

# NETWORK

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

This Autumn the Association is able to offer more benefits than ever before to the membership. Apart from the usual reductions on publications, journals and conferences we now have a new selection of titles in the Book Club, first introduced at Easter this year. We have also decided to extend Network with a Review Section. We hope that these innovations will form the major attraction in the package of unique services available only to BSA members and that you will encourage your colleagues to become members of the Association. Like most voluntary Associations, we rely too heavily on the activities and ideas of a few energetic members. If we are to sustain our activities and introduce new ones, we need positive feedback and offers of help from all sections of the membership. It is Executive policy to encourage the active participation of as many members as possible, from sitting on the various sub-committees, to running conferences and study groups.

## BOOK CLUB SECRETARY

Martin Bulmer has spent a considerable amount of time and energy setting up the Club and is responsible for its initial success. However, he is unable to continue as Secretary and we are looking for someone to take over who has fairly eclectic interests in current sociological literature. The administration of the Club is undertaken by the office and Joyce Ward deals efficiently with the mailing from Bristol. If you are interested you would have the job of selecting titles from publishers' current catalogues, be able to put aside your own sociological prejudices in order to judge what will sell and negotiate with publishers over titles they are prepared to offer. Please write to Jane Hoy at the BSA office or Martin Bulmer at the LSE if you are interested.

## BOOK CLUB

This time we have over 35 books on offer. All books have highly preferential discounts at far below bookshop prices and are offered inclusive of mailing costs. Please order now. The more orders we can supply to publishers, the more titles we will be able to offer in the future and we will be likely to obtain a better discount as this often varies, subject to numbers.

## TITLES

A variety of areas of interest are reflected in this collection, unlike the first which reflected the theme of the Annual Conference on Power and the State. This venture proved successful, so help us make this second selection surpass all expectations. Despite requests, there have been few suggestions for titles for inclusion in the Club and we would appreciate any ideas. Although publishers have been helpful in understanding the difficulties entailed in predicting demand they are likely to

respond with greater enthusiasm to our requests if we are able to indicate that a substantial demand exists for certain titles. This is the difficult part of the operation because you can't please everyone. It will make the job easier if we have the support of the membership. Individuals are welcome to write in but we also hope that collective interests will be expressed, perhaps through study groups.

## REVIEW SECTION

This month the Editor of Network is introducing a Review Section, planned as a permanent feature. One of the aims behind the original policy of Network was that it should, as far as possible, run articles written by members and the Review Section is intended to continue this policy. You are, therefore, invited to both suggest books for review and to contribute short reviews yourself. We hope that this proves a useful service to members, keeping you abreast of new publications and avoiding the long wait until reviews appear in journals. The Association's journal *Sociology* will continue to run book reviews under the Review Editorship of Robin Williams at Durham University but there will be close collaboration between the two editors over choice of books, reviewers and type of review to appear. It remains to be seen how the Network reviews develop but we hope that it will include shorter notices of books to be reviewed more extensively in *Sociology* at a later date. Write to Rosemary Deem, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, Beaconside, Stafford.

## PROMOTING THE BSA

These innovations are of course designed for the benefit of the present membership. But expansion of these services depends on your continuous support and an increase in the membership figures, which stand at 1509 full members and students. From past experience we have found that spreading the news of the unique range of BSA services is best done by those already members, through personal contacts. To do this we have set up a network of representatives in departments and need more people who will distribute publicity material to their colleagues. With the increased number of attacks on the social sciences in the media and in the face of extensive education cuts it is even more imperative that a national organisation exists to liaise with other organisations sharing similar interests and to represent sociologists to the D.E.S, S.S.R.C. and other policy making bodies. The Executive has been involved with discussions at this level for some years now and requires the support of all sociologists who are keen to see their discipline move forward. Spread the word in your department and write to the BSA office for publicity material about the benefits of membership of the Association.

# SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

These Sub-Committees of the BSA were introduced in September 1974 to relieve the Executive of some of its work and also to involve more of the membership in the activities of the Association. This year elections to the sub-committees were held as usual but there was little response from the membership as few candidates could be found. Those members who attended the AGM will remember that an appeal to members willing to sit on the committees was made and we are grateful to those who approached us later. All sub-committees share the same basic structure; which is on trial for the next year and is then open to review. All members will serve for one year only but will be able to stand for re-election. Two members of each committee will be nominated by the EC; two members will be elected by the membership; three members will be from defined interest groups. This latter category has emerged from talks with both outside bodies and factories within the Association. At present no sub-committees may co-opt but all have the power to invite observers with full speaking rights on issues of shared interest or where they possess particular expertise. At present the following have observers status: David McCrone and Dick Williams from the BSA Scottish Branch on the Research and Finance Committees respectively. Noel Parry (Sociologists in Polytechnics), Charles Townley (Association of Teachers of Social Science) and David Newton (National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, Soc. Section) will sit on the Executive Committee of the BSA. In return Tony Marks, Ann-Marie Wolpe and David Marsland have been appointed to represent the E.C. as observers on ATSS, SIP and NATFHE respectively. Other observers on sub-committees will be announced in the next issue.

*Ex-officio members of committees are indicated with an asterisk.*

## Publications

Otto Newman (Chairperson) Jane Hoy\* (Secretary) Annette Kuhn, Daphne Taylorson, Vic Jupp, Henry Miller, Philip Abrams\* (Ed. Sociology), Rosemary Deem\* (Ed. Network), Betty Gittus\* (Ed. Key Variables), Christian Heath\* (1976 Conference Volume), Barry Smart\* (1977 Conference Volume), Michael Mann\* (Ed. Studies in Sociology Series).

## Programmes and Teaching

Bridget Fowler (Chairperson), Jane Hoy\* (Secretary) Henry Miller, Judith Bowen, Philip Abrams, Graeme Salaman, Marie Macey, Stephen Ball, Tony Green\* (1977 Summer School Director), Eileen Wormald, Gary Littlejohn\* (1977 Conference Organiser), Michele Barratt\* (1978 Conference Organiser), Jenny Shaw\* (1978 Summer School Director), Bob Humphries.

## Research

Mary Fuller (Chairperson), Jane Hoy\* (Secretary), Maureen Cain, Mary-Ann Elston, Janet Spedding, Sally Tomlinson, John Hall, Monica Shaw, John Wakeford.

## Finance and Membership

Robin Ward\* (Treasurer), Jane Hoy\* (Secretary), Meriel Pipkin, Mike Fahey, Tony Marks, Bert Moorhouse\* (Assis. Treasurer), John Hall.

## Equality of the Sexes

Ronald Frankenberg, Keith Kelsall, Ursula Sharma, Margaret Stacey, David Webb, Ann-Marie Wolpe, Diana Woodward, (Secretary) Miriam David.

## Professional Ethics

Keith Kelsall (Chairperson), Geoff Payne, Ann-Marie Wolpe, Ralph Adams, Kate Purcell, Helen Roberts.

## Working Party on Education Cuts

Ann-Marie Wolpe (Convenor) David Chambers, Glyn Morris, Henry Miller, Alan Waton, Enid Black, Judy Keiner.

## I.S.A.

April 5-7 International Symposium on 'The Social Consequences of Imposed Law' to be held at the University of Warwick. Details from organiser Dr. S. Burman, Socio-Legal Unit, Wolfson College Oxford, or Dr. B. Harrell-Bond, School of Law, University of Warwick.

## IX WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

Uppsala, Sweden from 14-19 August 1978. Theme: Paths of Social Development. Details from I.S.A. PO Box 719, Station A, Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3C 2V2.

## ATSS

February 17/19 1978 - Weekend Residential Conference. AEB A Level Sociology - Past Present and Future. With John Rex, Tony Marks and the Glasgow University Media Group. To be held at Wolverhampton Technical Teachers College. Details from Chris Brown, 19 Mandeville Gardens, Walsall, Staffs.

