



Introduction to

SOCIOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION TO Sociology

Seagull Eighth Edition

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preface

We wrote this book with the belief that sociology plays a key role in modern intellectual culture and occupies a central place within the social sciences. We have aimed to write a book that combines classic theories of sociology with empirically-grounded studies and examples from real life that reveal the basic issues of interest to sociologists today. In some places, we attempt to introduce the reader to a subject through the use of ethnographies written for this book. The book does not bring in overly sophisticated notions; nevertheless, ideas and findings drawn from the cutting edge of the discipline are incorporated throughout. We hope it is a fair and nonpartisan treatment; we endeavored to cover the major perspectives in sociology and the major findings of contemporary American research in an even-handed, although not indiscriminate, way.

Major Themes

The book is constructed around **eight** basic themes, each of which helps give the work a distinctive character. One of the central themes is the **micro and macro link**. At many points in the book, we show that interaction in micro-level contexts affects larger social processes and that such macro-level processes influence our day-to-day lives. We emphasize that one can better understand a social situation by analyzing it at both the micro and macro levels. To illustrate this point in the eighth edition, we have added a new feature, “Behind the Best Sellers,” which shows how writers from a range of backgrounds—novelists, journalists, biologists, and so on—use sociological concepts to explore far-ranging issues such as the experience of gender inequality and sexual exploitation in different parts of the world, the search for meaningful work in a globalized economy, or a comparison of the ways Western and non-Western societies have developed over the course of human history.

A second theme is that of the **world in change**. Sociology was born out of the transformations that wrenched the industrializing social order of the West away from the ways of life that characterized earlier societies. The world created by these changes is the primary object of concern of sociological analysis. The pace of social change has continued to accelerate, and it is possible that we stand on the threshold of transitions as significant as those that occurred in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sociology has prime responsibility for charting the transformations of the past and for grasping the major lines of development taking place today.

Another fundamental theme is the **globalization of social life**. For far too long, sociology has been dominated by the view that societies can be studied as independent and distinctive entities. But even in the past, societies never really existed in isolation. In current times, we can see a clear acceleration in processes of global integration. This is obvious, for example, in the expansion of international trade across

the world, or the use of social media that played a key role in recent popular uprisings against repressive governments throughout the Middle East. The emphasis on globalization also connects closely with the weight given to the interdependence of the industrialized and developing worlds today.

The book also focuses on the importance of **comparative study**. Sociology cannot be taught solely by understanding the institutions of any one particular society. Although we have focused our discussion primarily on the United States, we have also balanced it with a rich variety of materials drawn from other cultures. These include research carried out in other Western countries as well as in Russia and eastern European societies, which are currently undergoing substantial changes. The book also includes much more material on developing countries than has been usual in introductory texts. In addition, we strongly emphasize the relationship between sociology and anthropology, whose concerns often overlap. Given the close connections that now mesh societies across the world and the virtual disappearance of traditional social systems, sociology and anthropology have increasingly become indistinguishable.

A fifth theme is the necessity of taking a **historical approach** to sociology. This involves more than just filling in the historical context within which events occur. One of the most important developments in sociology over the past few years has been an increasing emphasis on historical analysis. This should be understood not solely as applying a sociological outlook to the past but as a way of contributing to our understanding of institutions in the present. Recent work in historical sociology is discussed throughout the text and provides a framework for the interpretations offered in the chapters.

Throughout the text, particular attention is given to a sixth theme—issues of **social class, gender, and race**. The study of social differentiation is ordinarily regarded as a series of specific fields within sociology as a whole—and this volume contains chapters that specifically explore thinking and research on each subject (Chapters 8, 10, and 11, respectively). However, questions about gender, race, and class relations are so fundamental to sociological analysis that they cannot simply be considered a subdivision. Thus many chapters contain sections concerned with the ways that multiple sources of social stratification shape the human experience.

