

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS ENGLISCHE ZUSAMMENFASSUNGEN

ABSTRACTS

LÁSZLÓ ANTAL Z. (p. 3)

The Effect of Changes in Perception of Time on Demographic Processes: The paper first analyses the new changes of demographic processes that have taken place in the past decades, next a point of consideration, namely changes in the perception of time, is presented with the help of which one may get closer to an explanation of this social phenomenon threatening the future of industrially developed countries. The present paper studies what effects are produced by the difference in the perception of time on the number of births and on the struggle for extending life, and, finally, how this difference influences the shape of the population pyramid and the future of the entire society. After having presented the newest research results it is worth calling attention to the fact that the consideration of time as finite has acquired a 'dominant' position in the majority of industrially developed countries, the expression used by T. Kuhn in his work on the change of paradigm. This worldview primarily based on rationality has had a significant role in that the number of births declined in these countries, for as D.A. Coleman put it in his keynote speech at the European Congress on Demography in 1998, 'it is not so obvious why rational and educated people should have children'. Research results dealing with this issue show that as a result of pushing sacral considerations into the background the stability of marriages (and partnerships) decreases and the number of children also declines. For people accepting and following a finite perception of time death will be more terrible. This fear of death is a strong incentive for pushing the limits of narrowed time as far as possible. This is why the struggle for lengthening life has such an important role in scientific research, in medical practice as well as in the life of modern people. Medical science tries to meet this strong social expectation, which, besides several other factors, contributes to the growth of life expectancy at birth and, as a result, the number of births is declining. The consequences of the change of paradigm in perceiving time have modified the shape of the population pyramid: its upper part has become 'stronger', the lower part has been significantly 'weakened', and its long-term stability has been continuously weakening. And if these efforts become general, this threatens the future of the entire society.

Keywords: demography, sacrality, perception of time, life extending, birth rate, society, future

MICHAEL MANDERSCHIED & CORINNA TRÖNDLE (p. 21)

People's Churches in Germany in the Midst of Social Changes: In times prior to the modern age church and society more or less formed a unit; however, with the advent of the modern age a process of shutting out the church from the public sphere started. In the flourishing modern age a differentiated society was formed, in which social subsystems coexisted. The church and

religion lost their former power of interpretation, and traditional social environments close to the church also disappeared. The process of individualisation was also manifested in the set-back to church membership. In the post-modern society the pluralisation of lifestyles further increased. The concept of experience society touches on the essence of post-modern society, in which aesthetics and lifestyles play an increasing role. Traditional points of view do not sufficiently take such complex social relations into consideration. In addition to socio-economic living conditions, models such as Sinus-Milieus also focus on value orientations, lifestyles and aesthetic preferences. Attachment to the dissolving traditional social environment is a danger to the future of churches in Western Europe. In order to have a future in a post-modern milieu society, mental health care professionals need to reflect, decide and experiment with how they want to address people with diverse backgrounds, following the example of Paul the Apostle (1 Cor 9:19–23), and how they can succeed in doing so. Discussions related to the milieus outlined here provide connection points for this.

Keywords: church, society, modern age, individualisation, lifestyle, post-modern, pluralisation, experience society, milieu society, Sinus-Milieus, social milieus

RÓBERT BÓDIZS, PÉTER SIMOR, SZILVIA CSÓKA, MÁRK BÉRDI & MÁRIA S. KOPP (p. 35)

Dreaming and Health Promotion: A Theoretical Proposal and Some Epidemiological Establishments: Both neurobiological and cognitive psychological evidence suggests that dreams reflect the affective concerns and emotional balance of the dreamer. Moreover, there is increasing evidence for the thesis that dreams take part in the process of emotional regulation by creating narrative structures and new associations for memories with emotional and personal relevance and giving birth to a reduced emotional arousal or balanced mood state during post-dreaming wakefulness. As health means a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, it is reasonable to assume that it is reflected in the quality of dream experiences. These theoretical considerations are exemplified by significant associations between dream emotions and health indexes emerging after the preliminary analysis of the Hungarostudy epidemiological database. Results suggest that items of the Dream Quality Questionnaire correlate with self-rated health, days spent on sick leave and most prominently with well-being. Negative dream emotions are negative predictors of health, while the opposite is true for positive ones. This effect is only partially explained by the illness intrusiveness index, the effect of dreams on daytime mood or well-being as measured by the well-being scale of the World Health Organization (WHO). Our results indicate that simple practical questions regarding habitual dream-affect, nightmares and night-terror-like symptoms convey information on the general mental and physical health of the subjects, which could be useful in medical practice.

