

SOCIOLOGY IN SPAIN

Edited by
SALVADOR GINER
& LUIS MORENO

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

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INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS SOCIALES AVANZADOS
Madrid, 1990

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

PREFACE,
by Salvador Giner & Luis Moreno 11

I. AN OVERVIEW

SOCIOLOGY IN SPAIN,
by Enrique Gómez Arboleya (1958) 17
SPANISH SOCIOLOGY UNDER FRANCO,
by Salvador Giner (1977) 55
SPANISH SOCIOLOGY AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY,
by Luis Moreno (1989) 73

II. THE FIELDS OF SPANISH SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION,
by Miguel Beltrán Villalva 109
SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY,
by Joan Prat Carós 117
SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE,
by Pedro González Blasco 125

Page

SOCIOLOGY OF MASS COMMUNICATION,
by Enrique Bustamante 133
SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE,
by Teresa González de la Fé 139
SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME,
by Domingo Comas 147
INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL CLASSES,
by José Félix Tezanos 151
SOCIOLOGY OF DRUG ADDICTION,
by Domingo Comas 157
ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY,
by Gregorio Rodríguez Cabrero 161
SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION,
by Marina Subirats 169
ELECTORAL SOCIOLOGY,
by José Ramón Montero & Francesc Pallarés 175
SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY,
by Julio Iglesias de Ussel 183
SOCIOLOGY OF THE ARMED FORCES,
by Julio Busquets 191
SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANIZED INTERESTS,
by Víctor Pérez Díaz & Joaquín López Novo 199
JURIDICAL SOCIOLOGY,
by Roberto Bergalli 205
SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH,
by María Angeles López Jiménez 213
SOCIOLINGUISTICS,
by Rafael Lluís Ninyoles 225
SOCIOLOGY OF ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT,
by Louis Lemkov 231
SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH,
by Josep A. Rodríguez 235
SOCIOLOGY OF MIGRATION,
by Angels Pascual de Sans 241
SOCIOLOGY OF WOMEN,
by Inés Alberdi & María Antonia García de León 245

Page

SOCIOLOGY OF NATIONALITIES AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES,
by Francesc Mercadé 253
SOCIOLOGY OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES,
by Ricardo Montoro Romero 259
SOCIOLOGY OF LEISURE AND SPORT,
by Manuel García Ferrando 265
ACADEMIC ORGANISATION OF SOCIOLOGY IN SPAIN
by Lorenzo Navarrete 271
SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANIZATIONS,
by José Castillo Castillo 275
SOCIOLOGY OF POPULATION,
by Juan Díez Nicolás 283
SOCIOLOGY OF POVERTY AND WELFARE,
by Ramón Cotarelo 289
POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY,
by José Cazorla Pérez & Miguel Jerez Mir 295
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY,
by Florencio Jiménez Burillo 305
SOCIOLOGICAL PERIODICALS IN SPAIN,
by Valentina Fernández Vargas 309
SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION,
by José María Mardones 315
RURAL SOCIOLOGY,
by Manuel Pérez Yruela & Cristóbal Gómez Benito 321
RESEARCH TECHNIQUES,
by Francisco Alvira Martín 331
CRITICAL THEORY IN SPANISH SOCIOLOGY,
by José E. Rodríguez Ibáñez 337
SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY,
by Emilio Lamo de Espinosa 345
SOCIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THEORY,
by Francisco Parra Luna 353
SOCIOLOGY OF WORK,
by Juan José Castillo 357

Page

SOCIOLOGY OF THE POLITICAL TRANSITION,
by Francisco J. Llera 367
URBAN SOCIOLOGY,
by Soledad García 375
SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE,
by José Jiménez Blanco 381
EPILOGUE,
by Juan J. Linz 387
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS 391

Publicado en: Salvador Giner y Luis Moreno (eds.), Sociology in Spain, Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados, CSIC, Madrid, 1990.

SOCIOLOGY OF POPULATION

Juan Díez Nicolás

Studies on the sociology of population have a long tradition in Spain. It has even been asserted that with these studies empirical sociology was introduced into this country.

It is certainly true that, as early as the forties, demographic studies were being carried out in the *Instituto Balmes de Sociología* (Balmes Institute of Sociology) of the *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones* (Council for Scientific Research) centred around the figure of Severino Aznar. The works, which were generally published in *La Revista Internacional de Sociología* (International Sociological Journal), were mainly contributed by Ros Gimeno; Perpiñá Grau; Bustinza Ugarte; Arbelo Curbelo; González Rothvos; Villar Salinas and Ruiz Almansa and, although they were generally statistical-descriptive, they were pioneer works in the empirical study of society in Spain.

