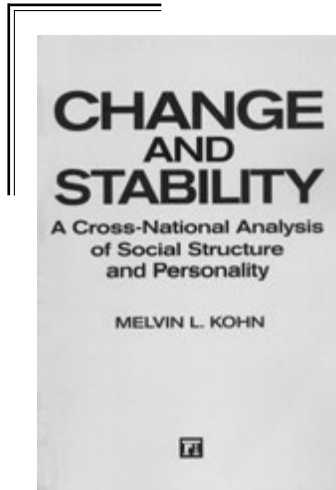


BOOKS RECOMMENDED

Polish Sociological Review Recommends:



Melvin L. Kohn

CHANGE AND STABILITY
A Cross-National Analysis of Social Structure and
Personality

Boulder-London: Paradigm Publishers, 2006,
pp. 268

ISBN 1-59451-175-6

From the Author:

Change and Stability is the culmination of an extended inquiry into the cross-national generality of an interpretation of social structure and personality that I had proposed in my 1969 book, *Class and Conformity*. My thesis was that position in the larger social structure affects (and is affected by) personality largely because of the linkages between social-structural position with proximate conditions of life, notably including job conditions, and of these proximate conditions of life with personality. The thesis was meant to apply to all industrialized societies, but the evidence at that time was based mainly on studies of the United States. In 1975, Włodzimierz Wesółowski proposed to Kazimierz Słomczyński and me a comparative study of then-socialist Poland, to see whether the findings and interpretation held not only for the capitalist United States but also for socialist Poland. This cross-systemic comparison was soon joined by my principal U.S. collaborator, Carmi Schooler, and colleagues from Japan—Ken'ichi Tominaga and Atsushi Naoi—in a cross-cultural comparison of that non-Western society with the U.S. and Poland. By 1990, I thought we had completed our cross-national inquiries, having demonstrated remarkable similarities across economic systems and cultures in the relationships of social class and social stratification with job conditions, and thus with intellectual flexibility and with self-directedness of orientation and its component dimensions of personality, along with an intriguing difference between socialist Poland and the capitalist countries in their nearly opposite relationships of class and stratification with a sense of well-being or distress. But, Poland's transformation, followed by the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the transformation of the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union from socialist to nascent capitalist, raised the fundamental question of whether the relationships of social structure and personality continue to obtain during the conditions of radical social change attendant on so great a transformation of social and economic structure. In new studies of Poland, carried out by Słomczynski, Krystyna Janicka, Bogdan Mach, and Wojciech Zaborowski in 1992, and of Ukraine, carried out by Valeriy Khmelko and Vladimir Paniotto at about the same time, both studies analyzed jointly by all of us, we confirmed that the main relationships did

continue to obtain, and that the one major difference between socialist Poland and the capitalist United States disappeared with Poland's (and Ukraine's) transition to capitalism. This book attempts to bring together as a coherent whole a distillation of all these cross-national comparative analyses, heretofore published in scattered books and journal articles in several languages. The heart of the analysis is, of course, the comparisons of socialist Poland with the capitalist United States and Japan, and of Poland in the early stages of its transformation to capitalism with the socialist Poland of yesteryear.

To order: Paradigm Publishers: www.paradigmpublishers.com

**Klasyka socjologia polska i jej
współczesna recepcja**
[Classic Polish Sociology and Its
Contemporary Reception]

edited by Janusz Mucha and Włodzimierz
Winclawski

Toruń: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja
Kopernika, 2006, pp. 336

ISBN 83-231-1925-2



From the Editors:

This book is a collection of essays written not only by historians of sociology (Polish and otherwise), but also by scholars interested in classic and contemporary theory in social sciences—sociology, social anthropology, social philosophy. The authors represent leading centers of social sciences in Poland. Their aim was not only to summarize the contribution of the first two, or even three generations of social sciences as practiced in Poland. The book presents Poland within Central and Eastern Europe which influenced, due to the social and cultural problems it had to face at the previous turn of centuries, the subject matter of its sociology, ethnology and social philosophy. The main aim of the book, however, is to discuss the intellectual roots of Polish social sciences as well as their contribution to the current state of the art of the disciplines mentioned above. The book came out of the seminar on Classic Polish sociology which took place during the Congress of Polish Sociology in Poznań in 2004.

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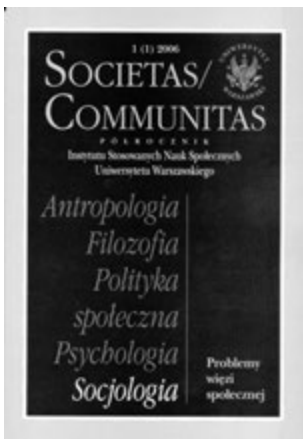
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Półrocznik Instytutu Stosowanych Nauk
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Sciences, Warsaw University]

No 1(1)2006

From the Editors:

The new journal, *Societas/Communitas* represents scientific milieu of the Institute of Applied Social Sciences, Warsaw University which realizes in its educational programs and research practice the postulate of interdisciplinary approach. While preparing this first issue, dedicated to social bonds, we tried to present particular topics in a broad perspective of social and humanistic sciences. Because of the profile of our Institute we are also interested in the consequences and practical application of the results of our research.

We would like *Societas/Communitas* to become a place for live discussions concerning not only scientific issues but also presenting various points of view on present

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The topics of the upcoming issues are: Media and power. Sociology of science. New social movements.

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