

English summaries

Social Origins of Studies of Social Mobility

L. THÉVENOT

The genealogy of French studies on social mobility and related demographic work is marked by the ideal of a city based on eugenic civic worth. Beginning with the initial works of Galton, this article follows the successive transformations of studies done by the INED and INSEE, right up to their application to manpower planning and their exposure of the mechanisms of social conservation and of social-cultural handicaps. The article locates the evolutions in attempts to construct orders which are tied to a common good, and which qualify members of a society according to their abilities, genius, gifts, capital, and professional qualifications. It indicates the relationships between the development of social statistics and political construction, studies on mobility appearing as investigations into the justice of the social order.

Academization and Provincialization of Painters in the XVIIIth Century

N. HEINICH

The transformation of the conditions of image makers' practice, that took place at the same time as the academization of painting, is envisioned here at the local level, in both senses of the word: "regional" (i.e. in the particular case of Provence) and "particular" (i.e. through reconstitutions of biographical trajectories). We see there how geographical gaps turn into time lags, creating a "provincialization" of the provinces.

Thus regional painting is condemned to either deny its origins or accept invisibility at a national level, while historical research, by considering above all what predominated (temporally and hierarchically), is condemned to neglect what was not "prime" material. Thus it does not allow itself to examine—except as a retroactive effect of the constituted hierarchies—the logic of movements leading to the oppositions local/general, minor/major, and periphery/center.

Occupational Classifications in Mobility Surveys

D. MERLLIÉ

Methodological research on social and occupational mobility, though well developed in other areas, usually neglects problems concerning categories and modes of classification. An account of some scattered works on this topic shows the important effect of modes of inquiry and modes of questioning on the results, so that the measure of mobility may be a consequence of the unreliability of categories, as much as of the movement of individuals. The aim of this study, however, is not to diminish the interest in this type of study, but rather to change and sharpen its focus.

Comparative History and the Case of Migration Studies

N. L. GREEN

The comparative method in history has been called for more often than it has been practised. This article examines the methodology of comparisons and the implicit choices that are made with regard to subject, unit of comparison and level of analysis. Although comparisons can help broaden our generalizations and make historical research more scientific, as Simiand argued, the comparative method is largely dependent on the construction of the comparative project itself. Migration studies furnish a useful field for examining three different types of comparative research: linear, convergent and divergent. In the end, we suggest that a multi-comparative study, at an intermediary level of analysis, can provide a new approach to migration studies, that combines the universalistic and particular aspects of the migration experience.

Artisans Careers and the Labour Market in 18th and 19th Century Turin

G. LEVI

By examining a limited number of specific cases, the author attempts to show that social stratification and mobility are not the product of behavioural patterns which can be defined simply on the basis of the concept of professional group. The exercise proposed by the author allows him to highlight, beneath the apparent simplicity of mobility and solidarity mechanisms, the complex dynamics at work in the transmission of skills and in the professional definition of migrant populations.

***From Categories to Individual Links:
Statistical Analysis of Social Space***

A. BLUM ET M. GRIBAUDI

The categories used for the analysis of social structures and mobility are marked by the ideologies that lead to the devising of statistical grids. But the rigidity of these models and causal explanations, against which a major part of contemporary historiography has rebelled, is above all due to the workings of traditional descriptive statistics themselves. In the first section the authors describe the mechanisms by which these workings shape the objects of analysis. By interpreting the same group of 19th century marriage certificates using a variety of grids, they highlight the different distortions caused by the grouping of data into categories and by the successive formation of tables and cross tables. In the second section the authors show that it is in fact possible to conceive more subtle forms of statistical description and analysis, better adapted to the needs of the historian. The formalisation of data using graphs allows them, for example, to isolate the specificity of the individual data, to go beyond a simple grouping and to break away from the traditional qualitative-quantitative opposition. In this way they suggest that it is possible to develop models for quantitative analysis capable of taking account of the mechanisms of micro-social determinations.

Conservation/Break: a New Couple for the Analysis of Migrations

P.-A. ROSENAL

Demographics normally privileges the physical side of migrations, seeing in them a simple displacement from one space to another. This article proposes, on the contrary, to study migration on the basis of the reference spaces chosen by migrants. This

approach leads to the distinction between two extreme types of migration: (1) as break, when the migrants' concerns center around their place of arrival, and (2) as conservation when they remain centered on their place of origin. In analyzing, for example, the intra- and inter-generational behavior of migrants, one can provide a methodological translation of these two notions. Applied to the Paris area at the end of the 19th century, this translation allows us to differentiate the migrants' modes of integration from their modes of non-integration, by linking them in particular to their regional origin.

Familial Links and Migratory Logics in an Alpine Society

L. FONTAINE

On the basis of what became of orphans in an Alpine society in the 17th century, this article examines the classical models proposed by historians and geographers to account for the migrations of mountain dwellers and, beyond that narrow context, considers the more general models used to interpret migratory phenomena. Orphans were studied because their trajectory proves that this particular group functioned as a microcosm of mountain society as a whole. On these grounds, the various migratory logics that were at work in the society are analyzed: migrations due to exclusion or self-exclusion (begging or hospitalization), migrations for purposes of training (being made an apprentice in a town or being taught a temporary migrant's skill), for a settled way of life, etc.