

JAMES M. HENSLIN

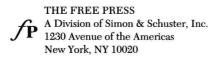
Down to Earth Sociology

Introductory Readings ELEVENTH EDITION

JAMES M. HENSLIN Editor

THE FREE PRESS

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In Memory of Erving Goffman 1922–1982

and

William Foote Whyte 1914–2000

Whose Examples Are Our Legacy

Preface to the Eleventh Edition

Sociology has the marvelous capacity to open new windows of perception on our familiar worlds, leaving no aspect of our lives untouched.

IT IS WITH PLEASURE that I introduce the eleventh edition of *Down to Earth Sociology*, a pleasure akin to seeing a dear friend reach another cheerful milestone in his or her life. Adopters of earlier editions will find themselves at home, I believe, in this latest edition. They will see many selections that they have already used successfully in the classroom, and I trust they will welcome the many newcomers.

Following the suggestions of those who have used earlier editions of *Down to Earth Sociology*, I have strived to continue to present down-to-earth articles in order to make the student's introduction to sociology enjoyable as well as meaningful. These selections narrate the first-hand experiences of their authors—researchers who put a human voice on sociological experiences—those who have "been there" and who, with a minimum of jargon and quantification, insightfully share their experiences with the reader.

Focusing on social interaction in everyday activities and situations, these selections share some of the fascination of sociology. They reflect both the individualistic and the structural emphases of our discipline. They make clear how social structure is not simply an abstract fact of life, but vitally affects our lives. These selections help students become more aware of how the decisions of the rich, the politically powerful, and the bureaucrats provide social constraints that augment those dictated by birth, social class, and other circumstances. They help students understand how their location in a social structure lifts or limits their vision of life, closes or opens their chances of success, and, ultimately, brings tears and laughter, hope and despair.

So much of sociology, however, goes about its business as though data were unconnected to people, as though the world consisted of abstract social facts. Yet from our own experiences in social life, we know how far these suppositions are from the truth—how divorced they are from real life. Consequently, I have sought to include authors who are able to share the realities that directly affect people's lives. As I see it, sociology is the most fascinating of the social sciences, and it is this fascination that these selections are designed to convey.

It is my hope that I have succeeded in accomplishing this goal, because sociology has the marvelous capacity to open new windows of perception on our familiar worlds, leaving no aspect of our lives untouched. If these readings even come close to this goal, I am indebted to the many adopters of earlier editions, whose reactions and suggestions have helped give shape to this one. To all of you, a sincere and fond thank you.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to the instructors who shared with me their experiences with the tenth edition. Their sharing proved invaluable in shaping this present version. I wish to acknowledge the help of

Richard Ambler, Southern Arkansas University Julie E. Artis, DePaul University Joe Bishop, Dakota State University John Bowman, University of North Carolina at Pembroke Tom Boyd, Berea College Suzanne Brandon, College of St. Catherine John C. Bridges, Immaculata College Grace Budrys, DePaul University Meryl Cozart, Towson University Rolf Diamon, University of Southern Maine Merl Dirksen, Lee University Robert B. Enright, Jr., University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point David C. Erickson, Northwest College Kerry Ferris, Bradley University Richard Gendron, Assumption College Frank Glamser, University of Southern Mississippi Peter R. Grahame, Mount Saint Mary's College Susan F. Greenwood, University of Maine-Orono Larry D. Hall, Spring Hill College Terrell A. Hayes, Davis & Elkins College Ines W. Jindra, Bethany Lutheran College Cathryn Johnson, Emory University Susan L. Johnson, Carl Sandburg College James W. Jordan, Longwood College Quintus Joubeve, Rutgers University Mariame Kaba, Northeastern Illinois University Meg Wilkes Karraker, University of St. Thomas