## LAURENSEN ESSAY PRIZE

It is proposed to establish a Student Essay Prize in memory of Dr. Diana Laurenson who died on 9th May 1977. Diana Laurenson was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at North East London Polytechnic from 1965. She was regarded with great affection and respect by her colleagues and students over many years and her work in the fields of culture, social psychology and psychoanalysis made an important contribution to the life of the Department and to the education of many students. She was the joint author, with Alan Swingewood of *The Sociology of Literature* and when she died she had just finished editing a volume in the *Sociological Review Monograph* series in the same field. She was a member of the British Sociological Association's Publication Committee and contributed actively to the work of the Association. Her contribution in the field of social psychology and the sociology of literature will be missed.

There is a widespread wish to commemorate her by something which would associate her memory with students and we therefore propose that an Annual Essay Prize be established; open to students of the Polytechnic and set and judged each year by an appropriate committee. We hope that friends and colleagues of Dr. Laurenson will contribute generously. We will make a further announcement about the specific occasion and form of the Prize Essay after the Appeal. Cheques should be made payable to Diana Laurenson Essay Prize and sent to Dr. Claire Bland, Department of Sociology, North East London Polytechnic, Livingstone House, London E15 2LL.

# NEWS AND NOTES

## INDUSTRIAL SOCIOLOGY

The Industrial Sociology Group of the BSA until a few years ago principally centered in London, holding regular meetings usually on a Wednesday afternoon. For several reasons in the past two or so years this situation has changed. One-day conferences have, for example, been held on the teaching of Industrial Sociology at Aston in Birmingham. Towards the end of last year there was a growing feeling amongst some members that there might well be a case for having some London-based activities. In response to this a series of Wednesday afternoon meetings were set up by Stan Parker (OPCS), Christine Edwards (Imperial College) and Stephen Wood (LSE). Six seminars were held at LSE during the Spring and Summer of this year. They consisted of an introductory session of about forty-five minutes by the speaker followed by an informal discussion chaired by one of the convenors. The speakers have included Graeme Salaman (Open University), Stephen Hill (LSE), Celia Davis (Warwick), Michael Mann (Essex), Dorothy Wedderburn (Imperial College) and Denis Pym (London Graduate School of Business Studies).

The seminars have all been of a very high standard both in terms of the presentation and the discussion, and attendances have consistently been around the thirty-five mark. They have certainly provided a forum in which sociologists working in very different types of environments can meet.

At the last AGM of the Group it was decided to integrate the London-based seminars with the main existing organisation. Christine Edwards, Rosemary Deem and Stephen Wood were elected convenors of the Group for 1977-8 and it was agreed that Stan Parker would, along with Edwards and Wood, continue to arrange Wednesday afternoon seminars in London along similar lines to those previously held.

### Programme for the Autumn Term 1977

Oct. 5th: Theo Nichols (Bristol University) 'Management Prerogatives and Workers' Control'  
Oct. 26th: Peter Abell (Birmingham University) Claims and Settlements - an Exploratory Study of Trades Union Bargaining Power  
Nov. 23rd: Derek Pugh (London Graduate School of Business Studies) 'Processes of Organisational Decision Making'  
Dec. 14th: Alan Fox (Oxford University) 'Pluralism Revisited'

All meetings will be held at 4.30 pm at the LSE in Room S.421 (St. Clements Building, Houghton St).

It is also hoped to hold a conference on the general theme of 'Skill and the Labour Process' one Saturday in November.

## STATE AND ECONOMY

The aim of this Study Group is to bring together people interested in problems of the relationship between the state and the economy. The interests of members range from a broad concern with problems of sociological analysis to the more specific topic of state intervention, class structure, imperialism, industrial relations, political forms etc. The group wishes to promote the study of these phenomena from a broadly sociological point of view rather than from the more restricted approaches of particular specialisms.

The Group hopes to circulate a twice-yearly newsletter, which is now available. The viability of the newsletter depends upon the willingness of members to provide items of information (e.g. lists of obscure but relevant papers) short papers and book reviews. We envisage that the newsletter will include brief working papers in which members can present rough ideas for further discussion, as well as reviews of books of interest to members. Members will be invited to review books which we receive and would welcome suggestions for specific books to review. If you would like to review a particular book or have an idea for a paper please contact us. We are, unfortunately, limited to short articles only but if there is sufficient support it may be possible to finance a longer newsletter. The current issue has been financed by the Department of Sociology at Leicester and we are extremely grateful to Professor Neustadt and the secretarial staff who made this possible.

We are still collecting information for a directory of members and research interests and will circulate this soon. Please send details to John Scott and Dominic Strinati, Dept of Sociology, University of Leicester, University Rd, Leicester LE1 7RH.

*Apologies from the BSA office to all those BSA members who have missed the study group meeting on Corporation in the State and the Economy, held early this September. Unfortunately we were unable to publish Network until later in the month. However, write to the convenors at the above address if you wish to be included on the mailing list for future events.*

## DEVELOPMENT

This group is trying to find a new convenor to take over the organisation of this very active study group. If you are willing to help in any way please write to John Humphrey, 92 Arundel Ave, Liverpool 17 or Jane Hoy at the BSA Office.

## MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Jeremy Tunstall (City University) is now the convenor for this group and the following programme has been arranged.  
Oct. 12th: Philip Elliott (Leicester University) and Philip Schlesinger (Thames Poly) 'Mass Media and Political Violence: cold war explanations'  
Oct. 26th: Frank Burton (City University) 'Catholic Belfast: events as seen by local residents and by the media'.  
Nov. 16th: John Whale (Sunday Times) 'Reporting Violence: American and British Experience'  
Nov. 30th: Pablo Aguirre (Grad. student, City University) 'Allende, the Coup, and the Chilean Media'.  
All meetings to take place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the City University, St. John St, London EC1. Contact Jeremy Tunstall for further details. Tel. 01253 4399.

## LIBRARIANSHIP AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

There will be an introductory meeting for people interested in forming a new study group in this area on Wednesday 26th October at 3.00 p.m. in Room U7.20, Skinners' Library, the City University, St. John St, London EC1. John Lindsay will give a paper on 'Politics, Power and Information' and this will be followed by a short business meeting. For further details contact Ralph Adam at City University or Judith Bowen at the School of Librarianship, Leeds Polytechnic.

## EDUCATION

A day conference on the effect of educational expenditure cuts and current DES initiatives on social studies teaching will be jointly organised with the ATSS. It is hoped that the meeting will be on December 3rd, 1977 but write to Pete Seaman, Hatfield Polytechnic or Tony Green, at the Institute of Education for further details.

## **SOCIALIST SOCIETIES**

Sat. January 14th: George Kolankiewicz 'Peasant Workers in Poland'; Ian Hill 'Peasant Workers in the USSR'; David Lane 'Soviet Industrial Workers: an incorporated class?'. The meeting will be held at the University of Essex from 10.30 to 4.00 p.m.

## **FAMILY AND KINSHIP**

The convenor of this group, David Morgan (Manchester University) is updating the mailing list and preparing a register of members with addresses, research interests publications etc. If you wish to be included please write in as soon as possible.

There will be a meeting at Manchester on September 30th on the theme of 'Family and Social Policy'. Speakers will include Pat Ailatt (Keele University), Jackie Burgoyne (Sheffield Polytechnic) and Joel Richman (Manchester Polytechnic).

## **SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE**

There will be a meeting of this group on the topic of the history and sociology of science at the LSE on Saturday 10th December at 10.30 a.m. Speakers will include: Professor Yehuda Elkana, Professor P. M. Rattansi and Dr. Robert Fox.

## **SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS**

Sat. 1st October at Brunel University.  
Dr. C. R. Badcock (LSE) The vindication of Totem and Taboo: new light on the primal horde hypothesis.  
S. F. Sayers (York University) The Sociological Significance of the Psychoanalytic Distinction between Superstition and Religion.  
Please contact Bob Bocoock, Brunel University, for further details.

## **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

Sat. 26th November at the LSE: G. Seidal: Political Discourse: the language of alliances and stratagems. Spring Term: Barry Hindess — topic to be decided.

