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ABSTRACTS

Pierre HAMEL : *La consultation publique et les limites de la participation des citoyens aux affaires urbaines*

In recent years, there have been changes in the status of participation in urban affairs. Over and above its inherent limits, this form of participation has been contributing to the development of a new political culture. Such at least is the hypothesis used here as a point of departure for the examination of the hearings and of the positions of the main categories of actors who have contributed to the development of the consultation policy defined by the city of Montréal in 1988, as well as to its review in 1995, following the accession to power of a new political party. By accepting to participate in the definition of the public consultation policy on the municipal scene, the actors of civil society, particularly the representatives of the community and social movements, have undertaken a twofold process: a process of confrontation with the public authorities, and a process of building recognition of their own identity.

Odette LACASSE : *Les rapports urbains-ruraux et la construction de la modernité*

While certain authors (GIDDENS, FORTIN) do not consider rural space as a constituent element of modernity, we consider on the contrary that it is an essential factor in advanced modernity. An ideal space for the representation of nature and the environment, rural space now tends to take its place as a space for social controversy and a privileged place of the cultural orientation of advanced modernity. In order to clarify this fundamental change, we examine the construction of the representation of rural life in Québec through the debates between the different actors involved in this redefinition from the mid-1960s through to the mid-1990s. This study brings to light the diversity of discourse on the role of rural space. It shows how the political transformation of modern environmentalism have contributed to making rural space the focus of the collective action of an increasing number of actors and makes it possible to assess the importance of the cultural dimensions of collective action in advanced modern societies. In addition, this study reveals the increasing importance of public space in the context of post-industrial societies. In essence, the urban-rural relationships fully reflect the dynamics of the social relationships characteristic of our era.

Michel SÉGUIN : *Un nouveau monde de déchets : d'un problème environnemental à un enjeu sociopolitique*

How does a problem such as waste management become transformed into a major issue? The sociology of social movements opens new analytical perspectives to answer this question. Firstly, we present the classical analyses of the relationships between collective action and institutions. We then examine a few of the elements to be considered within a new approach. Finally, we take a closer look at the issue of waste in Québec, which makes it possible to obtain a deeper understanding of the increasingly complex relationship between collective action and institutions.

Bertrand PERRON, Jean-Guy VAILLANCOURT et Claire DURAND : *Les leaders de groupes verts et leur rapport aux institutions*

This article aims to establish a typology of leaders of green movements in Québec based on attitude-related variables reflecting the relationships between the green movement and these leaders and institutions. Three types of leaders are identified. The more radical "ecologists" are mistrustful of science and technology and accept economic sacrifices in the name of environmental quality. These leaders are younger than the others and for the most part are active in Montréal groups, and are in favour of the development of wind energy. The "nationalistic environmentalists" and "market environmentalists", for their part, are mainly distinguished by divergent positions toward Hydro-Québec. The former have a positive perception of that government-owned corporation, whereas the latter look down upon it and are in favour of privatization.

Claude BELLAVANCE, Roger LEVASSEUR et Yvon ROUSSEAU : *De la lutte antimonopoliste à la promotion de la grande entreprise. L'essor de deux institutions : Hydro-Québec et Desjardins, 1920-1965*

Hydro-Québec and the Mouvement Desjardins share three essential characteristics 1 - They arose out of the anti-monopolistic struggles led by the francophone bourgeoisie and their allies, which culminated during the inter-war period; 2 - both served as privileged forums for the expression of Québécois economic nationalism; 3 - each of these two organizations contributed in its own way to the modernization of the economy, which was reflected by the burgeoning of a new and increasingly self-assured leadership group within Québec society. The rise of these two major organizations is connected, in a more general way, with what Alain Touraine has called a social development movement, i.e. a multi-class movement involving both social and institutional actors (Church and State) in a process of modernizing and appropriating an economy of which major sectors until then seemed to be controlled from the outside.