

Albert GUEISSAZ

THE CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITIES AND ITS ACTORS. REFLEXIONS ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF *THE CAHIERS DE SOCIOLOGIE ECONOMIQUE ET CULTURELLE*

This is the first part of a survey encompassing the numerous and valuable contributions published since the beginning of the 1980's by the *Cahiers* on the question of the construction of collective and individual identities, notably in intercultural contexts. This first part highlights the key role of the "entrepreneurs" of the construction of collective identities, as well as their finalities and their modes of operation.

Edmond Marc LIPIANSKY

**THE IMAGERY OF IDENTITY: THE FRANCE/GERMANY COUPLE
(second publication)**

In this article, which was first published in 1979 in *Ethnopsychologie*, the author investigates the literature of essays which were devoted to "national characters" in France and in Germany during the first part of the 20th century, in order to analyze the method of construction of representations of national identities. At that time, the representation of the national identity of France built itself in a movement of opposition to the national identity of Germany, each of the two nations being prone to endorse even the negative identity which she received from the other. The article highlights the role played by some writers and intellectuals in the shaping and the promotion of this double representation, and the social function of these constructions, which appear as an expression of the functional position of the elites in their respective societies, and of their relation with the other classes,

Marie-Christine MICHAUD

THE ITALIAN-AMERICANS BETWEEN IMMIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONALISM: MESSINA, L'AQUILA AND THE UNITED STATES

The identity of immigrants arriving from Italy was first characterized, in the first part of the 20th century, by "campanilism", a strong identification with the village of origin. It was progressively defined as "Italian" by reaction to the hostility of dominant groups, to stigmatization and discrimination in America. This evolution can be attributed for an important part to the action of "ethnic" organizations, of newspapers published in Italian, of the church, and more occasionally, to solidarity movements emerging in the wake of earthquakes which plagued the country of origin. The reference to the Italian "motherland" does not appear as contradictory with a gradual integration in North American society, so that an "Italian-american" identity emerges in the more recent period. The analysis is referred to recent writings on "transnationalism" and is grounded on the field word of the author.