## **MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY**

London Branch: meetings will now be held in the LSE, Main Building, Room 257 at 6.00 p.m.  
Wed. 26th Oct: Robert Harrison, 'Sexually-transmitted Diseases the management of the stigma'.  
Wed. 23rd November: Pat West, 'Management of Stigma in Epilepsy: a study of child patients and their mothers'.  
Wed. 14th Dec: Sara Arber, 'Barriers to GP care'.  
Information from Jonathan Barker, London Hospital Medical College, Turner St, London E1.

## **MIDLANDS**

Information from Tom Manson, University of Warwick.

## **MANCHESTER AND THE NORTH WEST.**

Enquiries to Eileen Fairhurst, University Hospital of South Manchester, Nell Lane, Manchester M20.

## **SOUTH WEST AND WALES**

If you are interested in attending meetings in this area please write to the two new convenors: Robert Harris, MRC, Park Buildings, Park St, Swansea and Colin Rees, (S. Glamorgan AHA) Area Management Services Division, 5-7 Museum Place, Cardiff.

## **NORTH EAST**

Contact Malcolm Colledge, Dept of Health Studies, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Poly, Coach Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## **SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND**

Proceedings of the Third Annual Conference. Papers by L. Killian: The Neglect of the Group in Intergroup Relations Study; H. Abramson: On the Sociology of Ethnicity & Social Change. R. J. Cormack: Liberalism and the Organisation and Administration of Scientific Research; L. Hillroy: Investigating Linguistic Variation in Three Belfast Working Class Communities; B. Rolston: Community

Work: control or liberation? Towards an alternative Theory; A. E. C. W. Spencer: The Religious and the Sacred in the Northern Ireland Conflict; J. Wickham: Nation, Nationalism and Dependency: the case of Ireland. Distributors: University Bookshop, University Rd, Belfast 17, Ireland. Paperback — £1.00. Library Ed — £4.00.

## **1978 CONFERENCE ON CULTURE**

The venue for the Conference has had to be changed. It will now take place at the University of Sussex in Brighton; the dates of the Conference are 1-4 April 1978.

Plans for the Conference are well under way, and the organisers have had many offers of papers and contributions. These include recent work in media studies, film theory, literary criticism and popular culture, as well as broader theoretical papers on culture and ideology and the sociology of art and culture. There will be about six large Panel Sessions, on topics which will probably include 'Culture and ideology', 'Contemporary forms of patronage', 'Cultural imperialism' and 'Feminist critique of the arts'. As well as individual papers, the organisers intend to have a number of workshops where perhaps one or two people working in the same area could have an open discussion about the subject, or where work still in progress could be presented; suggested themes for such workshops include Rock Music, Local Radio, Literature and History, Community Press, Sexuality, and Popular Culture.

It is also hoped that there will be a fairly full programme of films, theatre, displays and other entertainment throughout the Conference and, as at the 1977 Conference, a disco.

If any members have suggestions to make about the Conference as outlined above, or any new offers of contributions, could they contact one of the organising committee as quickly as possible. Committee: Michèle Barrett, Philip Corrigan, Annette Kuhn, Janet Wolff. C/O BSA Office).

## **1978 SUMMER SCHOOL**

The theme will be Sexual Divisions, a topic suggested by a number of members who responded to our request in the last issue of Network. The Director will be Jenny Shaw, University of Sussex. More details in the December issue of Network.

## **Overseas Visitors**

Some time ago we issued a list of overseas visitors to sociology departments within the UK. The circular round departments produced very little response but some members have since requested that we produce a list for the coming academic year 1977/8. If your department has any visiting academics who you think may wish to be invited to talk about their work to members in other institutions, then please send details to the BSA office.

## SSRC Visiting Professional Fellowship for Distinguished Social Scientists

*The Executive Committee has recently received notice of a scheme operating under the French Programme of the SSRC, a copy of which appears below. The Executive have suggested to the SSRC that, whilst welcoming the proposals they would prefer the scholar to be informed about the likelihood of an award and that he should be available and willing to take it up, if it is offered. The Executive has written to say that the Association is willing to help with the negotiation of the scheme and is awaiting a reply.*

The SSRC Council has entered into a reciprocal arrangement with a number of french research institutes, including the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, the Fondation National des Sciences Politiques and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales. Through this arrangement, the SSRC is able to sponsor a limited number of eminent French social scientists as visiting colleges of higher education or independent research institutes. The period which we envisage for such visits will normally be not less than six weeks or more than three months.

If there is a distinguished French scholar whom your Association would like to see invited to this country under this scheme, the SSRC French Programme would be pleased to receive a proposal from you. Such a proposal should include details both of the suggested visitor's academic and research career, and of the programme of lectures, seminars or other teaching or research which you would wish the visitor to undertake. We would normally expect the visitor to be based in a single institution during the period of the visit, and the proposal should set out your Association's view as to what the most appropriate institution would be. Proposals may be submitted to SSRC at any time in the form of a letter. The scholar under nomination should not be informed about the submission until it is known that an award is forthcoming and the necessary arrangements have been made with the host institution. Any award made by the SSRC would be appropriate to the status of Visiting Professorial Fellow and would cover the visitor's travel and extraordinary expenses as well as appropriate honorarium. Those selected would be given the status of SSRC Visiting Professorial Fellow. Funds available under this scheme do not allow support for more than a few such visitors in any one year but suggestions may be submitted as early as 24 months in advance of the proposed visit. Proposals should be sent to:

The Officer in Charge, SSRC French Programme,  
Research Initiatives Division, 1 Temple Avenue, London  
EC4Y 0BD.

Further details and information may be obtained in writing or by telephoning Mr S. Yasin or Mr D. Kitson at the SSRC.

## Health and Health Research

The Social Science Research Council's Research Initiatives Board has recently set aside £250,000 for a research programme based upon the main themes of a report presented to them by their Advisory Panel on Health and Health Policy. This report suggests that "the research programme should be to explore the operational implications of different concepts of health by examining the social, economic and political mechanisms by which health problems are or fail to be identified and tackled — looking particularly at the level at which the client encounters the service provider. Using concepts as an organising theme, priority topics for

research were grouped under three main headings:

Patterns of health care

Evaluation

Development and implementation of policy.

In the report these themes are specified more fully, the kinds of empirical research envisaged under each is elaborated and priorities are assigned between each heading. The research programme, whilst being based on a conceptual approach, is also seen as one which would have implications for policy and practice in the field.

An Executive Panel on Health and Health Policy Research has been set up to implement this programme and is asking for outline research proposals (not more than 1,500 words) by September 16, 1977. Such outline proposals should be sent to the Secretary of the Panel, Mr. M. Brennan. Social Science Research Council, 1 Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0RD.

## SSRC SURVEY OF THE TEACHING OF COMPUTING TO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

This is a summary of an exploratory survey in which over 80 people (mostly from universities) participated by letter or interview, about half in response to a letter circulated with the help of the Study Group. The detailed findings are contained in a report to the SSRC (May 1976), which it is hoped will soon be published.

The most striking observation was the variation both between and within universities of the provision of teaching in computing techniques to social scientists, ranging from none at all in some departments to courses extending over three years integrated with statistics and quantitative methods at the other extreme. The prime determinant appears to be the orientation of a department to quantitative methods, rather than the local computer service — though this is also important. Thus geography, economics, statistics and business studies are areas in which provision tends to be more common and more sophisticated.

Many of the courses given specifically to social science students comprise one or more of the three elements: computer appreciation (i.e. a broad non-subject-specific element with the aim of explaining how computers work, what they can be used for, and the implications of their use);

a programming language (i.e. the students learn the language and run jobs on a computer — where possible this is usually done interactively, sometimes using mini-computers); a package, such as SPSS, and sufficient about the operating system to run jobs.

Little distinction was found between undergraduate and postgraduate courses as such, but there seems to be a distinction between students taking degrees by coursework and examination, and those by research. The latter group are sometimes left to their own devices and teach themselves computing in response to a specific research need. Although it is at least good that many self teaching aids are now available, it is sad that such people may not gain a very broad picture of computing.