A seventh theme is that a strong grasp of **sociological research methods** is crucial for understanding the world around us. The feature “Behind the Headlines” focuses on recent sociological studies that are reported (or misreported) in the mainstream media. A strong understanding of how social science research is conducted is crucial for interpreting and making sense of the many social “facts” that the media trumpets. These twenty boxes help young sociologists to peer behind the headlines and to scrutinize recent media claims such as “Day Care Makes Kids Behave Badly” (Chapter 4) and “Money Really Can’t Buy Happiness” (Chapter 14). We hope that the “Behind the Headlines” boxes will encourage students to carefully scrutinize and interrogate the daily news headlines they see on television, print, and on the Internet.

The final major theme is the relation between the **social and the personal**. Sociological thinking is a vital help to self-understanding, which in turn can be focused back on an improved understanding of the social world. Studying sociology should be a liberating experience: The field enlarges our sympathies and imagination, opens up new perspectives on the sources of our own behavior, and creates an awareness of cultural settings different from our own. Insofar as sociological ideas challenge

dogma, teach appreciation of cultural variety, and allow us insight into the working of social institutions, the practice of sociology enhances the possibilities of human freedom.

Organization

There is little abstract discussion of basic sociological concepts at the beginning of this book. Instead, concepts are explained when they are introduced in the relevant chapters, and we have sought to illustrate them by means of concrete examples. Although these examples are usually taken from sociological research, we have also used material from other sources (such as newspaper articles or best-selling books geared at a general audience). We have tried to keep the writing style as simple and direct as possible, while endeavoring to make the book lively and full of surprises.

The chapters follow a sequence designed to help students achieve a progressive mastery of the different fields of sociology, but we have taken care to ensure that the book can be used flexibly and is easy to adapt to the needs of individual courses. Chapters can be deleted or studied in a different order without much loss. Each has been written as a fairly autonomous unit, with cross-referencing to other chapters at relevant points.

Changes in the 8th Edition

Chapter 1: With its new opening vignette about affirmative action in universities, Chapter 1 has a revised discussion of the sociological imagination and the sociological perspective. The chapter includes a new feature, “Behind the Best Sellers,” which profiles Richard Nisbett’s *Intelligence and How to Get It*.

Chapter 2: We have revised the methods chapter to include a new a discussion of Alice Goffman’s research about men on the run from the police. The chapter explores the different methods that she uses to study fugitives, as well as the ethical issues Goffman’s work raises. In addition, a new section on the sociology of science explores the development of sociology from a theoretical field to one based in scientific method. The challenges of doing research in the real world have been updated, citing Goffman’s experience. The new “Behind the Best Sellers” box profiles Steven Levitt’s and Stephen Dubner’s *Freakonomics*.

Chapter 3: The “Behind the Best Sellers” box features Jared Diamond’s *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, which takes a geographical and biological approach to explaining the differences in culture and race worldwide.

Chapter 4: The new “Behind the Best Sellers” box examines *Nurture Shock: New Thinking about Children* by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman. Bronson and Merryman use the science of socialization and child development to challenge common parenting strategies.

Chapter 5: The new “Behind the Best Sellers” box looks at Deborah Tannen’s *You Just Don’t Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*, which explains how men and women have “different but equally valid” communication styles, which often account for difficulties in relationships.

Chapter 6: We have updated statistics throughout the chapter, including the number of Americans on the Internet (74% of adults), the number of Americans connected wirelessly (55%), and added new statistics concerning minorities and the use of the Internet in America. There are also updated statistics on the number of Americans who work from home, and a new study that found that telecommuting increased productivity, work-life flexibility, and job satisfaction. The “Behind the Best Sellers” box looks at *Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives* by Nicholas Christakis and James Fowler. The book tries to answer questions about “the social contagion” of health, behaviors, and attitudes.