Keywords: dreams, nightmares, REM sleep, health, personal satisfaction, emotions, well-being

JÁNOS HARMATTA & ROGER CSÁKY-PALLAVICINI (p. 63)

Unravelling Chapters of Our Common Past: The *European Journal of Mental Health* launches a series of articles entitled 'Unravelling Chapters of Our Common Past' that primarily describes the history of operation of helping professions especially exposed to the effects of dictatorship

(psychotherapy, charitable work, educational activity) in the era of state socialism. In order to eliminate the serious setback experienced in human disciplines we need to learn about the reasons and processes that led to the damages, after which we need to establish an extensive set of conditions, rephrase values, and ensure a long socialisation period, all of which support values taking root again. In order to do so resources need to be researched, professionals in the post-socialist countries need to cooperate and realise the new and extraordinary opportunities which lie before them on their common path. Research into the status of various disciplines in the era of the past dictatorship, and their description according to appropriate criteria in as many studies as possible may provide assistance in this, making our view of the past more articulate and differentiated. That the professionals who have firsthand knowledge of this age are still alive and active represents a special value. The more studies are received, the more refined our view of this period of the region will be.

Keywords: dictatorship, exploration of the past, pedagogy, psychotherapy, diaconate, communism, state socialism, helping profession, retrospect, history

HELLMUT PUSCHMANN (p. 69)

Parts that Belong Together are to Join: Charitable Work in the Real Socialism of the Former GDR: In the former GDR the Catholic Church was able to establish comprehensive charitable activities that to a large extent were based on the resources of the faithful, and therefore had close ties with parish communities. Help could be extended not only at the level of church communities, but also through numerous institutions like homes for the elderly, hospitals, and homes and resorts caring for people with mental disabilities. These were also gladly visited by people who did not belong to the church. The church was allowed to carry out this work independently, without direct state control. Financial and professional support from the German Catholic Bishops' Conference, the German Caritas Association, the *Bonifatiuswerk* organisation of German Catholics and certain private individuals were decisive in enabling these activities. When following the reunification of Germany the charitable organisation responsible for the individual East German public administration regions could again become an official member of the German Caritas Association; progress along a common path that was hindered but never prevented by politics could continue.

Keywords: diaconate, GDR, Germany, Catholic Church, communism, state socialism, dictatorship, history, retrospect, helping profession

IRINA TYMKOVA (p. 79)

'Caritas Christi urget nos': Church Diakonia in Russia from the Viewpoint of the Relations between Church and State: After providing a broad outline of some principles of theology determining the social aspects of orthodoxy, the author examines the further evolution of these in the patriotic teachings of the holy fathers and philosophy of religion literature in Russia. The discussion of the historical development of state–church relations in Russia presents and helps understand to what degree the principle of the 'symphony' of the two powers allowed room for political activities of the Orthodox Church, and how it affected its social ethics role.

The author provides a brief overview of the effect Gorbachev's perestroika had on the identity of Russian orthodoxy, and how awareness of the new social policy tasks (of Russian orthodoxy) was increased. This is followed by a discussion of the church confidently strengthening in its new political role within just a few years of the reforms, and gradually assuming a state church character. The subsequent chapter is an adventure in the history of the social services proper of the Orthodox Church, from charitable traditions of early Christian monasteries to the system of state benevolence in the age of the last tsar of Russia. A brief overview of the charitable traditions of other Christian faiths present in Russia is also provided. The study ends with an analysis of the development of church benevolence today, which experience shows is limited to charitable work. In recent years, since Russian society has been living in democracy, conditions for the social services of the church have changed profoundly.

Keywords: diaconate, Russia, history, retrospect, dictatorship, helping profession, communism, church, social service, orthodoxy

ATTILA PILINSZKI & ZSUZSANNA LÁDONYI (p. 105)

On the Road to Integration: Introducing an Empirical Study in Progress Examining Long-term Unemployed People: The aim of the paper is to study the integration of the long-term unemployed into society. In recent years assistance provided to long-term unemployed in Hungary has changed several times. One of the major changes is that social work plays a more significant role in helping the client group; however, the profession also needs to be prepared for this. Social institutions face new challenges in dealing with the large number of the long-term unemployed people. The report briefly describes research hypotheses and the study sample. Over the course of the study people in a Budapest district receiving regular social assistance are examined in the dimensions of their relation to the world of employment and 'disaffiliation'.

Keywords: unemployment, integration/'disaffiliation', assistance, social work, Hungary