The characteristics of successful taught courses appear to be thorough integration into the mainstream social science curriculum, use of interactive facilities, and plenty of practical/project work. It seems important to organise carefully to avoid congestion on equipment, to cater for computer breakdowns, and ideally to schedule the teaching at an early stage in the students' careers and over a non-intensive timescale.

The survey encountered a number of interesting developments in which teaching of both computing and a social science were implicitly occurring together, such as FAKAD for interactive analysis of substantive datasets (at Essex), the use of SPSS by the Scottish Education Data Archive, and the CAL project at Leeds. There are exciting possibilities in such applications, and a clear message to departments not yet teaching computing that plenty of software, data (SSRC Survey Archive), and hardware are readily available.

Furthermore a recent study by the Society for Research into Higher Education ("Social Scientists at Work", Williams, Westaby and Webster) of 4500 graduates strongly suggests that employers would welcome increased teaching of quantitative, survey and computer methods to social scientists.

## Self-Renewing Library

The BSA Executive Committee in conjunction with representatives of the Sociology Subject Group at Sussex University have expressed concern over the Governments proposals relating to the self-renewing library policy and recently approached the Secretary of State, Gordon Oakes, with the following objections. Members interested in adding their support or who wish to comment, please write to Jennifer Platt at Sussex University.

The proposals to implement the idea of the "self-renewing library" are unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons, different ones of which relate to different aspects of the proposals. Some of the main objections are listed below.

The proposed basis for calculation of needs is student numbers. Actual needs, however, are not solely related to numbers; they depend for a given number of students, on the types of courses as taught. There are also faculty research needs which bear no necessary relation to student numbers and also depend on their fields.

The proposal to treat all universities in the same way makes undesirable inroads into university autonomy, removing the possibility of choice about the proportion of resources to be committed to library needs.

Access to primary data and to material for browsing would be reduced; it is unrealistic to assume that central availability would be sufficient to compensate for the lack of local availability.

In particular, the tendency to monopoly by the BLLD over research materials would constrain the future development of research interests not already established or predictable. There are reasons for doubt whether the proposals would in fact achieve net economies. The Inter-Library Loan system is quite expensive to use, and there would also be additional costs for travel to other libraries. Considerable resources would also need to be committed to the process of deciding which books to relinquish, and to establishing stores for them. (If the decisions about books were made on some arbitrary basis this would of course be cheaper, but the intellectual results would be disastrous. If faculty were involved in the decision-making the costs of their time would not appear in library budgets, but it would nonetheless be a cost of the proposal).

Finally, there are some points which relate specifically to Sociology.

- A. systematic comparative research has shown that it is characteristic of the literature in the social and behavioural sciences, as opposed to the natural sciences, that it makes use of older documents, especially monographs, which are not displaced by new research. (See Belver C. Griffith & Henry G. Small, "The structure of the social and behavioural sciences' literature"; not yet published - submitted to *American Psychologist*)
- B. given the increasing rate of publication in Sociology, as well as the characteristics mentioned above, it would be particularly unsatisfactory to remove older books to make way for newer ones, since this would entail the removal of a very high proportion of the older ones.
- C. Sociology is intrinsically a controversial subject, and thus requires reference to a wide range of sources rather than reliance on a few as authoritative.
- D. there is an increasing tendency within Sociology to historical research, which would be discouraged by the proposals. Historical research is both intrinsically desirable on intellectual grounds, and likely to be very much cheaper than alternative forms of research entailing fieldwork.

## Courses in the Design and Analysis of Social Surveys

These are joint courses of the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Applied Social Studies, held in conjunction with the Study Group on Computers in Survey Analysis and the British Sociological Association Survey Research Group.

There are three linked courses, each of one term's duration (the overall period being from October 1977 to June 1978). Each course is held on Tuesday evenings from 6.15 pm to 7.05 pm and 7.25 pm to 8.15 pm. Students may enrol for one or more courses. The courses are designed on a modular basis so that students with differing backgrounds can join at different stages.

### Use of SPSS and Elementary Survey Analysis

10 week course starting on Tuesday 11 October 1977  
*This course has two sessions per evening. One covers elementary statistical notation and techniques for the analysis of survey data. The other session is a course, with extensive practical exercises, on the use of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for data manipulation. (No previous statistical or computing experience is required for either session). Course fee: £20.00.*

### Practical Survey Methods

10 week course starting on Tuesday 10 January 1978  
*This course is again split into two parts. One session covers problem formulation, questionnaire design, interviewing, planning of surveys, coding and costing. The other session of each evening builds on the basic statistics introduced in the previous course and includes the elements of survey design and sampling. (A knowledge of elementary statistics is needed for this course; e.g. as provided by previous course). Course fee: £20.00.*

### Advanced Statistical Techniques in the Analysis and Design of Surveys

10 week course starting on Tuesday 25th April 1978  
*Topics covered include: Design of surveys. Interviewer variance. The analysis of multiway contingency tables, via log linear models, including practical sessions on the use of GLIM. Causal modelling. (This course requires a basic knowledge of mathematical statistics). Course fee: £20.00.*

Participants enrolling for two or more terms are eligible for a reduction of £3.00 per term. There is a further reduction of £1.00 per term for members of affiliated bodies (SGCSA, BCS, MRS, BSA). Participants not sponsored by their employers may apply for a further reduction. Further details from the Dept of Mathematics, The Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Road, London N7 8DB. Tel: 607 2789.

## Marie Stopes Research Fund

The Council of the Eugenics Society is prepared to receive applications for support of research in those areas of activity for which the late Dr. Marie Carmichael Stopes through her work with the Society for Constructive Birth Control is best remembered, namely problems of:— Fertility control, Differential fertility, Eugenic aspects of reproduction and population, Eugenic aspects of sex education and sexual behaviour and the impact of all these and related matters on the welfare of women and of the community, with particular emphasis (in keeping with the biosocial outlook of the Society) on interdisciplinary research.

The General Secretary of the Society will be pleased to provide further information and advice on the appropriate method of application. Address: 69 Eccleston Square, London SW1.

# REVIEW

# SECTION

## **The Idea of Race**

by Michael Banton, Tavistock Publications, London 1977. £6.50, 190pp.

## **Immigration and Social Policy in Britain**

by Catherine Jones, Tavistock Publications, London, 1977. £7.85, ix + 291pp.

The recent events in Lewisham and Ladywood have brought the politics of race once more to our attention. Banton and Jones, in quite different ways, indicate why it is that race in Britain is a live issue, and why it is likely to remain so. Both these studies provide us with an historical perspective on race and related social policy; and as such they do not concern themselves with a rigorous analysis of present race relations.

Michael Banton produces a thorough exploration of the intellectual contexts within which the idea of race, and race relations emerged. In his early chapters we are provided with a new perspective on the development of racial ideas as their origins are traced back probably further than ever before, drawing upon a wide range of literary and historical sources. The emergence of this particular mode of categorisation, which Banton terms 'racialisation', developed as a racial philosophy of history, was applied tentatively in European historical writing and then to the rest of the world's population. In examining this process Banton analyses the work of those, like Gobineau and Haeckel who have largely become discredited as proponents of racial determinism. In a case-study which repeats some of the above themes, Charles Kingsley's views on race are presented as an example of one influential Victorian's racial philosophy.

The application of Darwinian principles to human society ushered in the sociologist, particularly in America. Banton provides a most useful synthesis of the historical development of the sociology of race relations. However, here, as throughout the rest of the book, there is little attempt to relate these ideas to the social and political environment of the times. The modern growth of ethnic consciousness, and the use of ethnic and racial identities by minorities, is convincingly illustrated and as previously (chap. 7.), new material on less familiar ethnic groups is used. Finally the Banton-Rex controversy over racism is continued and Banton presents his conclusions on the idea of race relations with a warning to us to be careful of the designations we use. Catherine Jones is concerned with the idea of race in the development of British social policy, particularly in the way that policy has dealt with Irish, Jewish and Black immigration. She deals with the general development of social policy and against this background contends that these waves of immigration tend to show the scope and ethos of the social policy, i.e. immigration is seen as a "test" of prevailing statutory policy.

