

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">

its secret and hidden components.

- 2. The need for an interdisciplinary approach to deal with mobility.
- 3. The recognition of two irreducible levels of analysis: micro and macro.
- 4. Taking flows into account, along with the determining factors for those flows and their consequences.
- 5. The importance of taking into consideration the context of the analysis of mobility.

This approach is a response to the fragmentation of the notion of mobility. This fragmentation is problematic in that it focuses current knowledge on specific forms of journeys, when in fact one of the most interesting aspects of research on the phenomena of mobility is the study of the interactions between its different forms. These interactions can then modify, strengthen or become part of a game of substitution or modification of the forms themselves."

Bibliography

Bassand M., Brulhardt M.-C. (1980), "Mobilité spatiale", Georgi, Saint-Saphorin.

Bassand M., Brulhardt M.-C., Hainard F., Schuler M. (1985), "Les Suisses entre la mobilité et la sédentarité", Villes, régions et sociétés, Presses polytechniques romandes, Lausanne.

Jaccoud Ch., Kaufmann V. (2010) "Michel Bassand : un sociologue de l'espace et son monde", Presses Polytechniques et Universitaires Romandes, Lausanne.

M. Mauss "The gift; forms and functions of exchange in archaic societies", London, Cohen & West, 1966.

Activer

Désactivé

Ajouter le trianglesi ce contenu est affiché dans la quinzaine

Désactivé

Auteur lié

Vincent Kaufmann (Sociologue)

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

Thématique Concepts History