At the moment, the most formalised studies in this area of research are those which are offered by the department of human ecology and population in the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology of the *Complutense* University of Madrid. Since 1975, this department has been responsible for eight of the study subjects offered to students doing a «licenciatura»* in sociology,

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* *Translator's note:* students at Spanish universities can opt to do a three-year or a five-year degree course although the latter, which leads to a «licenciatura», is the most popular. In Britain and the United States the nearest equivalent would be the M. A. or Masters. I have also kept the Spanish terms «primer ciclo», which means the first three years of graduate study and «segundo ciclo» which refers to years four and five.

of which two correspond to the «primer ciclo»: human ecology and general population theory. The remaining six subjects constitute one of the areas of specialisation of the «segundo ciclo» namely: the history of population; urban sociology; rural sociology; demographic and ecological analysis; the Spanish population; demographic policies and territorial development.

Apart from these subjects, a doctoral course is offered every two years (1988-1990) which includes the following courses and seminaries: the second demographic transition; the Spanish population during the Restoration; the sociology of poverty; environmental policies in the *EEC:* the case of the Mediterranean countries; present structure and tendencies of home and family in Europe; the ageing of the European population; methods of urban analysis; collective comparisons; social aspects of defence; the identity strategies of European farmers; Central America: -compared populations; population and food resources; sociological analysis of the city.

The recent opening of Faculties of Political Science and Sociology in other universities is helping to contribute to an extension of university programmes in the sociology of population given that all the centres opened up to now (the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Universities of Granada and the País Vasco and the National University of Distance Learning) include or intend to include the specialisation human ecology and population in the «segundo ciclo» of the «licenciatura».

Studies on the sociology of population have also received considerable impetus in most university geography departments. This recent impetus has not only been felt in studies on the more territorial or spatial aspects of urban and rural sociology and territorial development but also in studies related to questions which are more strictly demographical or relate to historical demography.

Population studies are also offered in Faculties of Economic Science and Business Studies, generally through the departments of sociology. Specific studies on the sociology of population, which as a rule are optional, are also offered.

As far as research is concerned, there are at present two centres dedicated to demographic and population themes: the *Centro de Estudios de Población* (Centre of Population Studies) with its headquarters in Barcelona and attached to the Autonomous University there, and the *Instituto de Estudios Demográficos* (Institute of Demographic Studies) attached to the *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas* (Council of Scientific Research) with its headquarters in Madrid.

But research is also carried out and seminaries and courses of different lengths are offered too at the *Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas* (Centre of Sociological Research) —attached to el *Ministerio de Relaciones con las Cortes* (the Ministry of Parliamentary Relations), the *Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Ambientales* (University Institute of Environmental Sciences) and the *Instituto Universitario de Estudios Urbanos* (University Institute of Urban Studies)— both attached to the *Complutense* University and the *Colegio Oficial de Licenciados y Doctores en Ciencias Políticas y Sociología* (Official School for Post-Graduates in Political Sciences and Sociology) all with their headquarters in Madrid.

With respect to associations, there are two of particular importance: the *Asociación Española para el Estudio Científico de la Población* (Spanish Association for the Scientific Study of Population) integrated in the *IUSSP* and with its headquarters in the *CSIC* of Madrid and the *Asociación Española de Demografía Histórica* (Spanish Association of Historical Demography) with its headquarters in the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology of the *Complutense* University in Madrid. The latter edits the *Boletín de Demografía Histórica* (Bulletin of Historical Demography) which is dedicated to demographic studies and studies on the sociology of population and is the only publication which has ever existed of its kind in Spain. However, there are also sections dedicated to the sociology of population, demography and urban studies in most of the sociological associations which make up the *Federación de Asociaciones de Sociología del Estado Español* (Federation of Sociological Associations in Spain).

With regard to those who have been involved in researching themes related to the sociology of population, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to mention all of them since, among other reasons, the large majority of sociologists who have entered Spanish universities since the fifties have made some contribution to this area. For this reason, the bibliography which follows is only indicative of works and authors since a fairly complete bibliography would have to include around one thousand references.

In conclusion, it must be mentioned that the large number of graduates who have specialised in human ecology and population in the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at the *Complutense* University of Madrid —the first group graduating in 1977— is already having a renovating effect on the discipline. Thus, the doctoral theses, which are being or have been written, are more explanatory and analytical and less descriptive than before. Some of these young graduates have, moreover, studied or are studying post-graduate courses abroad, especially in the United States. We can, therefore, expect

that on their return they will give an even greater impetus to the teaching of and research into population studies.

Bibliographical Note

Some of the works mentioned are more statistical-demographic (Alcaide); geographical (Capel); related to health (Arbelo); historical (Pérez Moreda) or related to economics (Sampedro) although the greater part, especially from the sixties on, take a more sociological approach (del Campo, Díez Nicolás, de Miguel, Salcedo, etc.).

At any rate, this is a field in which there is probably a greater unanimity of opinion with respect to who its «founding fathers» are: Román Perpiñá y Grau, who has inspired a large number of the territorial studies and José Ros Gimeno, pioneer of demographic studies.

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