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ABSTRACTS

Danielle GAUVREAU: *Destins de femmes, destins de mères : images et réalités historiques de la maternité au Québec*

Recent studies on various aspects of Quebec women's experience with motherhood are used as a basis for re-examining and complementing the traditional image of the happy mother at the head of a household of children. This image gives only a partial view of our grandmothers' experience, since 1) not all women produced large families, 2) some women gave birth outside the bonds of marriage, in a society that refused to tolerate such behaviour, 3) motherhood also had its disadvantages and risks, which might even include the death of the mother, and 4) the framework of mother-child relations was not necessarily that of the current marriage. Our examination shows how women's demographic experience with motherhood varied with biological and social factors, in a changing historical context.

Françoise DESCARRIES et Christine CORBEIL: *Penser la maternité : les courants d'idées au sein du mouvement contemporain des femmes*

On the basis of a typology of feminist currents of thought, the authors pinpoint within the women's movement the plurality of points of view expressed on maternity and elucidate the stakes on both the practical and theoretical levels. They identify the trajectory of the gradual but profound transformations that have occurred in women's discourse, with a view to a theorization of maternity apprehended as a form of oppression. Thus, on the basis of the most recent literature, the authors bring to light the ambiguities and presuppositions that still need to be clarified in order to develop an approach to maternity capable of explaining the day-to-day experience of motherhood in its dual material and affective component.

Aleyda LAMOTTE: *Femmes immigrées et reproduction sociale*

The author sheds light on a few aspects of social reproduction in the context of the integration of immigrant mothers within Québec society. In the first part, she presents an analysis of the socio-demographic characteristics of immigrant women living in Québec during the 1980's. The second part of the presentation provides an assessment of the research on this issue, particularly an analysis of the insertion factors and adaptation mechanisms upon which socialization is based in the adoptive community. The article brings out the complexity of the social reproduction-insertion dynamic and the need to establish links between the objectives of socialization and the theory of social mobility.

Gilles HOULE et Roch HURTUBISE: *Parler de faire des enfants, une question vitale*

We examine the family and childhood as cognitive categories and as categories of common sense from the point of view of a sociology of knowledge. The emergence of the childhood category in popular

discourse in Québec constitutes a relevant sociological measurement of the demographic transformations that Québec society has undergone. The analysis brings into evidence the following paradox: it was when we began to talk about children that we began to have fewer of them. The child as an object of thought has become a matter of choice. We have retraced the ways of speaking of the family and of children through various materials: life stories, autobiographies, interviews and amorous correspondence seeking to find in these forms of common sense discourse the construction of the space and time of the child and the family, and its transformations over the past century.

Germain DULAC: *De la métamorphose du genre masculin*

Within a society characterized by inequality between the sexes, the legitimacy of power is, if not totally, at least to a large extent dependent on the definition of the genders. The analysis of academic discourse (in sociology and psychology) and militant discourse (men's groups in Québec) involved in the social construction of the masculine gender reveals that the recent transformations in the way of defining masculinity participate in the adaptation of mechanisms of legitimization of social relations between the sexes.

Maria DE KONINCK et Danielle GAUVREAU: *Réflexions, bilan et prospective: compte rendu d'une table ronde*

What assessment can we make of the changes observable in the field of reproduction, and what future can we envisage based on the rapid developments in this field? These are the two major axes of discussion submitted to experts from different disciplines gathered at a round table. The summary of the discussions presented here leads to the observation that the debate has given rise to more questions than answers. On the one hand the changes that have occurred have proven very complex and on the other hand, the perspectives for the future are far from being defined. One conclusion is inevitable: there is an urgent need for research. There are many themes to be explored ranging from relations within the couple to the role of the State within the family.

Andrée FORTIN: *Choix et contraintes: femmes, démographie et travail*

The publication of the proceedings of the symposium «Femmes et questions démographiques» provides an occasion to reflect on the links between productive work and reproductive work. Women often bear the burden of low birth rates. The authors respond to an alarmist view of demography with an optimistic interpretation of recent trends and a reflection on the complexity of the links between production and reproduction. What is unmentioned in these analyses is the profound transformation of the labour market that is under way: dualization, tertiarization, which create the need for a new social division of labour.