

Collectif (1987) *Famille/Families*. Revue internationale d'action communautaire, 18/85.

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COLLECTIF (1987) *Famille/Familles. Revue internationale d'action communautaire*, 18/85.

From the de-historicized nuclear family of American popular culture, spanning the eons between Stone Age Flintstones and Space Age Jetsons, to the romanticized *triumphal* nuclear family of post-war France, the hegemonic view of the family has, until recently, been a static form, predicated first on the state-sanctioned union of men and women and second on the rearing of children. In coming to terms with new trends in family organization that have developed in the past two decades in western capitalist countries, the authors of *Famille/Familles* go beyond simply recognizing alternative organizational forms (such as single parent families, and blended families) as addenda, historical post-scripts to the lessons already learned about the post-war nuclear family. Rather they problematize both the object — the family — and study of the family in its entirety, from questions methodological, to conceptual to theoretical. This collection of articles provides the reader with not only an excellent overview, but also an understanding of the breadth and complexity of questions governing the study of the family, both in its internal organization and its relationship to other structures.

At the most fundamental level, Bawin-Legros and Sommer, for instance, challenge a priori assumptions about the unity of the family, expressed most starkly in ideological notions about the family as the "basic cell" or primary organizational unit of society. They argue rather that the family is a collectivity of actors who react in various ways together or separately "to the multiple contradictory logics that come to play in the organization of family life". Le Gall and Martin propose, moreover, that the fundamental organizational premise of the family is no longer the married couple, but rather the child, and the constellation of parents, relatives, friends and even paid caretakers that are instrumental in the child's socialization.

Overemphasis on conjugal union has blinded scholars to the issues facing other types of families. The term "single parent family", conceived in contradistinction to the two-parent family, is a misnomer oblivious to a series of caretaking arrangements designed to complement the role of the principle parent (Le Gall and Martin). Recent focus on divorce of married couples overshadows another form of family dissolution: the break-up of un-married couples (Chavolon-Demersay).

Historical changes in the organization of the family unit cannot be understood without considering the articulation of the family to other structures. This does not mean however that the family shifts in lockstep (or in more sensitive analyses in symbiotic lag) with restructurings of the economy, or shifts in state policy, for instance. The family exists in a *problematic* relationship to other institutional and structured forms including the state, and "the economy".

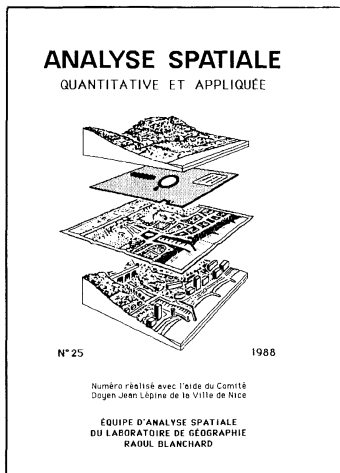
Cardia-Voneche, von Allmen and Bastard argue that families can employ a variety of logics in organizing themselves in relation to the contradictory demands of the rest of the world. The authors identify at least four alternate principles underlying different familial organization ranging from meta-domestic forms that privilege the relationships of family members to the outside world, to domestic forms that treat the family as a sanctuary from that world.

The contradictory relationship of other structures to the family is well illustrated in the series of articles analysing the current developments in state aid to single parent families (Lenoir; Rose; Le Gall and Martin; Dandurand). In subsidizing single parent families the state is caught between the ideological imperative of sanctioning the conjugal unit as the preferred mode for childrearing, and the necessity to ensure the minimal criteria for reproduction of the labour force.

The authors do not limit themselves to the single parent or blended families to demonstrate the flexibility of forms of domestic reproduction. The "traditional" nuclear family comes under scrutiny too. The current trend towards a delayed formation of young adult households, and the tendency of young adults to remain for longer periods with their parents, is not, we are cautioned, a resurgence of the traditional nuclear family (Bloss; Cuturello). To think so privileges the family *form* over an analysis of a changing *dynamic* of self-help between family members. In this case, young adults remaining with their parents often subsidize the latter's housing costs as much as they are helped by the offer of shelter.

Far from being a *static category*, this issue of *Revue internationale d'action communautaire* demonstrates that the family is, in all its forms, a *dynamic strategy* by which humans act to reproduce themselves in every sense — psychological, social, material and generational.

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COLLECTIF (1988) *Analyse spatiale quantitative et appliquée*. Nice, Laboratoire de géographie Raoul-Blanchard, n° 25, 115 p.

Ce numéro réalisé avec l'aide du Comité Doyen Jean Lépine de la Ville de Nice rassemble cinq articles étudiant en partie ou en totalité le département des Alpes-Maritimes et traitant de sujets ou problèmes bien différents : les transformations régionales du comté de Nice, de la Côte d'Azur et de la région niçoise (A. Dauphiné) ; l'ampleur de la croissance des industries de pointe de la Côte d'Azur (C. Voiron-Canicio) ; le fonctionnement de certaines administrations locales du département des Alpes-Maritimes et la cartographie de leurs implantations et de leurs ressorts (A. Dagorne et F. Gay) ; la perception d'un groupe d'étudiants des distances à vol d'oiseau entre Nice et un certain nombre de villes françaises et méditerranéennes (J.P. Paulet) ; le contenu des Livres blancs de l'environnement et la politique de l'environnement de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (I. Graglia).

L'article d'André Dauphiné traite des transformations d'un espace régional du comté de Nice, de la Côte d'Azur et de la région niçoise. Ce bref compte rendu essaie de comprendre la logique des transformations régionales sises dans la région à partir des travaux scientifiques effectués au laboratoire d'analyse spatiale Raoul-Blanchard. En d'autres mots, l'auteur veut « mettre en relief les principes dominants, le moteur de l'organisation régionale qui ont imposé successivement leur marque au territoire analysé au cours des derniers siècles » (p. 3). D'abord, il présente les principales étapes de l'évolution de la région : mise en place d'une économie touristique sur le littoral de la Côte d'Azur, rattachement du comté à la France par l'arrivée du chemin de fer, destructuration graduelle de l'antique région homogène au cours du XIX^e siècle, destructuration de l'agriculture méditerranéenne sous sa forme classique avec la guerre 1914-1918, etc. Depuis, le développement économique a amené une disparité importante entre le littoral et l'intérieur, et une forte dépendance de la région vis-à-vis l'extérieur. Il y a donc une nouvelle