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Marilyn Krogh, Loyola University of Chicago Anthony Lack, Lee College Helene M. Lawson, University of Pittsburgh Bill Lockhart, New Mexico State University Jerry Lowney, Carroll College Philip Luck, Georgia State University Kristin Marsh, Emory University Tina Martinez, Blue Mountain Community College R. Robin Miller, Drury University Sharon L. Miller, Hope College Janine Minkler, Northern Arizona University Elizabeth J. Mitchell, Rutgers University Thomas S. Moore, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Christopher W. Mullins, Southwestern Illinois College Peter F. Parilla, University of St. Thomas Kristin Park, Westminster College Tim Pippert, Augsburg College Paul-Jahi Price, Pasadena City College Pam Rosenberg, Gettysburg College Richard Rubinson, Emory University Ross T. Runfola, Medaille College Allen Scarboro, Augusta State University Richard Senter, Jr., Central Michigan University Ryan Sheppard, King's College Rick L. Shifley, Montserrat College of Art Thomas Soltis, Westmoreland County Community College Marybeth C. Stalp, University of Georgia Judith Stepan-Norris, University of California-Irvine Jordan J. Titus, University of Alaska Kathy Trosen, Muscatine Community College Suzanne Tuthill, Delaware Technical and Community College Judy C. Vaughan, Arkansas Tech University Anita Veit, University of North Carolina Abram Lawrence Wehmiller, Greenhill School Clovis L. White, Oberlin College Fred Zampa, Macon State College

One of the more interesting tasks in preparing this book is to gather information on the contributors' backgrounds. In addition to biographical data concerning their education, teaching, and publishing, this section also contains their statements telling us why they like sociology or became sociologists. You may want to assign this section with the articles to help personalize the readings and increase the student's awareness of biographical factors that go into the choice to become a sociologist.

xviii / Preface to the Eleventh Edition

The selections in this edition continue to be organized to make them compatible with most introductory textbooks. Through subjects that are inherently interesting, we cover the major substantive areas of sociology. Part I, an introduction to the sociological perspective, invites students to view the world in a new way by participating in this exciting enterprise we call sociology. Part II is designed to answer the basic question of how sociologists do research. Part III examines the cultural underpinnings of social life, those taken-forgranted assumptions and contexts that provide the contours of our everyday lives. Part IV focuses on that essential component of our beings, gender and sexuality. There we look at both the process by which we assume the social identity of male or female and how those identities provide the basis for interaction among adults.

In Part V, we examine social groups and social structure, looking behind the scenes to reveal how people's assumptions, their location on social hierarchies, and the features of social settings establish both constraints and freedoms in human relationships. In Part VI, we consider the process of becoming deviant, especially the social context that shapes deviance. We also examine features of social control, those aspects of social groups that are designed to minimize deviance. In Part VII, we focus on social stratification, beginning with the micro level of physical appearance and then looking at gender, race-ethnicity, poverty, education, wealth, and power as dimensions of social inequality. In Part VIII, we analyze the social institutions of economics, politics, education, sports, marriage and family, religion, medicine, law, and the military. In this edition, we add an analysis of the mass media, examining how they influence our ideas and behavior. We conclude the book with a look at social change, the focus of Part IX. After examining how everyday life is being rationalized in a process called McDonaldization, we look at resistance to social change—how the Amish withdraw from mainstream society and how male soldiers undermine the integration of women in the military. We then conclude the book with a look at how people adjust to the aftermath of a hurricane.

These selections bring the reader face-to-face with the dual emphases of contemporary sociological research: the focus on the individual's experiences, and the analysis of social structure. Uncovering the basic expectations that underlie routine social interactions, these articles emphasize the ways in which social institutions are interrelated. It is to their authors' credit that we lose sight of neither the people who are interacting nor the structural base that so directly influences the form and content of their interactions.

J.M.H. November 2000

About the Contributors

Elijah Anderson (article 23) received his Ph.D. in Sociology at Northwestern University and is the Charles and William Day Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of A Place on the Corner: Identity and Rank Among Black Streetcorner Men; Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community; and Code of the Street: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of the Inner City, the book from which his selection is taken.

Anderson says, "I have always been interested in how individuals relate to society and how society relates to the individual. My interest in the social conditions that people experience—especially the marginality that so many blacks feel and how they relate to the wider social system—motivated me to go into sociology to look for some of the answers. I also had good teachers who inspired me. Later I found myself wanting to contribute in a meaningful way to correcting what I saw to be misrepresentations of reality in the academic literature about people who live in ghettos."

Linda Liske Belgrave (article 45), who earned her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Miami. Using a qualitative approach, she has published in sociology journals, primarily on gerontology, health care, and collective behavior.

