

Abstracts

JEAN, Bruno: "Le développement régional à l'heure du développement local: «le temps des incertitudes»": As state policies implemented by western societies to reduce the increasing gap between the living standards of citizens who live in different parts of the same country, "regional development" is a relatively new practice. On the theoretical side, regional development is also a new discipline. This paper attempts to illustrate the failure of this discipline to induce successful policies of regional development to improve the socioeconomic welfare of the populations who live in the regions for which they were designed and in which they were implemented. This failure concerns "regional science" as well as the new alternative approaches based on a critical perspective of uneven development and dependency. From this observation comes the subtitle of this paper. We live in a "time of uncertainties," as academic knowledge faces a new challenge: investigating the complexity of the social realities underlying the field of regional studies. Recent years may be characterized by the launching and the growing of a composite social movement, which labels itself "local development" to express its own distinct identity.

PROULX, M.-U.: "La planification du développement territorial: concertation des acteurs régionaux et développement mésogène": Recently regional scientists have shown more interest in local development. This paper proposes a monographic analysis, which illustrates a planning experiment based on collaboration between actors through a socioeconomic conference procedure. On the one hand, the detailed description of this experiment permits one to verify certain concepts that rely on endogenous development models. On the other hand, the formal analysis offers regional science a complete planning procedure, including normative, strategic and operational aspects.

SOKOLOFF, B.: "La place des MRC dans les dynamismes régionaux": This paper reports some empirical findings about the role of the *municipalités régionales de comté* (MRC) in regional development issues. The MRC are not only an institutional framework for territorial planning, but also microregional social and economic entities, in

which the network, the pattern of relationships between various groups, may determine the kind of regional dynamics that prevails. The impact of this milieu on planning and redevelopment may be a significant one in the various types of economic regions. A survey in the province of Quebec has produced evidence of this phenomenon. Hence, the MRC should be recognized as effective redevelopment agents in most of the regions.

DIONNE, H.: "Développement autonome du territoire local et planification décentralisée": The monitoring of local territory to buttress suitable development is at all times dependent on the fragile nature of the areas that are subject to the process of economic internationalization. The future of self-reliant development will emerge from a true social movement aimed at redefinition of the territorial bases of the economy. Through the examination of examples of community development in the rural areas of eastern Quebec, the author defines some limits of the "bottom-up" models. He also presents various structural conditions for local development, seen as a mix of endogenous forces and exogenous pressures.

JOYAL, A.: "Les entreprises alternatives dans le développement local": Within industrial societies in recent years enterprises are emerging that have social as well as economic goals. Sometimes involving marginal workers, these enterprises are created primarily to provide goods and services for the local population. In so doing, they may play a part in a strategy of local development. After a clarification of this concept, American and Quebec examples are cited to illustrate the role of such enterprises in their environment.

CÔTÉ, S.: "Conjonctions et oppositions: sur quelques rapports entre les théories et les politiques de développement régional": Regional development theories and policies change frequently; nevertheless, they do not evolve in a linear and ever perfectible way. Of course, the corpus of available knowledge may influence the implementation as well as the withdrawal of regional development policies, but other factors also play a role, like party changes, demands from lower rank governments, and bureaucratic pressures from within the State machine. Moreover, the State always expects that scientific knowledge will act as a support to its policies. Scholars and research workers may try to fulfil that expectation as long as there exist guarantees of independence for them.

KLEIN, J.-L.: "Rapports sociaux et région": Two alternatives — privatization and autonomy — are proposed to the Keynesian model of the regulation of social relationships at the regional and local levels. Privatization is designed to soothe social conflicts; autonomy is related to con-

trol of local development and social change. In this paper, these two models are illustrated by examples found in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region: a socioeconomic conference and environmental groups.

LAFONTAINE, D.: "Le champ des « études régionales » québécoises: problèmes de spécificité et de délimitation": On the basis of two previous attempts to summarize "regional studies" in Quebec, the author presents here a history of the studies in the field from the pioneer ones made in the sixties, to the new regional studies of the seventies, to the contemporary reflection on regional development. She also suggests that regional studies in Quebec, obsessed by the conditions of modernity, are still confronted with the difficult but indispensable integration of fragmented knowledge in human and social sciences. A new, epistemologically and theoretically grounded reading of accumulated works could lead to better identification of reasoning problems and better evaluation of research results in that scientific domain.

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