

ABSTRACTS

Marc BARBUT: *Ideología, Matemáticas y Ciencias Sociales: V. Pareto, G. Sorel y la ambigüedad en la comparación de las desigualdades*

The discussion between V. Pareto and G. Sorel during 1896 and 1897 illustrates the influence of ideological positions on scientific debates. Specifically, this paper shows the way these authors treated the questions of income distribution and measurement of inequality from opposite ideologies. After presenting the reasoning of Pareto's distribution law, it is shown the critical arguments of Sorel and the ambiguity of the mathematical treatment of this question. There is not an easy solution and the discussion continues, as we can see in the Sociological French Review in 1984-85 à propos of educational inequalities. At the end, Pareto was right: the term 'decrease' referred to inequality was and is still ambiguous.

Óscar MORO ABADÍA: *¿Qué es un dispositivo?*

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of works which focus on the diverse «dispositifs» in the social sciences. Given the small number of works which reflect critically on this concept, this article revisits the original definition by Michel Foucault. It will, on the one hand, offer a critical perspective of a commonly used but seldom defined term, and on the other, outline how the term «dispositifs» has been converted into a key reference for the methodology of the social sciences.

Manuel FERNÁNDEZ ESQUINAS: *Criterios de calidad en la investigación social: La producción de datos sociales*

The specialized literature in sociology usually refers to the various phases of empirical research as process which involves identifying the object to be studied, formulating the problem, designing the study and establishing the necessary technical criteria. However, the quality of data is determined also by other fundamental elements which have to do with the process of generating data, a process which is similar to that of industrial pro-

duction. This study describes the fundamentals of producing social data from the viewpoint of specific issues that arise during the different phases of sociological research. The author analyzes the technical and organizational elements in the typical phases of quantitative research (the making of a sociological survey) and proposes several strategies to guarantee data quality. With this objective, the author considers specific tasks such as data collection and data processing and the technical, organizational and technological elements that can be employed to minimize error.

A. Javier IZQUIERDO: *Árbitros de fútbol: ¿un c. elegans para la metodología de las ciencias sociales?*

The practice of «sensible judgement» implicitly realizes a cognitive capacity under the explicit performance of a moral competence. The specific mix of accuracy and balance that we call «expert judgement» is naturally and publicly witnessable in and as the sensible details that make the singular social situation in which she who judges is concretely enmeshed. The *in vivo* and *in situ* public assessment of a concrete social situation is a technical task particularly distinctive of the professional work of football (soccer) referees. In this work a careful description of the details of a document that renders in publicly inspectable audio-videographic detail the particular refereeing task of locating players in a concrete geographic point of the playing field as theoretically specified by the rules of the game is offered as a specific «ethnometodological alternate» for the formal-analytic description of sociological methods of measurement.

Michel BOURDEAU: Ciencia, religión y sociedad en Augusto Comte

According to Comte, Positivism was ever composed by Epistemology and Politics. Hence this paper distinguish between the side of his works that reflects the image of Comte that we have and that which is essentially unknown. Comte is the first philosopher of Science in modern terms: he remarks the concept of law rather than the concept of cause, and even today is discussed such questions as the role of the hypothesis. In relation to the Positive Politics we need to look at his first works, where he considers Science as a social function. There, Comte proposes to give the scientists a spiritual power vacant because of the fall of theology. Later on, in the *Système de politique positive* (1851-54), he gave the sociology the job of establishing the new religion of mankind.