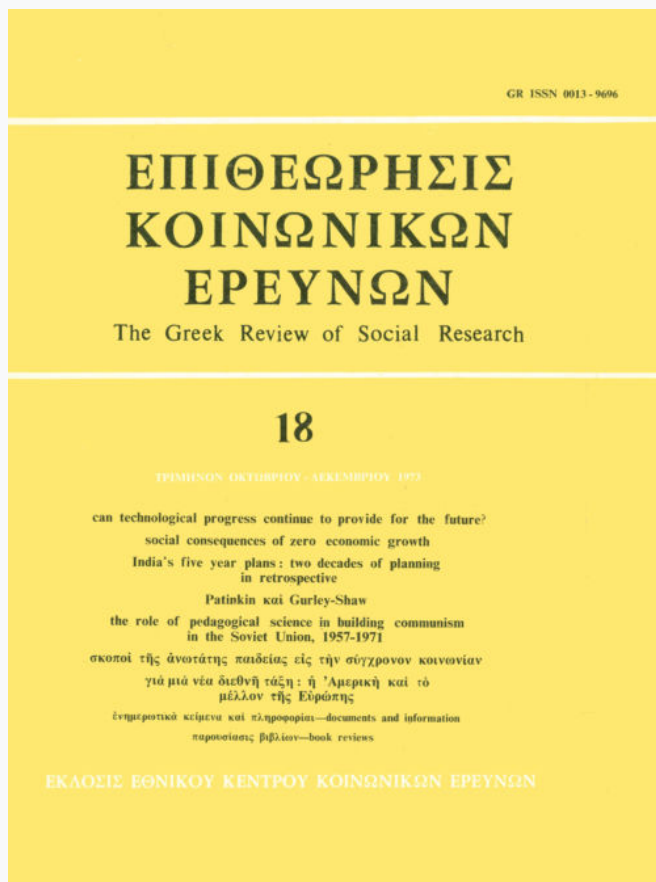


## The Greek Review of Social Research

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**First and second generation Greeks in Chicago, by  
George A. Kourvetaris**

*Michael N. Cutsumbis*

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*First and Second Generation Greeks in Chicago*, by George A. Kourvetaris. Athens: National Centre of Social Research, 1971, pp. 111.

*International Migration Review*, Vol. VI. n. 4, Winter, 1972.

This work, formerly a dissertation from Northern Illinois University was published by the National Centre of Social Research in Greece.

Divided into four parts, the first part is an introduction defining the main concepts. Part two deals with Greek culture and national character, the causes of Greek immigration; ethnic groups and the family of the Chicago Greek-American community. Part three deals with status, political and class changes; occupational changes; residential, educational, and acculturation changes. Part four is a summary and conclusion, including appendices of the interview schedule and mailed questionnaire. It concludes with a three page bibliography.

The sample used was purposely drawn from membership lists of various Greek Orthodox churches, organizations and other informants. The sample consisted of 100 couples, 50 from each generation (first and second). Forty-six couples were interviewed of the first generation, and 43 couples were interviewed of the second generation.

The study used certain hypotheses dealing with first generation and second generation Greeks. He concluded:

1. While the first and second generations have strong bonds with a highly institutionalized Greek community, they have achieved by and large, a lower and upper middle class status, outside of the Greek community.
2. The majority of the first generation Greek men came from humble origin and became owners and small entrepreneurs, managed to save earnings and establish themselves as American citizens.
3. First generation couples were found to be as americanized as the second generation in terms of material comforts.
4. At the beginning, first generation Greeks lived under constant nostalgic memories of their homeland.
5. First generation Greeks were ethnocentric in their attitudes.
6. Acculturation was easier for the second generation than the first and this facilitated the faster social mobility of the second.
7. Although first generation Greeks retained their ethnic identity, they were not detached from the American scene.
8. The early businesses of the first generation were not of high status, but where Greek immigrants could function.
9. First generations perceived «social class» in terms of economic success and

business within their ethnic boundaries, second generations perceived success in terms of American occupational prestige hierarchy.

10. Social stratification was not pronounced among the first generation Greeks for psychological rather than structural reasons.

This is an important work and anyone interested in the Greeks, especially in the Chicago area, must become familiar with its contents.

MICHAEL N. CUTSUMBIS  
Marietta College

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DIMITRAS ELIE, *Enquêtes sociologiques sur les émigrants grecs*, Athènes, Centre national de recherches sociales 1971,3: vol., 24 cm, tabl. (I Première enquête: avant le départ de Grèce, VIII+ 117 p.; II. Deuxième enquête: lors du séjour en Europe occidentale, VIII+ 219 p.)

Ces deux volumes seront suivis d'un troisième: enquête auprès des migrants après leur retour en Grèce et portant sur environ 10000 personnes. L'enquête pilote franco-hellénique a commencé en avril 1961, auprès d'agriculteurs grecs de Thessalie principalement: 24 candidats à l'émigration en France pour la campagne betteravière et 24 candidats à l'émigration en Allemagne. Le questionnaire s'attachait à éclairer la morphologie sociale des candidats, la psychosociologie de leur situation—perspectives et problèmes—, la psychologie du départ, la représentation du pays et du milieu de destination par les candidats et les intentions et projets de retour au pays d'origine. Lors du séjour en Europe occidentale, des questionnaires furent remplis, des interviews eurent lieu en Allemagne, en Belgique et en France. On s'est attaché, outre les sujets abordés lors de la première enquête, à préciser les caractéristiques démographiques et géographiques des émigrants, la psychosociologie de leur activité professionnelle, de leur vie sociale et des liens maintenus avec le pays d'origine. L'enquête a porté, en somme, sur des émigrants ruraux ou urbains célibataires ou mariés, partis de Grèce à des moments différents et ayant séjourné à l'étranger pendant des périodes très variables, employés à des travaux très variés. Ainsi cette enquête donne une idée historique et psychosociologique de l'émigration grecque intra-européenne.

H.B.

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