Belgrave took her first course in sociology because "the pickings were slim, and sociology happened to fit my schedule. I was an older student, with a family and a job, and sociology addressed important issues in a way that 'rang true.' Sociology opened new worlds, and it felt 'like coming home.' Before the quarter was over, I was hooked, and I immediately changed my major to

sociology. Without ever having said, 'I want to be a sociologist,' I found that I became one." Belgrave, a political activist, is also a ballet student.

Peter L. Berger (article 1) received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the New School for Social Research. He is Professor of Sociology at Boston University and the author of numerous books, including Business and Democracy: Cohabitation or Contradiction? (with Ann Bernstein), A Far Glory: The Quest for Faith in an Age of Credulity, and Invitation to Sociology, from which his selection in this book is taken.

Berger says, "I was born in Austria and came to the United States with my parents after the war. You might say that I became a sociologist by accident. I took some courses in sociology and liked them. I have always been curious about what makes people tick, and that is what sociology is all about."

Mae A. Biggs (article 18) earned her M.A. in Sociology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and is an associate of the Masters-Johnson Institute (Biological Research Institute) in St. Louis, Missouri.

Theodore Caplow (article 10) earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. He is Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia. Among his books are *The Academic Marketplace* (with Reece McGee), *The First Measured Century: An Illustrated Guide to Trends in America* 1900–2000, and *Middletown Families: Fifty Years of Change and Continuity* (with Howard Bahr, Bruce Chadwick, Reuben Hill, and Margaret Williamson).

Caplow says, "As an undergraduate at Columbia, I planned to become a historian. But a friend invited me to sit in on a course he was taking with Professor Robert Lynd, and I was captivated. Years later, I followed his footsteps to Middletown."

Napoleon A. Chagnon (article 8) earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Michigan. He is Professor of Anthropology at the University of California at Santa Barbara and the author of *Yanomamö*: The Last Days of Eden; *Yanomamö* Warfare, Social Organization and Marriage Alliances; and the book from which his selection is taken, *Yanomamö*: The Fierce People.

Daniel F. Chambliss (article 39), who received his Ph.D. from Yale University, is Sidney Wertimer Professor at Hamilton College. He has published Champions: The Making of Olympic Swimmers and Beyond Caring: Hospitals, Nurses, and the Social Organization of Ethics, the book from which his selection is adapted.

Chambliss, who does management consulting, also loves to coach competitive swimmers. He says, "Sociology was intellectually the freest discipline I encountered in college. You could study math or philosophy or psychology and

apply them all in sociology. It is the broadest of the social sciences. There are no artificial limits."

William J. Chambliss (article 24) received his Ph.D in Sociology at Indiana University and is Professor of Sociology at George Washington University. His books include On the Take: From Petty Crooks to Presidents, Law, Order and Power, and Power, Politics, and Crime. Professor Chambliss is a past President of the American Society of Criminology (1987–88) and a past President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (1992–93).

Chambliss says, "I became a sociologist out of an interest in doing something about crime. I remained a sociologist because it became clear to me that until we have a greater understanding of the political and economic conditions that lead some societies to have excessive amounts of crime we will never be able to do anything about the problem. Sociology is a beautiful discipline that affords an opportunity to investigate just about anything connected with human behavior and still claim an identity with a discipline. This is its strength, its promise, and why I find it thoroughly engaging, enjoyable, and fulfilling."

John R. Coleman (article 19) was the President of Haverford College from 1967 to 1977 and then President of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation in New York City. He has decided to try his hand at business and now runs "The Inn at Long Last" in Chester, Vermont.

Kingsley Davis (article 12) received his Ph.D. in Sociology at Harvard University and is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California and Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University. His books include Human Society, The Population of India and Pakistan, and Below-Replacement Fertility in Industrial Societies: Causes, Consequences, Policy.

Davis, who often travels to remote places on the globe, likes sociology because "first, sociology deals with all aspects of society, not just economic behavior or political matters; second, in regard to social change, sociology takes a longer view than most other social science fields. I became a sociologist because I wanted to write and decided that I had better learn something to write, so I elected to learn sociology. Also, I wanted to know how the social system works. We were in the Great Depression at the time, so a social science should be able to analyze and explain that terrible catastrophe."

Donna Eder (article 14), who earned her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, is Professor of Sociology at Indiana University. She has written *School Talk: Gender and Adolescent Culture*, the book from which her selection is taken.

