

## EDITORIAL

With this issue "*Ongoing Productions on Social Representations*" comes into its second year starting with a new name which, hopefully, will be handier than the old one: "*Papers on Social Representations – Textes sur les représentations sociales*". A second and much more important change concerns editorship. We are completing the list of editors with *Christian Guimelli* from the Université Montpellier III, who has agreed to cooperate with us in making this journal in the future. We are looking forward to this cooperation.

In this issue you will find articles and discussions concerning theoretical topics on the conceptual level (Allansdottir, Jovchelovitch & Stathopoulou), methodological questions like paradoxes in the research on social representations and perspectives of qualitative research in the field (Spink), and an article discussing results from an empirical research (Augoustinos). These are revised versions of papers presented at the First International Conference on Social Representations, Ravello, Italy, last year. Other papers from this conference will follow in later issues.

We want to use the beginning of this new year to specify more explicitly the publication politics and aims of *Papers on Social Representations – Textes sur les représentations sociales*". These revolve around "internationality", "discussion", and "openness":

**Internationality:** To publish papers on social representations and related topics, be they empirical, theoretical, methodological, or epistemological, which encounter problems in being published in formal social psychological journals. We understand that these problems may be due to two reasons: That the quality of some research does not conform to the standard of those journals, or that the social-scientific isolation of some geographical areas gives rise to negative discrimination due to language problems or due to not having access to the most modern computational, statistical or other methodology.

The editors of "*Papers on Social Representations*" (*PSR*) intend to ensure a level of quality by reviewing incoming articles. *PSR* will accept a wide variety of languages, as far as they cover a reasonably large geographical region (e.g. English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian). Thereby *PSR* intends to potentiate the universality of social representation theory and related constructs, without promoting artificial divisions and geographical regionalisms in the scientific community, even if they exist in other areas of research and theoretical fields.

**Discussion:** By inviting critical responses by other authors on a respective paper, *PSR* intends to promote discussion in the field of social representations. This ensures that authors receive explicit feedback about their work and thereby *PSR* also hopes to initiate general discussion and communication within the scientific community.

**Openness:** *PSR* does not intend to restrict publication of papers and discussions to "one true version" of the concept of social representations, but to take into account that we are dealing here with a space of theory and research which is open to competing approaches. Though the orientation of papers is expected to be centered around social representations, also other work will be considered if it relates to the culture-society-individual interface, which is thought to be at the heart of social representation theory. The editors of *PSR* are convinced that social representation research or, more generally, social psychological investigations cannot isolate themselves from other areas of social scientific investigations

and theory. This bound between social psychology, sociology, history, anthropology, epistemology, and social philosophy is seen as constitutive for the area of social representations and for the development of the theory.

All journals live by their authors and readers. This may be nothing new, but for *PSR* this is even more true than for other journals. So we want to use this opportunity to invite you – again – to send us papers you would like to see published in *PSR*. Also you are invited to suggest contributions by others, discussants, themes, topics, problems, etc., and to let us know your opinions concerning papers and discussions and the general format of the journal. We also ask you for your willingness and cooperation in discussing one or the other article already published or to be published in *PSR*.

March 1993

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