A wealth of interesting information is presented on the historical cases and it is striking to see the similarity between the host population's responses to Irish and Jewish immigration and more recent responses to Black immigration. In putting the emphasis on the response to these incoming groups it is surprising that nothing is related of the political machinations that accompanied the formation of such policies and to an extent dictated their form. The most detailed case-study is that of New Commonwealth immigration which relies on the results of a survey of social services agencies undertaken in 1973/74. Some of the responses are indications more of the rigidity of complex, bureaucratic organisations than of weaknesses in social

policy as such. Two aspects weaken this study as a "test" of social policy. Firstly, there are no indications, either in the recent or the historical cases of the level of demand made on social services; surely this would be a factor in determining the response of agencies. Secondly, nowhere in the study are the immigrants' views recorded; this really must be the acid test of any social policy's effectiveness. STEVE CORNISH, TEESSIDE POLYTECHNIC.

## **The Sociology of Power**

by Roderick Martin, Routledge, Kegan Paul, London 1977. £6.75, ix + 203pp.

This sophisticated and interesting book aims at 'reorienting political sociology around the concept of power', examining the different patterns of domination and subordination that are found within different ideal-typical systems of labour exploitation — slavery, feudalism and capitalism. These are taken to be 'more or less integrated structures of technology, labour organisation, and norms and values, with characteristic patterns of power relations'. It offers, not a formal theory of power, but a 'synoptic, comparative approach' drawing extensively on historical and sociological evidence, which combines a macro-level analysis employing general marxist concepts (in particular 'a dialectic between the forces of production, especially technology, and the relations of production') with a 'social action approach', stressing the independent significant of actors' goals and expectations, but focussing on the subordinate in power relations and making much use of contemporary exchange theory. Though locating his study 'within the broad tradition of humanist Marxism and Weberian theory', the author is concerned to distance it from contemporary marxist approaches to the study of power, claiming its approach to be less determinist, and its conclusions, especially as regards contemporary capitalism, more pluralist.

He usefully seeks to account for different power relations in terms of asymmetrical patterns of dependence resulting from differential control over access to the resources required to achieve certain 'general goals', chief among them 'acquisition of the basic necessities of life' (he makes the simplifying assumption that this is central to the explanation of dependence relations — though he wavers as to what else is central: 'competent performance of basic social roles'? acquisition of 'prestige and power'?). This control is based partly on inheritance and partly on the differential 'criticalness' of specific resources at a particular time, which is determined primarily by the prevailing forces of production, especially technology, and scarcity. Technology and natural resources determine criticalness which, with inheritance, leads to differential control over desired resources, which leads to dependence, which, with limited possibilities of escape for the subordinate, leads to power relations.

The bulk of the book consists in broad sketches, usefully footnoted with references to detailed studies, of the distinctive dependence relations of slavery (citing the Southern States and the Ancient World), feudalism (as found in much of Europe and in Japan in the eleventh and twelfth centuries) and capitalism (focussing on contemporary Britain, with some reference to the US, Canada and Australia). Each is treated in relation to its ecological and technological preconditions and the author is sensitive to the ways in which 'changes in patterns of dependence, deriving from the discovery of new natural resources, technological innovation, the evolution of inheritance rules, or simply from different priorities, or changes in the means available for escape from dependence, lead to new patterns of power relations'.

Much here is admirable: the non-reductionist linkage of technology, economics and politics, and of structural conditions and actors' goals; the synthetic treatment of many individual studies, especially in contemporary industrial sociology; and the judicious discussion of Michels' thesis in relation to political parties and trade unions. But certain crucial theoretical issues are dodged. Class theory, for example, is treated as a form of elite theory — thereby begging a question central to current neo-marxist discussions of class.

More seriously, Martin defines 'power' as 'that type of information flow which symbolises non-self-regarding action for the recipient'. 'Compliance' is 'action interpreted as non-self-regarding by the subordinate'. (There are three bases of power: coercion, where compliance is based on physical deprivation or its threat; authority, where it is legitimated or consented to; and influence, which is 'a residual term referring to non-legitimate non-coercive compliance'). But, unhappily, these definitions fail to solve the problem, raised by a number of current discussions, of how to conceptualise and identify situations where) as Martin puts it, 'subordinates fail to realise that their actions are non-self-regarding, although they are judged to be so by external observers'. His own answer is simple: it is to exclude such cases from consideration — 'it runs counter to the basic assumption of the social action approach ... the actor's own interpretation of his situation, and the grounded explanations for that interpretation, should be the primary focus of attention'. But his notion of 'non-self-regarding action' is highly problematic. How is it to be distinguished from a 'self-regarding action'? We need a hypothesis concerning what 'he' (the recipient) regarded as 'a surplus of benefits over costs'. But cannot power be exercised to determine or modify his scale of benefits and costs, and indeed to constitute, shape or limit his very 'self'? Martin acknowledges that 'comparison between events and probable courses-of-action is necessary to obtain any measure of power, to assess the difference made by alter to ego's actions'. But what about the difference made to ego's beliefs and desires, and to his self? What, in such cases, is 'non-self-regarding action', except a way of not talking about deep issues central to the sociology of power?  
STEVEN LUKES, BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD.

## The Urban Question: A Marxist Approach

by Manuel Castells, Edward Arnold, London, 1977. *Social Structure and Social Change I*, General Editors David Harvey and Brian Robson. Translated by Alan Sheridan. £5.95 (paper) and £12.00 (h/b), x + 502pp.

Manuel Castells occupies a prominent position within a body of work which has become one of the focal points of discussion in urban and regional studies. Consequently, the publication of the first English translation, of the French revised second edition, of Castells' seminal work i.e. a *question urbaine*, 1972 is both welcome and significant. The perspective advanced, the topics and issues raised, all combine to make *The Urban Question* "required reading" for all students of urban and regional studies.

Castells' task is to provide the foundations for a reconceptualised theoretical framework for the study of urban and regional development. The orientation and character of the work is overtly theoretical. For Castells, this is an especially important task, given that the bulk of urban and regional studies can be characterised as "atheoretical", "technocratic", "sprawling" and basically "ideological". The author's own theoretical position is derived directly from Althusser's "Marxist structuralism". From this position, Castells sets out to lay the foundations for the development of a more rigorous, critical and relevant urban social science, as the prerequisite for social practice. In the "Epistemological Introduction" Castells justifies the work, situating and sapping the parameters of the thesis to

follow. It is essential reading. Parts I and II provide a critical assessment of conventional urban sociologies (concluding that they are ideologically based "distorting mechanisms"). In Parts III—V the formal foundations of a truly "scientific" alternative are worked out in relation to developments in France, the United States, Britain, Latin America and Canada. The Conclusion provides a clear and systematic statement of the basic thesis, together with a set of problems for further discussion and research. An "Afterword" has been added to the original work giving a long list of researchers working on related topics. This book is not a simplistic Marxist denunciation of "mainstream" urban and regional studies. The author is intellectually and practically concerned to detect, demonstrate and rectify the power of "distorting ideological mechanisms" that shackle our analyses and social practices alike. The Marxist perspective is adopted because it directs attention to the structural basis of society and to the nature and consequences of the class struggle. For Castells, Marxism is not a scheme to be "applied" to urban and regional studies, but a perspective that demands reflexivity and modification for its development.

*The Urban Question* is not an "introductory text", the force of the thesis demands considerable theoretical, methodological and substantive sophistication (especially Parts II—V). For those whose appetites were whetted, or whose sensitivities have been outraged, by the York conference (CES, 1975) or by the papers in Pickvance (1976), this book provides the most comprehensive statement of the "French school" hitherto available in English. Adherents and critics alike should find the "Afterword 1975" particularly interesting. Here Castells replies to his critics, revises some basic propositions in the light of his experience and provides an invaluable guide to research activities in this area.

Whatever one's area or level of interest, students of urban and regional studies will find that *The Urban Question* warrants careful attention, discussion and assessment. This is the first volume in a new series, *Social Structure and Social Change*, edited by two eminent scholars, David Harvey and Brian Robson. We await, with some excitement, others in this series. The reader's attention is also directed to a new journal, the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* (also recently published by Edward Arnold) which seems destined to become a major forum for the exposition and analysis of topics and issues pivotal to Castells' thesis and the continuing development of urban and regional studies.

