

*Fourth Edition*

# SEEING OURSELVES

*Classic, Contemporary, and  
Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*



John J. Macionis & Nijole V. Benokraitis

*Fourth Edition*

# Seeing Ourselves

**Classic, Contemporary,  
and Cross-Cultural Readings  
in Sociology**

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## Preface

“To be tired of sociology is to be tired of life itself!” We paraphrase Dr. Johnson’s praise of his native London as a way of saying that we, like most instructors of sociology, continue to find much that is new and exciting in our lives’ work. And, once again, we have captured the innovation and energy of sociology in this revision of *Seeing Ourselves*.

This anthology presents the very best of sociological thought, including the work of the discipline’s pioneers as well as that of men and women conducting today’s cutting-edge research and making global comparisons. It provides excellent reading material for a wide range of courses, including introductory sociology, social problems, cultural anthropology, social theory, social stratification, American studies, women’s studies, and marriage and the family.

### **THE THREE C’S: CLASSIC, CONTEMPORARY, AND CROSS-CULTURAL**

The new fourth edition of *Seeing Ourselves*, the most popular reader in the discipline, offers sev-

enty-four selections that represent the breadth and depth of sociology. This unique anthology is not only extensive; it also systematically weaves together three different kinds of selections. For each general topic typically covered in a sociology course, three types of articles are included: *classic*, *contemporary*, and *cross-cultural*.

*Classic* articles—twenty-nine in all—are sociological statements of recognized importance and lasting significance. Included here are the ideas of sociology’s founders and shapers—including Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, Ferdinand Tönnies, as well as Margaret Mead, W. E. B. Du Bois, Louis Wirth, George Herbert Mead, Thomas Robert Malthus, and Charles Horton Cooley. Also found here are more recent contributions by Jessie Bernard, Robert Merton, Erving Goffman, Peter Berger, Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore, C. Wright Mills, Talcott Parsons, Leslie White, and Jo Freeman.

We recognize that not everyone will agree about precisely which selections warrant the term “classic.” We hope, however, that instructors will be pleased to see the work of so many outstand-

ing men and women—carefully edited with students in mind—available in a single, affordable collection.

Twenty-three *contemporary* selections focus on current sociological issues, controversies, and applications. These articles show sociologists at work and demonstrate the importance of ongoing research. They make for stimulating reading and offer thought-provoking insights about ourselves and the surrounding world. Among the contemporary selections in *Seeing Ourselves* are James Davison Hunter on today's "culture wars," Dianne Herman pointing out the cultural roots of sexual violence, Deborah Tannen's view of why the two sexes often talk past each other, Arlie Hochschild's account of corporate control of employees' feelings, Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray's "bell curve thesis" and a rebuttal by Claude Fischer and his associates, Patricia Hill Collins's analysis of the plight of women of color, William Julius Wilson's account of the rising desperation of some inner-city residents, Betty Friedan's views on aging, Catharine MacKinnon's view of pornography as a form of domination, and David Popenoe's contention that fatherhood is in serious decline.

The twenty-two *cross-cultural* selections offer sociological insights about the striking cultural diversity of our world. Included are well-known works such as "The Nacirema" by Horace Miner, "India's Sacred Cow" by Marvin Harris, "The Amish: A Small Society" by John Hostetler, and J. M. Carrier's "Homosexual Behavior in Cross-Cultural Perspective." Other articles explore issues and problems including parenting around the world, how familiar gestures can offend people in other societies, how Japanese and U.S. business people behave according to different sets of rules, global patterns of crime, the staggering burden of African poverty, the dynamics of widowhood in Israel, patterns of mate selection around the world, Islam's view of women, academic achievement among Southeast Asian immigrants, how the AIDS epidemic is ravaging other continents, and the plight of indigenous

peoples worldwide. Cross-cultural selections stimulate critical thinking about our own society as well as broaden students' understanding of other cultures.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE READER

This reader parallels the chapter sequence common to textbooks used in introductory sociology. Certainly, instructors can easily and effectively use these articles in a host of other courses, just as teachers can assign articles in whatever order they wish. For each of the twenty-two general topics, a cluster of three or four articles is presented, including at least one classic, at least one contemporary, and at least one cross-cultural selection. The expansive coverage of these seventy-four articles ensures that instructors can choose readings well suited to their own classes.

The first grouping of articles describes the distinctive sociological perspective, brings to life the promise and pitfalls of sociological research, and demonstrates the discipline's applications to a variety of issues. The selections that follow focus on key concepts: culture, society, socialization, social interaction, groups and organizations, and deviance. The analysis then turns to various dimensions of social inequality, with attention to class, race and ethnicity, gender, and aging. The major social institutions are covered next, including the economy and work; politics, government, and the military; family; religion; education; and health and medicine. The final sets of articles explore dimensions of global transformation—including population growth, urbanization, the natural environment, social movements, and social change.