Chapter 7: We updated statistics on prisons with a new report that indicates that recent prison enrollment has actually declined. There are also additional statistics on sexual assault and on anti-GLBT events. The Upper Big Branch coal mine disaster and Bernie Madoff have been added to the section on corporate crime. Death penalty statistics have also been updated. The “Behind the Best Sellers” box examines Sudhir Venkatesh’s *Gang Leader for a Day*, about a sociologist’s experiences studying the inner city through the use of firsthand observation.

Chapter 8: Data on income distribution, wealth, credit, and education have been updated. Our discussion of the feminization of poverty has also been updated with the latest Census statistics. The “Behind the Best Sellers” box looks at Michael Lewis’ *The Blind Side*, which tells the story of Michael Oher and the family who were willing to look beyond race and class boundaries to help him.

Chapter 9: Opening with updated statistics on global wealth, the global inequality chapter continues with updated World Bank statistics classifying countries as low-, lower-middle-, upper-middle-, or high-income. A brief statement on the resurgence of once-eradicated diseases in advanced industrial countries due to fears about immunization has been added to the health section. There is a new IMF projection that China is the first in economic growth among economies listed in the World Economic Outlook Projections. There is also a new infographic on global inequality. The “Behind the Best Sellers” box examines Greg Mortenson’s *Three Cups of Tea*, on his experiences trying to help poor villages in Pakistan and Afghanistan by building schools.

Chapter 10: The revised gender chapter begins by comparing the experiences of Andrea, the 23-year-old mother of three who works two jobs to support her family, and Meg, an executive who was able to stop working, when her child’s health required it, because of her savings and her husband’s high-paying job. We have added new information about occupational patterns by gender and studies that demonstrate biological differences between men and women. We have also added a new discussion about several studies that use brain imaging techniques to study the difference between male and female brains. Drawing from Norah Vincent’s book about spending a year living as a man, we examine how people “do gender” every day. Another new section examines parents in Afghanistan who, having only daughters, will transform one into a son. In addition, we have added new Bureau of Labor Statistics data concerning women in the labor force, as well as new data about graduate school and gender. The Gender Pay Gap section has also been updated, including the Paycheck Fairness Act and other pay-equity policies as well as a sexual discrimination lawsuit against Costco. There is a new reference

to a study that found mothers were 44% less likely to be hired than non-mothers, and the section on unpaid work done by men and women has been updated. The politics section includes the more recent number of female senators and mentions Hilary Clinton's successes in the primaries, as well as the number of women in the Tea Party. The section on violence against women has also been greatly updated and there is a new section on rape as a military strategy, using the examples of Japan and the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo. Information about females leaving their homes in rural China to go work in factories has been added. The section on "Using Sociology to Understand the Lives of Andrea and Meg" has been greatly updated to include information on Meg and her rare success on Wall Street. "Why Gender Inequality Matters" has been updated to include the establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment. We have also expanded "The International Women's Movement" section to include examples from China, South Africa, Russia and Afghanistan. Finally, the "Behind the Best Sellers" box looks at *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, which provides a vivid picture of women's experiences throughout the world.

Chapter 11: Statistics on global migration have been updated. We have also added the most recent data on ethnicity and poverty as well as the percentages of people who speak English and who have Bachelor's degrees. The statistics comparing wages earned by black women to those earned by white women, black men, and white men have been updated to reflect 2010 data. The "Behind the Best Sellers" box features Dave Eggers' *Zeitoun* which tells the story of Hurricane Katrina and its chaotic aftermath through the particular experience of the Zeitouns, a Muslim-American family and long-time residents of New Orleans.

