

The Fields *and* Methods of Sociology

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THE FIELDS AND METHODS OF SOCIOLOGY

To
THE MEMBERS OF
THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

To which Fellowship
all of the contributors to this
volume belong and upon
whom it is dependent
for a successful
reception

PREFACE

THIS volume is intended to serve as a textbook for advanced courses in sociology in which the purpose is to survey the various divisions of sociology as this science has developed in the United States in particular, and in all other countries where the subject is taught or studied. It emphasizes especially the sources of materials for investigation, the methods of research, and the processes of generalization in the various fields of sociological science. Present day sociologists are more interested in research than in classification. It is recognized, however, that intelligent research cannot be undertaken to the best advantage without an adequate understanding of the various divisions into which the general science of sociology falls. Consequently, the first part of the volume is devoted to an analysis of the fields and problems of sociology and the second part to sources and methods. While the volume is organized in textbook form, it is expected that it will appeal very largely to the general reader who is searching for a well organized and clear presentation of the subject of sociology in all its aspects. It is believed that the present volume offers the most complete and thoroughgoing analysis and synthesis of sociological content and methodology now available.

I wish to emphasize especially the inductive approach of the present treatise. Every chapter is the result of a careful study of the data it treats. Speculative and *a priori* approaches have been avoided. Consequently each field of sociology has been analyzed realistically as to subject matter, sources and methods and the results are set forth as clearly and as simply and directly as possible.

This book is based in the main upon the fifteen scope and method programs¹ which formed the core of the 1932 program of the American Sociological Society, which met in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 28-31, 1932. The Executive Committee of the Society granted to the editor (at that time president of the Society) per-

¹ The authors of Chapter XII, Part I and Chapters V, XI, and XII, Part II were selected by chairmen of autonomous sections of the Society and the authors of the other chapters were selected by the editor in his capacity as president of the Society or as editor.

mission to select the papers suited for such a volume as is here presented and to edit them as circumstances required. The editorial function has been exercised with considerable vigor and with great care. For various reasons, some of the papers were found unadapted to the unity required by a volume which was destined to serve as a textbook. Some of the chapters were therefore rewritten to bring them in line with the special plan of the book. Where the authors were unable for lack of time or for some other reason to rewrite their chapters, the editor availed himself of a specific permission granted by the Executive Committee of the Society to secure substitute chapters. Moreover, all other chapters were revised by their authors in such manner as was necessary to give the book the requisite unity. The business of editing and harmonizing these chapters has been an exacting task, but it is believed that the desired unity has been achieved, while at the same time each chapter has been prepared by some sociologist possessing outstanding capacity in his particular division of sociology. Thus it is hoped that the unity of presentation which has resulted is superior to that which would have been achieved by a single authorship, because it embodies also a unity of superior skill and knowledge without a diversity of radically opposing views. The editor regrets and apologizes for the fact that the limitations of time and the difficulties of securing substitute chapters of the unity required forced him in one case to undertake the preparation of one of the chapters of Part II, and in another case to assign the preparation of a chapter to a competent person working under his immediate supervision. He would have preferred greatly to limit his contribution strictly to the editorial function—which has been sufficiently arduous—and to the preparation of the two orientation chapters introducing the two parts of the book.

All of the contributors to this volume have given their labors wholly without compensation and have themselves borne all expense connected with the performance of their functions. All royalties from sales will be received by the American Sociological Society. I wish, therefore, in the name of the Society, to express the warm appreciation which is due the authors for their interest in bringing the task to completion. It is hoped that the members of the society will strongly second this expression by making generous use of the volume in classes and in otherwise giving it the circulation

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which it deserves. To the publishers also, I wish to express the appreciation which I know the members of the Society feel for their generous personal interest in this publication enterprise and for the financial support which they have given to it. Finally, I desire to give recognition to the constant editorial aid given me by Jessie Bernard, especially in connection with the verification of hundreds of titles, dates, and other items of reference, and for most of the labor involved in the preparation of the special bibliographies at the end of the volume, as well as for assistance in reading the proofs.

