ideologies put forward by the intellectuals grouped around *Cité Libre*, this research paper aims to develop a better understanding of how the « federalism » of the *Cité Libre* authors, rather than being essentially an allegiance to Canada, is an adherence to a political system that arises out of a « personalist » philosophy, which can also legitimize the sovereignist project.

Paul VILLENEUVE : *Canada, Québec, and North American Continental Integration*

A classical interpretation of the historical evolution of the Canadian polity has been to see the country as the result of tensions between two fields of spatial interaction, one East-West, the other South-North. Since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, prevailing global geopolitical conditions have favoured one or the other. Currently, these conditions are overwhelmingly to the advantage of South-North interaction. This paper examines three types of spatial interaction between Canada and the United States in light of this broad hypothesis. The recent evolution of commodity flows, air travel and television signals indicates that a putative process of North American continental integration may be underway but that this process is chaotic and multiform, with unforeseeable consequences for the relations between Canada and Québec.