Chapter 12: The aging chapter has been completely revised and now opens with the story of Judy Hofstadter, an 81-year-old woman who still works full time as a financial planner and volunteers for political candidates. Judy's story is contrasted with Alice Garvin's, a woman fighting foreclosure as she supports her children, grandchildren, great-grandson, and grand-nephew. The chapter includes new Census statistics on life expectancy. There is also a new paragraph on assistive technologies that help older adults to continue daily life despite disabilities. The section on Alzheimer's has been expanded. The "Social Aging" section has been reformatted and expanded; it now includes "nontraditional age" students and people over 65 who delay retirement. "Disengagement theory" has been expanded to include socioemotional selectivity theory. "Activity theories" also now has its own subhead and that section now includes continuity theory. There are new statistics about the number of older adults living below the poverty line. We have also added more material on life course sociology. The section reflects this new focus, mentions cumulative advantage/adversity and also references Judy and Alice from the opening of the chapter. There is a new section within the poverty section called "Subgroup Differences in Poverty Rates" which focuses on the vastly different poverty rates for the elderly based on race. We have also revised our discussion of loneliness to examine the fact that the mere presence of social relationships might not be enough to ward off loneliness and that being lonely can cause serious health problems for the elderly. In addition, we have added a new discussion of social isolation and gender. We have also expanded the coverage of ageism to discuss new technologies that reinforce prejudices against the elderly, like Twitter, as well as

Bruce Springsteen's AARP magazine cover to demonstrate that traditional ideas about aging might be outdated. The elder abuse coverage has been updated, and it includes several studies done by the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project to provide statistics about the number of elders who experienced verbal, financial or physical mistreatment. We have also updated the discussion of aging and politics. There is a new paragraph suggesting that most Americans may not be concerned about generational equity in terms of government support. In the World Population section, we have added more material on "The Feminization of Global Aging." The "Behind the Best Sellers" Box explores Dr. David Dosa's *Making Rounds with Oscar*, about a cat in a nursing home who apparently was able to predict when patients were about to die. The book explores not only the mystery of the cat's premonitions but also Alzheimer's and the "failure of success" caused by modern medical advancements.

Chapter 13: The "Behind the Headlines" box features ACORN and examines how news coverage of the organization increased dramatically (and unfavorably) when it became an election issue. The "Behind the Best Sellers" Box features *Game Change* by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, in which the journalists examine in great detail the lives and campaigns of Obama, McCain, Clinton, Edwards, and Palin.

Chapter 14: Statistics on unions have been updated as have statistics on transnational corporations. The "Behind the Best Sellers" Box features Matthew Crawford's *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, about why Americans cherish and invest in white-collar work today, but skilled labor—whether carpentry, automotive repair, welding, or construction—is viewed as a default path for those who lack the wherewithal to go to college.

Chapter 15: The statistics on the average marriage age and the number of people of certain ages in various types of relationships in the United States have been updated. Native American nonmarital fertility has also been updated. Statistics on the divergence between black and white family patterns have been updated according to the latest Census figures. There are new statistics on single-parent families and new statistics on child abuse. The "Behind the Best Sellers" box looks at *Red Families v. Blue Families: Legal Polarization and the Creation of Culture* by Naomi Cahn and June Carbone, in which the authors suggest that the current political battles and "culture wars" raging in the United States today are guided heavily by polarized beliefs about marriage and family.

Chapter 16: Statistics on the number of American adults who leave school functionally illiterate have been updated. There are also new statistics on the percentage of Americans who use the Internet on any given day. The new "Behind the Best Sellers" box features *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* by Diane Ravich, in which she claims that school testing and school choice are in fact undermining American education; that principles from the corporate world are simply not applicable to educational institutions.

Chapter 17: The section on "Secularization or Religious Revival" has been updated to include a study that suggests that the religious disestablishment of the 1960s and 1970s contributed to the growing strength of conservative religious denominations. The new "Behind the Best Sellers" box examines *American Grace: How Religion*

Divides and Unites Us by Robert Putnam and David Campbell. The book discusses whether polarization between grace sayers and non-grace sayers might be emblematic of broader polarization in America between people who are religious and people we might consider “secular.”

