

English summaries

Toward a Social and Cultural History of Science New Definitions, New Goals, New Practices

D. PESTRE

The article tries to recapture what the main trends have been in the Social Studies of Knowledge field since the early 1970s in Europe, and to consider some of their historiographical effects. It claims that the whole domain of the history of science is being recomposed at the moment, particularly thanks to SSK approaches, that new objects of enquiry, new legitimate questions and new definitions for what is pertinent for the historian are being proposed. The article starts by presenting the main intellectual moments which the Social Studies of Knowledge field passed through between 1970 and the late 1980s. It then proposes some of the most important claims which are currently advocated by proponents of that programme. It finally suggests some of the new ways of practicing the history of the sciences which have emerged from it in the last decade.

Russian Science: an Archaic but Productive System

A. MONGILI

Russian science as seen from the life of one of its institutes, studied during the period of perestroïka, shows the particular characteristics which make its mode of operation a possible scientific model, different from that of Western science. Russian science may be characterised by its opposition to any form of individual work, by its forms of authoritarian power, by an identical reproduction of its social structure and by the marginalisation of the role of publications in research activity to the benefit of closed seminars. At the time of the crisis of the global Soviet system, it also shows its contradictions, the conflicts within its organisations and its lack of organisational flexibility which prevents it from absorbing its conflicts.

Kinship and Dynastic Succession in the 14th and 15th Centuries

M. NASSIET

The present article, a study of kinship within the nobility, offers a comparative analysis of the political events represented by the crisis in dynastic succession throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. The fact that noble lineages had no children and notably no sons, became even more frequent due to the demographic crisis and to a high masculine mortality rate caused by violent deaths. This phenomenon became an important total social fact. In order to compensate for the physical extinction of the lineages, noble society sought to achieve social perpetuation by transmitting to the female filiation the patrimony and lineage identity. A system became crystallized,

comprising heraldic practices, types of descent and types of alliances, homogamic and hypogamic. It is within the framework of this system that the crisis of dynastic succession were met. Notably in the Dauphiné inheritance (1343), in that of the Brittany Dukedom (1499-1532) and in the two Burgundian inheritances (1363, 1477) we can see the devolution of patrimony and of the maternal identity to the youngest sister after a homogamous marriage.

Territory and Kinship: a Study of the Rural Community and Forms of Family Reproduction

B. DEROUET

The variety of forms taken by the rural community in the medieval and modern period raises the question of the criteria which determined the construction of social identities. In particular, we are dealing with the question of the relationship of kinship to "residence", of community of filiation to spacial relations. Since these different types of logic are at play in the forms of reproduction within the family, we are led to reflect upon the interferences, the competition or the convergences which might be established between these two levels which are often analysed separately: how might we approach the problem of the relationship between community phenomena and the dynamics of domestic reproduction? By extension, we shall find ourself obliged to reexamine the very notion of "transmission" and the relation between the circulation of goods within the framework of kinship relations and outside of such relations, by opposing logics of transferal relating to goods and rights to logics of integration/exclusion relating to people. Finally, we will examine the different possible ways of writing a rural community history: must one approach this institution from the angle of its liberation and its autonomisation from rival powers or rather from the point of view of the transformation of territorial relations that has characterised European society since the Middle Ages?