Barbara Ehrenreich (article 33) is a freelance writer and political satirist who has published widely. Her books include *Debating P.C.: The Controversy over Political Correctness on College Campuses; Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War; and Fear of Falling: The Inner Life of the Middle Class.*

Kai Erikson (article 20) was awarded a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Chicago. He is Professor of Sociology at Yale University. Among his books are Wayward Puritans, A New Species of Trouble: Explorations in Disaster, Trauma, and Community, and Everything in Its Path: The Destruction of Community in the Buffalo Creek Flood.

Douglas E. Foley (article 35) received his Ph.D. in Anthropology of Education at Stanford University and is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas. He is the author of *From Peones to Politicos: Class and Ethnicity in a South Texas Town*, 1900–1987, Learning Capitalist Culture: Deep in the Heart of Tejas, and (with Aurolyn Luykx) The Citizen Factory: Schooling and Cultural Production in Bolivia.

Foley says that he likes to write cultural critiques of American society, with the hope of changing it, of helping to make it more egalitarian and humane.

Annette Fuentes (article 33) is the author (with Barbara Ehrenreich) of Women in the Global Factory.

Herbert J. Gans (article 30) received his Ph.D. in City Planning and Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania. He is Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and has written such books as *The Urban Villagers; The War against the Poor: The Underclass and Antipoverty Policy; and <i>Popular Culture and High Culture: An Analysis and Evaluation of Taste.* Professor Gans is a past President of the American Sociological Association (1987–88).

Gans "finds sociology more interesting than hobbies." He says: "When I was in high school, I thought I would become a journalist, but then when I got to college I discovered that the articles I enjoyed writing most were sociology. From then on I was pretty sure I would become a sociologist." He adds, "The deeper reason I became a sociologist is because I am a refugee from Nazi Germany, and ever since I came to the United States as a teenager in 1940, I have been trying to understand the country which took me in." Whenever possible—and his family agrees—Gans rents an apartment for a month in a European city or medieval town and "explores it, living in it fully."

Erving Goffman (article 11) earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Chicago and at the time of his death in 1982 was Director of the Center for Urban Ethnography at the University of Pennsylvania. His many books include

Stigma; Behavior in Public Places; and the book from which his selection is taken, The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.

Harry L. Gracey (article 34) received his Ph.D. in Sociology at the New School for Social Research. He is in private practice in organizational development in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has published *Curriculum or Craftsmanship?*: The Dilemma of the Teacher in the Bureaucratic System and Readings in Introductory Sociology (with Dennis H. Wrong).

Gracey says, "What led me to study sociology was a curiosity about how things work, which in my case got focused on the world of social life, rather than on the physical or biological world. Sociology, uniquely among the social sciences, I think, 'lifts the veil of ideology' on the working of society to see what is really going on—and who is doing it and how it is being done."

Edward T. Hall (article 9) was awarded his Ph.D. at Columbia University. He is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University. His books include *The Silent Language*, *The Hidden Dimension*, and *The Dance of Life: The Other Dimension of Time*.

Mildred R. Hall (article 9) received her B.A. from Barnard College and (with Edward T. Hall) has written *The Fourth Dimension in Architecture; Hidden Differences: Doing Business with the Japenese;* and *Understanding Cultural Differences.*

V. Lee Hamilton (article 41), who received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology in the Department of Social Relations at Harvard University, is Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland. She has published Crimes of Obedience: Toward a Social Psychology of Authority and Responsibility (with Herbert Kelman), Everyday Justice: Responsibility and the Individual in Japan and the United States, and Social Psychological Approaches to Responsibility and Justice: The View Across Cultures.

Hamilton says: "My undergraduate degree was in psychology, but my graduate program was interdisciplinary. After I completed the Ph.D., I could have gone into psychology or sociology, and I chose sociology because of its structural emphasis. I like sociology because it is a perspective—the way a person thinks—and I tend to think that way." Some of Hamilton's favorite activities are hiking and travel.

Marvin Harris (article 38) received his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida. Following his primary interest, cultural anthropology, Harris searches for the practical reasons that underly customs that on the surface seem unreasonable or even bizarre. His numerous writings include *Cows, Pigs, Wars, and Witches: The Riddles of*