Chapter 18: Statistics on the number of Americans with eating disorders have been updated, as have statistics concerning overweight children and adolescents. Statistics comparing black and white Americans in terms of cigarette smoking and hypertension have also been adjusted to reflect more recent studies. The yearly number of deaths from malaria has been updated and sanitation statistics have been updated, including the number of people without access to improved water or adequate sanitation. HIV/AIDS statistics by region and by race within the United States have also been updated. There is a new number for the percentage of Americans who are homosexual. The new “Behind the Best Sellers” box looks at *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Doctor Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World* by Tracy Kidder. In the book, Kidder looks at Farmer’s clinic in Haiti and his attempt to understand why not all patients were being cured of TB; originally he thought Haitian voodoo customs were to blame—it was actually conditions of poverty.

Chapter 19: Crude birth rates and death rates have been updated. We have also updated the statistics concerning the United States’ use of fossil fuels. The “Behind the Best Sellers” box looks at *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Thomas Friedman, which examines the effects on the planet of rapid population growth, increasing global interconnectedness, and global warming.

Chapter 20: The amount spent on nanoscale research has been updated from \$1 billion to \$1.8 billion. Statistics on world Internet users have also been updated. A section mentioning natural disasters now includes the earthquake in Haiti rather than those in Turkey and Armenia. Data on transnational corporations has also been updated. The percentage of processed foods containing some genetically modified components has been increased. New statistics from the 2005 *Human Development Report* have been added, including that 75 percent of the population in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa live on less than two dollars a day. There are a few new sentences agricultural subsidies in developed nations to total income in developing countries. The “Behind the Best Sellers” box looks at *How Soccer Explains the World* by Franklin Foer, in which the author uses soccer to look at globalization.

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During the writing of all eight editions of this book, many individuals offered comments and advice on particular chapters and, in some cases, large parts of the text. They helped us see issues in a different light, clarified some difficult points, and allowed us to take advantage of their specialized knowledge in their respective fields. We are deeply indebted to them. Special thanks go to Rachel Parker, who worked assiduously to help us update data in all chapters and contributed significantly to the editing process; and Dmitry Khodyakov, who wrote thought-provoking Concept Check questions for each chapter.

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- **Sociology in Practice DVD exercises** feature clips from documentary films that explore sociological concepts from various perspectives. These require a registration code—which comes free with all copies of the text—to access.
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- **Vocabulary Flashcards.**
- **Everyday Sociology Blog RSS feed.**
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Everyday Sociology Blog

everydaysociologyblog.com

Designed for a general audience, the Everyday Sociology Blog is an exciting and unique online forum that encourages visitors to actively explore sociology's relevance to popular culture, mass media, and everyday life. Moderated by Karen Sternheimer (University of Southern California), the blog features postings on topical subjects, video interviews with well known sociologists, as well as contributions from special guests during the academic year.

Contributors include: Janis A. Prince (University of South Florida), Sally Raskoff (Los Angeles Valley College), and Todd Schoepflin (Niagra University).

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FOR INSTRUCTORS

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- **“Clicker” questions** for each PowerPoint chapter enable instructors to incorporate classroom response systems into their lectures. These lecture PowerPoints also include discussion questions for the infographics, which are sized for optimal classroom presentation.
- **Art PowerPoints** featuring photographs, and drawn figures from the text.

Instructor's Manual

By Kathleen Doherty, Madison Area Technical College

New materials include:

- Everyday Sociology Blog exercises,
- “Behind the Headlines” and “Behind the Best Sellers” exercises,
- Media integration grids to help instructors browse electronic resources for each chapter at a glance,
- and suggested clips from the *Sociology in Practice* DVD series (divided by chapter) including a description of how to incorporate it into the classroom.

Additional materials include revised recommended film, reading, and web reference lists.

Test Bank

Written by Frank Ha (Cuesta College) and Robin Paige Kreider (Gavilan College), each chapter includes approximately 20 True/False, 75 multiple choice, and 10 essay questions per chapter. This test bank includes new concept maps, and labels for concept, question type, and difficulty.

Coursepacks

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