RAY FRANCIS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL.

## Law and Order News

Steven Chibnall, Tavistock, London, 1977. £3.50 (paper) viii and 283pp

What do soccer fans, muggers, rapists, the IRA, industrial workers and the political left have in common? All were featured as man-eating tigers in a Cummings cartoon in the Daily Express of September 15th, 1975. This answer will come as no surprise to ordinary newspaper readers familiar with the bogies of the popular press. Nor will it surprise sociologists familiar with the work on deviancy which has made much of the part the mass media play in the labelling and amplification of deviance. The cartoon is one of a number of apposite illustrations included in Steve Chibnall's book on crime reporting. Chibnall, however, extends his argument beyond an account of the definition of discrete deviances into a convincing and readable analysis of the manufacture of law and order news as a consistent, ideological interpretation of the world and more particularly of contemporary social change. On the one hand, he details the way various phenomena have been lumped together to create the myth that Britain in the 1970s is a peculiarly violent society, on the other he recounts the steps that have been taken to protect and promote the reputation of the police, the main champions of law and order. Thoughtfully, Chibnall provides the

reader with the raw material to extend this grand design by including a post-war chronology of law and order events.

It is to Chibnall's credit that he studied the manufacture of news by interviewing reporters as well as reading their copy. There is much to be said for leg-work in sociology, especially media sociology which can all too easily fall into armchair criticism. As a result this study covers gathering as well as processing, an aspect of news manufacture which has received much less attention in the literature. In practice gathering turns out to be very similar to processing in the formal sense that it too is a patterned, routinised activity. Newspaper staff manage and are managed by their sources, those who control the information which is their raw material. The staff aim to produce a professional, marketable product, the sources to control their image and achieve other ends. To an extent these goals conflict. Experience of such conflict provides one reason why journalists and sources find the argument that news manufacture is the routinised production of an ideology hard to take. Another reason is that few admit to holding the ideology. It has proved remarkably difficult to discover who has the intention of making news ideological. Intentionalism is one of those familiar sociological hornets' nests which is best avoided. To phrase the problem in Chibnall's terms, there is a need "to relate a political economy of mass communications to a sociology of mass communicators". In any case the research task is clear, to study production not just to draw inferences on the basis of the output. Reading Chibnall's book one has the feeling that he knows a good deal more about his subject than he is prepared to reveal. Like the journalists whom he studied there is much to be said at the level of gossip and anecdote. Whether more of this could have been committed to public print is a matter of judgement. What is certain is that *Law and Order News* shows the valuable, informed research which can be produced by a sociologist and a notebook. Any inference about tapes, teams and computers is entirely intentional.

PHILIP ELLIOT, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

## **Power and Illness: the Political Sociology of Health and Medical Care**

by E. A. Krause (Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam) 1977. \$12.95, xiv + 383pp.

## **Medicine Under Capitalism**

by V. Navarro, Croom Helm, 1977. £7.95, xvi + 230pp.

These books share a common conviction that medical sociology must be transformed. It has become narrowly fixed on the internal dynamics of the medical care system and blind to wider issues. Navarro repeatedly stresses that the composition and distribution of health resources are determined by the same forces that determine the distribution of economic and political power. Navarro's work is grounded fairly securely in an understanding and use of modern Marxist accounts of monopoly capitalism. Krause likewise, though he has come to his subject matter by a more recent and more orthodox academic route. This shows in the titles, and it shows in the text.

*Medicine Under Capitalism* is a collection of eight essays, almost all of them published elsewhere, the best ones in the *International Journal of Health Services*. Two essays deal with health in the Third World — one a brisk demolition of Rostow with the aid of Frank and an elegant introduction to the debate on underdevelopment, the other a fascinating interpretation of events in Chile before and after Allende. It ties patterns of health care firmly and convincingly to economic and political developments. Lest the under-development of health be thought merely

to be a problem of underdeveloped countries, two essays are included on the USA dealing respectively with rural and industrial health problems. The essay on Illich has already become a classic; it points to why Illich has been so warmly received among the powers that be; it dissects life-style politics and individualistic solutions to health care; and it sets out a Marxist alternative. The two most important contributions are entitled "An Explanation of the Composition, Nature and Functions of the Present Health Sector of the US" and "Social Class, Political Power, and the State: Their Implications in Medicine". No brief summary does justice to these. They are texts to be read and reread. They constitute a programmatic statement for research, the more, not the less relevant in the context of a National Health Service in Britain. It is these essays, particularly the latter, which will, more than anything else available, convince those open to be convinced that a class analysis of health is not a vague future possibility, but an emerging reality.

While Krause does not produce anything on a par with the sustained theoretical argument of these two essays, his is still an important book. Several sections are worth singling out. The historical context chapter, brief as it is, is an exciting revelation of the possibilities of cross-cultural and cross-time comparisons. The chapter on control over work takes us beyond Freidson's analysis of professional dominance and convinces that an analysis of the division of labour as economically and politically determined and as responding to the strategies of organised groups is a feasible enterprise and a timely one in the sphere of health care. This is something that Navarro neglects to discuss. The sections on racism, ageism, sexism and cultural chauvinism are highlights of a chapter which will be of especial value to students new to medical sociology. Beyond this, readers may well get lost in the welter of organisational innovations in American health care. Who, after all, can unhesitatingly unscramble R.M.Ps., H.M.Os., C.H.Ps., P.S.R.O. legislation, etc.? The analytical strategy is worth examining though. While apparently focussed on the internal dynamics of the planning process, or legal regulations, etc., Krause systematically sets out the interest groups involved by asking "who benefits" and reinforces with important detail the arguments Navarro has made.

Both books have weaknesses. Navarro's essay format and his determination each time to locate the analysis in an understanding of class relations means that that understanding remains schematic and undeveloped. Krause too tends repeatedly to affirm the class nature of phenomena when his material reveals the complexity of the job to be done in terms of mapping temporary alliances of interests and their outcomes. Sadly, neither author is prepared to face fully the problems of imputing power to the various groups. Navarro's more abstract discussions belie his trust elsewhere in class origins and class composition data. Krause, surprisingly for a political scientist, neither seriously takes up the issue of non-decision making, nor returns to his initial claim that while using the concept of interest group he will avoid the conservative ideology which it usually implies. The effort both to make a Marxist analysis intelligible and to bring empirical data to bear is one which generates heated debate. These authors are convinced that both tasks are essential. And they provide us with a foundation on which to judge in a field hitherto barren of such material.

CELIA DAVIES, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## **Social Class Differences in Britain: a source book**

by Ivan Reid, Open Books, London 1977. £2.95 (paper), xv + 266pp

The sense of frustration that inspired this book will be familiar enough to anyone who has tried to teach a first year course and discovered that going beyond the text book treatment of class differences involves a search through a disparate array of government publications and research monographs in order to compile suitable empirical data.

We all end up making our own packs of illustrative material and generally feel that our compilations are inadequate. Well, Ivan Reid has now pulled together a large amount of statistical material from national or large-scale surveys and offers a sourcebook for newcomers to the discipline. This is a volume which he hopes they will keep at their elbows to delve into whenever they wish to explore for themselves manifestations of class differences in anything from income patterns, and conditions of work to tooth loss among adults or maternal attitudes towards smacking. There are chapters on Distribution, Work and Income, on Birth, Health and Death, on Family and Home, on Education and on Politics, Religion, Leisure and Opinion.