## A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

All readings are presented in their original form; the editors have not altered any author's language. Readers should be aware that some of the older selections—especially the classics—use male

pronouns rather than more contemporary gender-neutral terminology, and one article employs the term *Negro*. We have not changed the language in any article, wishing not to violate the historical authenticity of any document. That said, we urge faculty and students, with the original articles in hand, to consider the significance of changing language in their analysis of the author's ideas.

## TEACHING FEATURES

This reader has two features that enhance students' learning. First, a brief introduction, preceding each selection, presents the essential argument and highlights important issues to keep in mind while completing the reading. Second, each article is followed by three or four "Critical-Thinking Questions," which develop the significance of the reading, help students evaluate their own learning, and stimulate class discussion.

## INTERNET SITE

Readers are also invited to visit <http://www.prenhall.com/macionis> to find an informative sociology Web site. Here, one will find topics for discussion, summaries of late-breaking news of interest to sociologists, and a number of links to interesting sites.

## INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL WITH TEST QUESTIONS

Prentice Hall also supports *Seeing Ourselves* with an Instructor's Manual, prepared by Leda A. Thompson. For each selection, the Instructor's Manual provides a summary of the article's arguments and conclusions, eight multiple-choice questions (with answers), and several essay questions. The multiple-choice questions are also available on computer disk for users of IBM and Macintosh personal computers.

## CHANGES TO THE FOURTH EDITION

We are grateful to our colleagues at hundreds of colleges and universities who have made *Seeing Ourselves* a part of their courses. Energized by this unparalleled reception, the editors have now produced an even stronger edition. Here are the key changes:

1. **Twenty new articles**, out of a total of seventy-four, appear in the fourth edition. In the last revision, we focused on improving and expanding the collection of *classics*. This time, our attention has turned to upgrading the *contemporary* and *cross-cultural* selections. The fourth edition contains thirteen new contemporary articles, which provide a wide range of views on many of today's most engaging (and, often, controversial) issues. New selections in this category include Gail Dines, "I Buy It for the Articles": *Playboy* Magazine and Pornography"; John J. Macionis, "Welcome to Cyber-Society!"; George Gerbner, "Socialization and Television Violence"; Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray, "The Bell Curve Thesis," with a response by Claude Fischer; Patricia Hill Collins, "Controlling Images and Black Women's Oppression"; Nijole V. Benokraitis, "How Subtle Sex Discrimination Works"; William Julius Wilson, "When Work Disappears"; David Popenoe, "The Decline of Marriage and Fatherhood"; James Davison Hunter, "Culture Wars"; and Ruth E. Zambrana, Claudia Dorrington, and David Hayes-Bautista, "The Health of Latino Families."

In addition, *Seeing Ourselves*, fourth edition, offers six new cross-cultural selections, which refresh the anthology's comparative vision. The new selections in this category are John D. Brewer, "Sensitivity in Field Research: A Study of Policing in Northern Ireland"; D. Terri Heath, "Parents' Socialization of Children in Global Perspective"; Roger E. Axtell, "The DOs and TABOOs of Body Language Around the World"; Helena Znaniecka Lopata, "Widowhood in Israel"; Bron B. Ingoldsby, "Mate Selection

and Marriage Around the World"; and Efua Dorkenoo and Scilla Elworthy, "Female Genital Mutilation."

2. **The fourth edition continues its emphasis on diversity.** In *Seeing Ourselves*, "diversity" encompasses two important objectives. First, the editors have worked diligently to include in this collection the work of sociologists from around the world and from many cultural backgrounds. We are pleased to be able to include new selections from scholars (especially women, African Americans, and Hispanics) whose contributions are often overlooked.

Second, *Seeing Ourselves* offers various points of view. Using this anthology, students will grapple with important issues and debates, presented by scholars from many positions on the political spectrum. In all, the fourth edition of *Seeing Ourselves* better conveys sociology's diversity of viewpoints and methodologies as it captures the fascinating complexity of the social world.

As in the past, we invite faculty and students to share their thoughts and reactions to this reader. Write to John Macionis at the Department of Anthropology-Sociology, Olof Palme House, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623 or to Nijole Benokraitis at the Department of Sociology, University of Baltimore, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-5779. Internet addresses for electronic mail are **macionis@kenyon.edu** and **nbenokraitis@ubmail.ubalt.edu**

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Nijole Benokraitis is grateful to Linda Fair, secretary of the Division of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Social Policy, and to Karen Babcock and her assistant Donna Hardy in the Reprographics Department for their invaluable assistance in preparing many of the articles for publication.

John Macionis offers thanks to Sharon Duchesne, office manager of the Anthropology-Sociology Department at Kenyon College, for her assistance in preparing the final manuscript.

Both editors are indebted to Amy Marsh Macionis for her skillful editorial review of the entire manuscript. Amy, with the assistance of Shane Goldsmith, carefully completed the time-consuming task of securing permission to reprint material.

Finally, recognizing the fact that the academic profession often undervalues the role of teaching, John Macionis and Nijole Benokraitis dedicate this edition of *Seeing Ourselves* to the men and women who have committed their lives to educating today's college and university students, helping them to develop the skills and the insights that will play an important role in shaping tomorrow's world.

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