Arnaud LE MARCHAND

NON SEDENTARY WORKERS AND THE CENSUS : SOCIO-ECONOMIC CATEGORIES AND EXCLUSION

Centered on the case of Le Havre, a harbour-city, the paper examines how two institutions, the State and the Administration of the City, have elaborated a statistical representation of the “floating populations” of non sedentary workers since the 1870’s, and how they have addressed their problems. The statistical framework has been subject to redefinitions over time, but its excluding character has remained unchanged; it reveals and illustrates the social representations and the institutional responses to the problems of these populations. Categories do not suffice to create real groups, but their definition does have an impact on representations and behaviours. The results of the study are used to re-discuss the socio-economic approach to the notion of “territory”, in relationship with some lessons of the “Théorie des conventions”.

Marie-Laure BARON, Bénédicte MARTIN

LABOR MARKET REGULATION AND TIGHTENED MARKETS : AN APPLICATION OF THE THEORY OF CONVENTIONS TO THE LABOR MARKET OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN HAUTE NORMANDIE

Going beyond a quantitative analysis in terms of retirement rates and fluctuations in the level of activity, the article focuses on the role of structural factors behind the tensions and shortages affecting the supply of manpower in the construction sector; it also highlights the competition for “good workers” between the various actors. The analytical framework puts in the forefront the role of labor market intermediaries (recruitment firms, public agencies), the specific evaluation and screening criteria which they use, and the differences in the representations of quality which guide their respective matching activities.

Bénédicte MARTIN

FROM ART WORDS TO ART WORLDS : STATISTICAL CONTENT ANALYSIS OF A SELECTION OF WRITINGS IN AESTHETIC THEORY

Just like art historians, who take in consideration one, and only one legitimate type of art for each given historical period, culture economists only take into account the predominating variety of today’s art, i.e. the one which is legitimated by the institutions. On the contrary, the sociology of art, because it raises the question of the values to which the actors themselves refer their actions, advocates a pluralistic representation of the quality of today’s art. Starting from some sociologists’ intuitive categorizations, this article tries to verify the hypothesis of a multiplicity of aesthetic grammars by submitting to a computer aided text analysis (ALCESTE software), a sample of written material, representative of the theory of aesthetics. The article goes on to relate this variety of aesthetic grammars to the diversity of the art worlds where the actors develop their actions.

Camille CHASERANT

SOCIAL IDENTITY AND INDIVIDUAL INTEREST : THE INFLUENCE OF GROUP RELATIONSHIPS IN AN ULTIMATUM GAME

Relying on the results of a series of observations collected in the course of a « laboratory experiment », the author shows how the behavior of the individual participants, who have been induced by the experimentators to believe that they belong to a group, which in fact is purely fictitious (“minimal”), is nonetheless affected by this belief. More specifically, the observations reveal the way this feeling affects their interpretation of justice when it comes to share a given sum of money with other participants. These results, at odds with the predictions of standard economic theory, as well as with the analyses of the economics of negotiation, are more in line with the perspectives of economic sociology.