The book begins with a lengthy discussion of the major schemes of occupational classification, for 'social class' in this volume "is a grouping of people into categories on the basis of occupation" (p.15) and thus the student is introduced to the Registrar General's Social Classes as well on the categories devised by the Department of Employment, Hall-Jones and Hope-Goldthorpe. All of it clear and sensible enough, but the author feels compelled to say something about the actual research methods employed and since he allows himself little space to do this we find such gems as "*The postal questionnaire*". This comes through the post. A notable characteristic of this type is the low rate of returned and completed questionnaires (about 60% is considered acceptable)", (p.58). By the end of this chapter it is plain that Reid hopes that his student reader will use the data here in a critical and comparative way and that they will be able to relate them to the complex theoretical problems of class analysis. I am very doubtful about that, for though he claims to be providing a documentary on the data, the author has practised a kind of theoretical hygiene to the point where there is no real discussion of major problems or issues. For the luckless student there are no tracks through this mass of "socio-facts".

Reid has sought a neutral position, deliberately avoided arguing any particular case as, say, Westergaard and Resier have done. The price of this neutrality is a curious aimlessness about some of the chapters, where the reader wonders why some data have been included and others left out. The chapter on politics, religion, leisure and opinion illustrates, this best. Its very title gives it away.

The best chapter, for my money, is the brief, neat treatment of births, health and death. At least it has some kind of coherence. I am sure that many student essayists will find the data on class distributions by region and industry and the material on work and incomes valuable and a good few will applaud the style in which the whole thing is written — clear, simple and not patronising. (Though why, oh why don't editors put a red pen through things like "The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate...."? We have it, not once, but twice here). Those who look for enlightenment on "Politics and class" will be disappointed. Despite the quote from Pufser 'class is the basis of British party politics, all else is embellishment' (p.199) we find a paltry five pages and four tables on this. And those who ask about change, about trends, will find little to cheer them, for we are dealing here in snapshots, not moving pictures. In the absence of any specification of common issues and theories to make it clear why one might be interested in child rearing patterns or class endogamy, a concern with social change could have provided a means of integrating some of the material and enhanced its value to students. As it is I fear most will be forced to trust this volume as a 'lucky bag'.

BRIAN ELLIOT, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

## Social Democracy in Capitalist Society

*Richard Scase, Croom Helm, London, 1977,  
pp.184. £7.95.*

The thesis of this book is that "although the egalitarian goals of the Swedish Social Democratic Party and labour

unions have been constrained by the forces of industrial capitalism, tensions have been generated which are reflected in the socio-political attitudes of rank-and-file supporters. Consequently, the legitimacy of Swedish capitalism as a long-run socio-economic system could be questioned among industrial workers." (p.7) The work begins and ends with some brief discussion of its relevance to ideas about the 'convergence' of industrial societies, but it is fairly clear that the basic problems with which Scase is concerned are the same two non-events which have long preoccupied many other students of the class structure of capitalist societies: namely, the absence of a revolutionary working class consciousness, and the lack of any marked diminution of inequality in those societies which have experienced substantial periods of social democratic government. In Scase's view, it is in Sweden, rather than Britain, that the latter non-event is more likely to lead to the former becoming more like an event. More straightforwardly, his argument is as follows: (1) By comparison with the British, the Swedish working-class movement is more centralized, a more powerfully united industrial and political force, and more strongly committed to egalitarian, socialist goals (even though throughout its long reign of power the SDP sought to realise them by means of redistribution rather than nationalization); (2) Despite this, inequalities in Sweden remain just as pronounced as in Britain; (3) Therefore, it is to be expected that Swedish workers, more imbued with egalitarian ideas and more directly aware of inequalities because of their involvement in a centralized, class-based bargaining structure, will be more likely than British workers to question the legitimacy of roughly the same degree of inequality; (4) And this greater working class 'relative deprivation' could in turn force the leaders of the SDP to pursue more radical policies and to face up to, instead of trying to conceal "the inherent contradictions between an ideological commitment to egalitarianism and a capitalist productive system." (p.168).

In support of the first two propositions, Scase presents a variety of documentary evidence which generally seems to provide strong grounds for thinking that the third is worth investigating (though the data on the distribution of personal wealth are not comparable). This is the purpose of the book's central chapters which are based on information that was gathered by interviewing two 'samples' of Swedish and English manual workers. An effort was made to match the two 'samples' according to several gross variables that might affect workers' 'conceptions of class structure' (but the English employers were unwilling to supply precise data on the rather crucial matter of wages and salaries). The 'samples' are not really samples, and Scase knows this, even though in the course of chapter 3 he insists three times, that his findings are *indicative* of something more than the views of 122 Swedish and 128 English workers. His analysis of the findings is admirably thorough and cogently related to his general thesis. There are traces of tendentiousness, the most offensive example — because it concerns one of his more important claims — being on p.119. To argue that "awareness of economic inequality was greater among the Swedish respondents than the English" because 80% of the former, as opposed to (a mere) 71% of the latter, can "think of people who are better off than themselves" may be strictly true; but it is missing the wood for the trees. On the whole, however, the findings do fit into place; that is to say they are not inconsistent with the conclusions that Scase draws from (1) and (2) above. The only danger is that they will be taken as having demonstrated his argument instead of simply having made it more plausible.

If the book has its limitations, they are mainly those imposed by a doctoral student's lack of financial resources. But the author of it is not short of that more important resource which makes the work exemplary in a way that even many large-scale projects are not: the ability to translate 'interesting ideas' into a research design by means of which they can be subjected to systematic inquiry.

DAVID LOCKWOOD, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

## Women and the Welfare State

by Elizabeth Wilson, Tavistock Publications, London, 1977. *Women's Studies series*. £2.20 (Paper), 208pp.

## Women at Work

by Lindsay Mackie and Polly Pattullo, Tavistock Publications, London, 1977. *Women's Studies series*. 192pp.

## On Being a Woman

by Fay Fransella and Kay Frost, Tavistock Publications, London, 1977. *Women's Studies series*. £2.60 (Paper) 237pp.

Women's Studies are gradually becoming an established part of higher and further education in Britain. Their form ranges from general, interdisciplinary and often feminist courses to 'bits' on women, sex roles or changes in the family added to existing courses, with the former being more common in extra-mural and adult education programmes and the latter in courses leading to a degree. At the same time there is an ongoing debate among feminists and others (but unfortunately not including all those people who 'teach' or organise Women's Studies courses) about the goals, means and practicalities of Women's Studies. Not surprisingly, a vast amount of material, of variable standards, is pouring forth from the publishing houses both to meet and to fan this growing interest. The three volumes under review are part of a series on Women's Studies being published by Tavistock, with forthcoming titles including *Women in Power*, *Women and the Family*, *Women and Education*, and *Women and Medicine*.

Of the three volumes, I found Elizabeth Wilson's *Women and the Welfare State* the most interesting and potentially most useful contribution to Women's Studies. Wilson points out that although the Welfare State has been considerably discussed since it was first established, not surprisingly, its impact on women has not. But Wilson aims to do more than just fill this gap, for as she says 'this book attempts to show that only a feminist analysis of the Welfare State that also relates it to a socialist perspective can enable us fully to understand why the conglomeration of legislation and services loosely labelled the Welfare State has come to be as it is.' (p.7) While accepting that the Welfare State "is full of paradox and contradiction" (p.9), Wilson argues that "welfare provision ... is an essential part of modern capitalism" (p.39) which reinforces and supports the family and therefore the subordinate position of women, and indeed "amounts to no less than the State organisation of domestic life" (p.9) By tracing the development of State welfare policies from Victorian times to the present, Wilson seeks to show that by "offering various forms of service, both in money and in kind, and also by means of forms of social control and ideology" (p.9) the Welfare State has tried to restrict women to their home-based job of servicing the worker and reproducing the work force.

Lindsay Mackie and Polly Pattullo in *Women at Work* bring together a large amount of information about the patterns of women's employment and include chapters on the related aspects of girls' education and training, on women's rights, on childcare and housework and finally on female participation in Trade Unionism. They want women to be "able to escape from the low-paid, unskilled jobs in which they are mainly concentrated" (p.8) and argue that "if women are to achieve full equality at work, they must use the trade union movement." (p.179) Effective legislation is also considered necessary (e.g. to prevent the exploitation of homeworkers - p.71) and in addition "a radical change in relationships between, and roles of, men and women both at home and at work." (p.8) But they do not take the next step of

## NON-SEXIST TEACHING MATERIALS

The Sub-Committee on the Equality of the Sexes has now completed production of a sourcebook of non-sexist teaching materials which, as well as listing and giving full details of books, pamphlets, articles, etc. in many fields of sociology, includes notes on work being published in the different areas and annotations to the items listed. The title will be: *Sociology Without Sexism* - a source-book of materials. See order form in this issue.

advocating or examining the wider changes in the economic and social structure of our society that are necessary if talk of 'equality' is to be translated into action. While appreciating the usefulness of collating all this information, I feel this volume would have been much improved if Wilson's example had been followed and an attempt had been made to analyse the wealth of material within a Marxist-feminist framework.

