



1.

Bassand Michel



Submitted by Vincent Kaufmann on Mon, 12/10/2012 - 16:57

The concept of spatial mobility he developed in the 1970s, along with his major empirical studies, is probably the best-known aspect of his work, and is also the most widely recognized at an international level. His concept of mobility led to a significant body of research within urban sociology, 30 years before Luc Boltanski, John Urry and Zygmunt Bauman - without necessarily being aware of it at the time - created a key notion in understanding social change.

Michel Bassand sought to understand how travel organizes and structures the surrounding space, and informs the decision-making for those journeys. Taking on board the concept put forward by Marcel Mauss, he conceptualized mobility as a "total social fact", as a result of which, both spaces and spatial forms - along with their intrinsic dynamics - are created. Michel Bassand therefore became the first to put forward a broad sociological definition of travel and mobility, an approach that includes both the social and the spatial aspects.

The foundations for this are set out in "Mobilité Spatiale" (1980), a book written by Michel Bassand and Marie-Claude Brülhardt that defines mobility as "all journeys that involve a change of state for the individual or the system under consideration." This definition gives mobility twin components - the spatial and social - and is a continuation of the work carried out by the Chicago School. Their proposition is based on five specific, methodological principles (Bassand and Brülhardt 1980, pp55-56) :

"1. The need to consider mobility as a total social fact, i.e. a category of phenomena which involves the whole society and its institutions, but also

<div class="logo logo-mobile"> <img src="https://fo

Thématique

Concepts

History