

# Summaries

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## **Tr. Kostopoulos**

### *The stubling block of the European Union*

The socioeconomic phenomenon of the European unification responds to the objective needs of development of the economy which becomes continuously internationalized. The economic integrations consist of obvious decisions of capitalism of our times and are a result of the international competition. The efforts of imperialistic countries to claim global hegemony, ties up all the small countries as the wagons of the train. The competition is ruthless. Wars are sometimes hidden and often break out in the open. In this setting of international competition, the European unification is taking place. Thus, the future is uncertain and class struggle becomes the referee.

## **J.A. Kaskarelis**

### *Economics teaching, research purpose and morality*

The success of science based technology has fostered the pseudo relation of «scientism». But the world is now full of scientists deprived of real appeal and moral restraints. This is true as well for the economics science and economists who also have to analyze socio-economic and political environment that is becoming successively complex and chaotic.

## **G. Kleftaras**

### *Self-acceptance of physical disability and psychological counseling*

Acceptance of disability constitutes an issue of decisive importance to both the mental health and the quality of life of individuals with disabilities. An important aim of psychological counseling is to empower physically disabled individuals to accept their impairment as well as its associated consequences; a fact that constitutes an essential prerequisite for the process of social adaptation, integration and social acceptance of their problem. Self-acceptance of physical disability constitutes a

difficult process which involves (a) acceptance of the multiple losses that follow the existence of an impairment, (b) redefinition of the individual's way of life, and (c) reconsideration of certain basic life positions, behaviors and perhaps principles and values. In this paper, a number of factors that influence the individual's acceptance of physical disability are analyzed: (a) the psychosocial factors of self-esteem, social support and discrimination against people with disabilities, (b) certain disability characteristics such as congenital or acquired condition and severity indicated by multiple disabilities and chronic pain, and (c) the demographic variables of age, marital status and income. Finally, in order to help an individual's disability self-acceptance, certain ways of counseling intervention are suggested based on the appropriate use of the above-mentioned factors and the importance of helping an individual find personal life meaning in disability and loss.

**Tzamalouka G., Papadakaki M.,  
Soultatou P., Stoikidou M.,  
Kontogiannis Th., Xliaoutakis I.**  
*Drowsy driving and day sleepiness  
as predictors of car crash risk  
in the capital city of Greece*

The current study investigates the impact of drowsy driving and day sleepiness on the possibility of car crash involvement in the Athens area of Greece. Additionally, an attempt is made to elucidate other driving parameters that could be potential predictors of car crash risk, after controlling for socio-demographic characteristics. A sample of 640 amateur drivers aged 19 to 65 was studied through personal interviews. The questionnaire included items about drowsy driving, day sleepiness, symptoms of sleep disorder and hours of sleep and work during the week preceding the interview as contributing factors to car crash risk. In addition, drivers reported the total amount of kilometres. The logistic regression analysis showed drowsy driving and day sleepiness as significant predictors of car crash risk: higher scores of drowsy driving and higher day sleepiness increased the car crash risk. Additionally, driving experience was related to higher car crash risk. There is a need for (a) expanding our investigation to other urban areas of Greece and (b) information exchange among research teams of southeastern Mediterranean countries aiming at promoting safety-driving cultures.

**Kon.-Vas. Priporas**

*Greek consumers' attitudes towards  
the advertisings with sexual content.  
A qualitative research*

In advertising, the sexual content is very often used as a medium of attracting consumers' attention. The purpose of this research is to investigate the opinions and attitudes of Greek consumers towards advertising with sexual content. The research is qualitative in nature and was conducted with the use of 5 focus groups in Thessaloniki. The results reveal that there is an excessive use of sexual content, however, without causing the desirable outcomes since consumers do not recall the brands and they are not influenced in their buying decision.

**Ar. Stamoulas**

*State and Private University*

Utilizing the combination of fiscal-demographic data with the philosophical distinction of human rights between positive and negative, this article argues that, contrary to the universally accepted perception of education as a fundamental human right, the Greek educational system proves condemnatory for its full-scale realization for two reasons. First, poor public finance pushes families to extended private expenditures creating class dichotomies and making education a «public» good to be «purchased» on the basis of people's social profile and economic ability. Second, the overwhelmingly centralized administration of education contrasts with the philosophical principle of the liberal self since it diminishes or undermines possibilities of autonomous educational choices.

**G.E. Skoulas**

*Communicative discourse:  
Consciousness and knowledge in education  
and power authority*

The objective of this article is to review the way language, as an instrument of communication, was used functionally in the basic human activities in modern times. This examination is directed to reveal the extent to which this language instrument contributed to the positive deve-

lopment of contemporary man and to what degree the essential human communication was strengthened by the usage of the well-developed technological means of communication. An attempt is made to analyze the relation of language with the real knowledge and power so as to enlighten the features that are related to those sides of power derived from the domination that is produced by a different linguistic method of communication. A critical analysis is also made to view the main system of language and knowledge that prevailed in the western world as well as the impact it gradually had in its civilization.

**G. Gouga, J. Kamarianos**  
*School organization  
Bureaucracy and educational  
practices*

The present paper aims to explore the formative characteristics of the educational process. These characteristics compose an important framework of study, because they are factors of qualitative and quantitative definition not only of the social, but also of the whole cultural construction of societies.

We believe that the understanding of the organizational characteristics of education enables us to exceed the crisis of the public nature of education. The development of the ways of organizing in conjunction with the process of technology, renders this approach necessary.

**N. Xaniotakis, Ap. Efthymiou,  
G. Pyrgiotakis**  
*The pre service teachers' views  
of their training program*

The present paper is an attempt to investigate the satisfaction level of the Primary Education Department students of the University of Thessaly relative to various aspects of their pre service teacher training. A questionnaire was used for the collection of data. The analysis of the data showed that the majority of the students believe that (a) pre service teaching experiences is the most valuable part of their study at university, (b) sessions of group discussions of their preservice teaching experiences should be compulsory, and (c) duration of the pre service teaching period should increase.

**J. Pextelidis***Reconstruction of school  
knowledge: Towards a «pedagogy  
of difference and finitude»*

School knowledge and practice possess a central role in the construction of concrete subjectivities and forms of social life. From this point of view, in the following text I attempt to reveal the practices of political establishment of the educational process and to claim that the foundation of current school knowledge and practice in «reason» leads to its objectification and as a result to the objectification of pedagogical subject's identities. Yet, drawing upon E. Laclau's and C. Mouffe's theory of «democratic experience», I propose an alternative pedagogy promoting pluralism and constantly stressing its finite nature. This proposal emanates from a concern about the need of school knowledge and practice reformulation for the construction of democratic individualities who will secure the living of democratic institutions.