Fay Fransella and Kay Frost's volume *On Being a Woman* is submitted 'a review of research on how women see themselves'. But this is rather misleading, for as they point out it is unusual to "ask women what they think about themselves" (p.9), so that if they "had limited this book to reporting such studies, it would be a very short book" (p.10) which it is not. Moreover, although they say they "were concerned with what it means to a woman to be a woman" (p.9) they did not go out and ask any but instead "limited (themselves) to looking at what other professionals have reported in the academic literature (mainly the sociological and psychological)" (p.9) The result is a very mixed book. There are chapters on what women (and men) are reported to think about the woman's place, about women's personalities, about sex, pregnancy and childbirth, together with chapters on women and their self-esteem, women's perceptions of themselves, women and their mental health, the development of sex-role perceptions, as well as a chapter on college students and their careers. These are presented within the framework of personal construct theory, which holds that there are "no facts in life. There are only individuals' interpretations of those facts" (p.11) Their style, as they acknowledge, does not lead to easy reading and this may limit the book's usefulness in 'consciousness-raising', although students might find the much referenced research summaries worth dipping into.

These three early volumes from the Tavistock Women's Studies series thus vary in quality and will probably appeal to different audiences. Elizabeth Wilson's *Women and the Welfare State* could find a place on Women's Studies courses at all levels and Mackie and Pattullo's *Women at Work*, with its easy journalistic style would be a welcome addition to many extra-mural and adult education classes as well as appealing to some of the book buying public at large. However, Fransella and Frost's *On Being a Woman* seems less well-conceived and written, although some people might find it useful as a source-book.

DAPHNE E. TAYLORSON.

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# SUMMER SCHOOL 'SEVENTY SEVEN

Members of the BSA Summer School on Education, Social Class and the State voted overwhelmingly for more participation in the organisation of future Schools. The following resolution emerged out of a Plenary Session, attended by both tutors and postgraduates, and will be discussed by the BSA Committees. There was a general feeling that the School had fulfilled a useful purpose in bringing together many postgraduates to discuss their work in an egalitarian and relaxed atmosphere. However, central to the resolution which follows is the question of advance participation in planning the School programme. It is apparent that, although many Directors over the past years have always sought to incorporate the interests of students in the day-to-day programme, what is really needed is consultation between all interested parties from the start.

## RESOLUTION PASSED AT BSA SUMMER SCHOOL, DURHAM, 1977

*We propose that, in future, the BSA Summer School be self-constituted. To this end the following procedures should be effected:*

1. *The BSA Executive Committee decide that subject to the Summer School.*
2. *Notification be sent to members at least one year in advance, indicating the time and place of a meeting at which those who attend vote for two convenors to arrange invitations to speakers etc.*
3. *The categories, 'Director' and 'Tutor' should cease to exist. The organising may be carried out by the two Convenors, for which they would receive payment. The remainder of the money to be spent on invited speakers*
4. *Non-sociologists may be invited as speakers.*
5. *Non-BSA members may attend some sessions of the School on a daily basis.*
6. *Bearing in mind the fact that concern was expressed about the absence of women teachers, we propose that a policy of gender balance among organisers, convenors and speakers at BSA Summer Schools should be adopted.*

The following critique of the School has been produced by two participants in the light of the above Resolution and is their interpretation of events. As the BSA is currently considering the future of the Summer School any additional remarks from students, tutors, organisers, speakers etc on past and present Schools would be particularly helpful. Write to Jane Hoy at the BSA office.

This year the attempts to canvass opinion and interest in advance of the School were very sound in principle, but loosely applied in practice. The questionnaire circulated was ambiguous and repetitious, not at all a model of design. Extracting data must have been extremely difficult and, once retrieved, almost impossible to use. This is not intended as a criticism of the democratic (and pedagogic) principles which lay behind its production, but as an attempt towards the establishment of some form of democratic organisation before the School takes place.

The relationship between experts and ordinary members could, we feel, be flattened out a little. We do not deny a leadership role to more informed people, but there was an odd contradiction running through this year's School between our discussion of Bourdieu's work (on the politics of the consecration of 'difficult' knowledge) — and the symbolic violence actually done to us by some of the speakers! The pedagogic relation can, and should, be subject to principles of democratic leadership agreed by School members before the event. An outline of these might be sent to all proposed speakers just to let them know the mood of the School. We recognise that the principle of the School is to encourage learning, which at least means that good teaching should be practised. There could have been considerably more good teaching and effective learning, had members been better prepared (and Tutors less heavily burdened as a consequence). A clear basic programme of prior study would help, as would a less packed daily programme.

Time for reading is required both before and during the School — time which is guided by an agreed, and not too heavy, reading list. Time for informal discussion must also be built in. This year, such discussion was of enormous value, mostly because most people got on with each other very well.

We think there are political and structural reasons for this. For example there were no obvious sociological stars, struggling to score bright little points off dimmer members. Common interest and common positions encourage, as we are all supposed to know, social cohesion and, within that context, a degree of humility in the exchange of ideas and admission of mutual ignorance. A strong hierarchy would have reduced the kind of learning that took place this year. This implies, of course, that people known to be pompous beasts are not invited to speak or lead tutor/interest groups. We congratulate the tutors this year on their openness and democratic zeal, but reserve doubts about at least one of the reptiles who turned up to speak. For the future, however, the environment created should rely less on personal goodwill of the tutors and more on the principles of organisation agreed on by School members beforehand.

One final point is related to the criticism raised by women members. This formed the basis of a self-critical session held on the last full day and was prompted by the formal resolution to the BSA and the ideas set out here. During this session most people came to realise that, particularly as sociologists, we should be able to conduct working personal relations between women and men on a non-sexist basis. The lesson learned was really about the necessity for self-consciousness, self-criticism and for making our own School according to our professed principles. Paul Field and Nod Miller, Leicester University.

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Although useful in many ways, the recent BSA Summer School suffered from a major problem. It failed to recognize that insight into the relations between 'education, social class and the state' is not preserve of Marxists and their associates. Within the subdiscipline there is an active tradition of phenomenological, ethnographic, and ethnomethodological research at present, which questions the validity of macrosociological formulations of its traditional problems, and offers radically different perspectives on them. The organisers of the Summer School may have believed this, but their choice of speakers and tutors gave the contrary impression. It was clear from the outset that interpretive perspectives had been designated 'not of interest' on this occasion, a decision which must have discouraged scores of potential applicants. As was to be expected, each of the speakers adopted macrosociological perspectives in their remarks. They pursued detailed critical arguments within these, but were strangely unaware of their fundamental problems. They presumed a sympathetic audience, and the self-selection which their own presence at the Summer School had produced, ensured they were right.

The tutors, although not overtly hostile to perspectives which challenged their own, were so involved in the fundamentally uncritical atmosphere, that they only felt the need to examine the foundations of their standpoints when explicitly challenged by the few interpretive sociologists who had turned up by mistake. The outcome was that tutors and speakers were joined at the school by students who broadly agreed with them. They all spent a week agreeing with each other, and then went away. One solution to the problem of one-sided self-selection by potential applicants of different theoretical orientations, might be to call for suggestions on the organisation of Summer Schools before the selection of tutors and speakers, not after. Where paradigmatic disputes are evident among interested parties, these should be reflected in speaker and tutor choice. This might aid the recovery of a lost virtue in sociology, the essentially self-critical nature of its explanation.

Keith Maclennan, University of Manchester.