L. L. BERNARD.

*Washington University,
March 29, 1933.*

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE necessity of a resetting and a reprinting of this work offers an opportunity to the editor to acknowledge with gratitude the highly favorable reception given it both by teachers and by individual students of sociology within the short time it has been in print. Even his naturally sanguine expectations regarding the success of the book have been greatly surpassed by the actual results. Apparently the time was ripe for an authoritative and representative analysis of the fields of sociology and for realistic analyses of the methodologies now being employed in the several sociological sciences. Although the book did not appear until the beginning of the second semester of the academic year 1933-1934, it received several immediate adoptions as a text book and was widely used as a reference work. The present printing is being made in response to the wide demands for adoptions as a text in courses in the autumn of 1934 and for the general trade. I wish to use this opportunity to express the satisfaction of the

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editor for the many friendly expressions regarding the book which he has received from his colleagues throughout the membership of the American Sociological Society and to thank these kind correspondents in the name of his collaborators in the production of the work and of the American Sociological Society as a whole.

L. L. BERNARD.

*Washington University,
May 18, 1934.*

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

OWING to limitations of space it has not been possible to present chapters on all of the recognized special sociological sciences that constitute subdivisions of sociology. Neither was this deemed to be necessary. Those divisions most cultivated in this country have been selected for fairly detailed expository treatment. The other less cultivated divisions and their relationships with the other divisions have been discussed in the first chapter of Part I in such a manner as to orient the student with reference to the whole field of sociology considered as a unit. Those who wish to cover the whole of the many subdivisions of sociology will find brief, but carefully selected, bibliographies covering both the content and the methodologies of these divisions at the end of the volume. It is to be regretted that considerations of space have prevented the publication of more extensive bibliographies, but it is believed that those here given will prove to be quite adequate for almost any conceivable general need.

Bibliographical material has been made a prominent feature of the book, since it is believed that the general guidance function of this volume in the study of sociology can best be served by such a policy. In connection with each chapter there is a brief selected bibliography of publications discussing the same themes as those treated in the chapters to which they are appended. These bibliographies are intended for those who wish to read or examine more extensively into the subjects developed in the several chapters. The citations in the footnotes are generally of a different character, their purpose being primarily to cite the specific investigations upon which the analysis of the author of each chapter is based.

It will also be observed that the several chapters in each of the two parts are not strictly uniform in treatment. Each part is introduced by an introductory or orientation chapter. This is followed by several chapters dealing either with the fields and problems or with the sources and methods of selected divisions of sociology. The chapters on sources and methods vary in manner of presentation to a noticeable degree, partly to prevent overlapping of the treatment

of methods used in closely related fields of sociology and partly to emphasize certain problems or procedures of particular importance to special phases of the subject. Thus, for example, the chapter on the Sources and Methods of Urban Sociology is devoted mainly to sources, while the chapter on Sources and Methods of Community Study is concerned chiefly with investigation. Finally, at the end of each part of the book there are a few chapters intended to generalize or place in practical applied perspective the fruits of the discussion developed in the preceding chapters. Thus, at the end of Part I are three chapters discussing the utilization of sociological data in social work and social betterment. At the close of Part II there are three chapters discussing the most important applications of statistical method. The detailed application of the case method is discussed in the chapter on the Sources and Methods of Family Study. It is hoped that this method of varying slightly the procedure of the several chapters will result in a synthetically more unified presentation of the subject as a whole without the disadvantage of tiresome repetition.

THE EDITOR.

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PART I

THE FIELDS AND PROBLEMS OF SOCIOLOGY

CHAPTER I

THE FIELDS OF SOCIOLOGY

Two fairly distinct motivations may be discerned at work in any science. One is the drive to understand the environment. The other is the attempt to integrate some sort of explanatory background of knowledge that will aid in the solution of a class of problems. The latter is the more fundamental motive, and the former may be said to be a more or less derivative phase of the second. To these two motives in science we may, perhaps, add a third, that of explaining the fundamental characteristics of the self or personality, although for most purposes of scientific analysis the explanation of the self is included in the explanation of the environment. Most selves or personalities are a part of the social environment, but in those cases where the adjustment problem to be explained by the use of science is a personal one, the self becomes subjective, and hence at least some apparent justification for including the analysis of personality in a third category of science.

All science has arisen out of some sort of adjustment problem situation, although in the later stages of scientific development the problems have become more theoretical than practical and the adjustment demanded has been more often to a world of ideas than to a world of things. Nevertheless, the basic motive in the development of science always has been and probably always will be that of adjustment—the adjustment of the scientist, or of those whom he serves, to something fundamental, either in the practical material or social world of living, or in the more immaterial world of ideas. It is not possible here to go into the evolution of science in order to show how the motivations specified in the first paragraph of this chapter became differentiated and objectified. Perhaps it will be sufficient to start with the fundamental fact of the two or three types of motivation in science and show how this fact affects the field and problems of science—and especially of sociology—as they present themselves today.

Obviously, however much one may wish to solve an adjustment