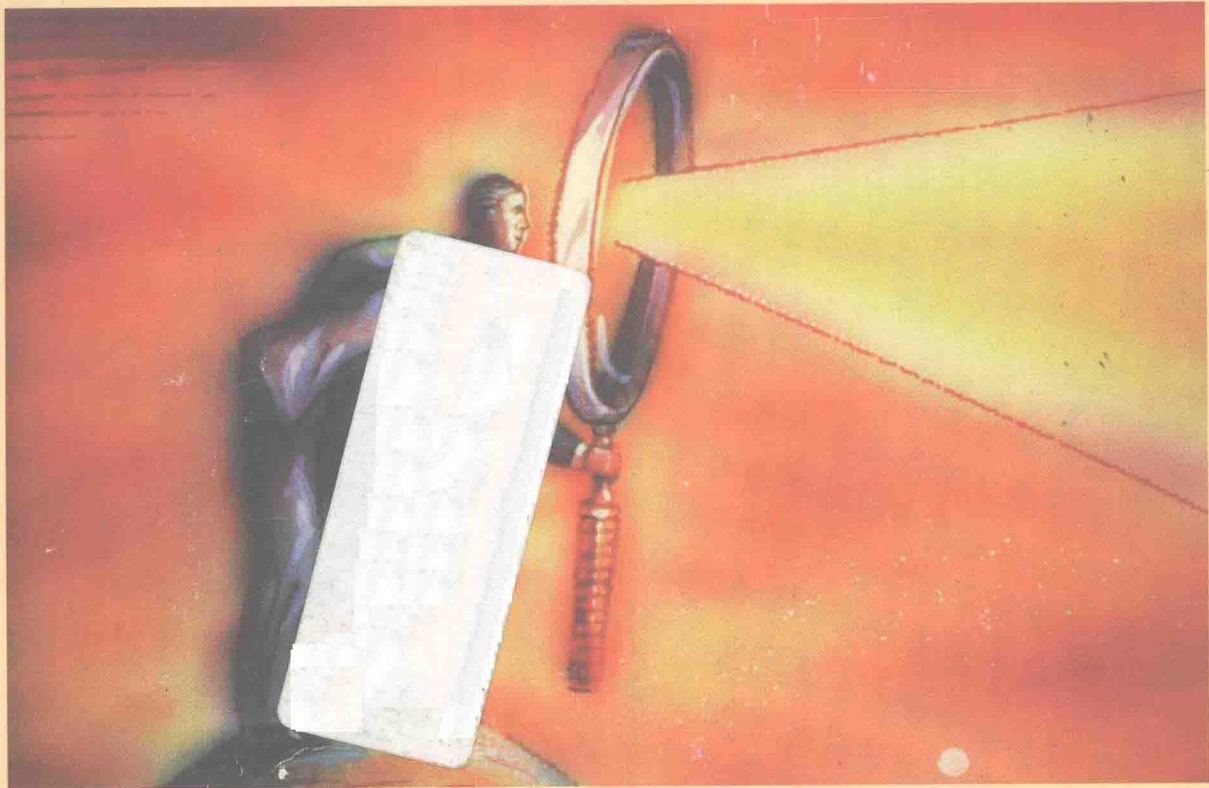


Discovering Sociology

An Introduction Using ExplorIt®



Steven E. Barkan

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THE MICROCASE SOFTWARE SERIES



Discovering Sociology

An
Introduction
Using
ExplorIt[®]

Steven E. Barkan



MicroCase[®]
CORPORATION

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PREFACE

Sociological knowledge is generated by research of many types. Among the most common types is quantitative research, the analysis of numerical data. This workbook comes with three data sets, each containing real data that sociologists use in their own research. One of the data sets comes from a national survey of the U.S. population; another derives from the U.S. census and other measures of the 50 states; and a third includes international data on most of the world's nations and population.

With these data sets and the aid of MicroCase's ExplorIt software, this workbook will help you discover sociology by *doing* sociology. In every exercise, you will first see examples of data analysis on the standard topics central to the sociological discipline, and then you will have the chance to do your own analysis of data from the three data files. This active engagement with the sociological enterprise will help you learn about society in ways unimaginable little more than a decade ago.

My interest in writing this workbook stems from my first year in college in 1969, when I began learning sociology by analyzing numerical data contained on keypunch cards that I fed through a card sorter. However antiquated the terms "keypunch cards" and "card sorter" must sound to today's students, this active engagement with the process and logic of data analysis triggered my fascination with sociology. When MicroCase came along in the late 1980s, I took to it eagerly and began using it with my own students. The software has advanced considerably since that time, and what you now have in this workbook represents a unique combination of simplicity and sophistication in social science data analysis software. You will learn how to use the software in seconds, and you will explore hundreds of social relationships as you discover sociology.

I am delighted to acknowledge the efforts of several people and organizations without whom this workbook would not have been possible. Norman Miller, my first sociology professor, introduced me to sociology and the fascination of empirical research. Writing this workbook is one way of repaying the considerable debt I owe him. The MicroCase staff, and in particular Julie Aguilar, Jodi Gleason, and David Smetters, responded quickly to my many questions and in this and other respects provided much help and encouragement. They have a wonderful vision for introducing today's students to social science knowledge and data analysis, and I hope this workbook will help them fulfill that vision.

I also would like to thank the sources of the data files accompanying this workbook. MicroCase's data archive provided all three of these files, and their many hours involved in compiling these files saved me even more hours of labor. Special thanks go to Tom W. Smith of the National Opinion Research Center for his continued direction and administration of the General Social Survey. Much of the international data in the workbook is based on the World Values Survey, for which I thank Ronald Inglehart at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Professor Inglehart's book, *Modernization and Postmodernization: Cultural, Economic and Political Change in 43 Societies* (Princeton University

Press, 1997) inspired several of the examples in the workbook. Thanks also go to the Roper Center for its many years of distribution of the General Social Survey and to the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The data archives maintained by ICPSR, the Roper Center, and MicroCase Corporation provide an invaluable service to social science researchers and their students.

My next set of acknowledgments goes to the several instructors who reviewed the manuscript. Their comments were critical but fair and greatly improved the final product. Needless to say, any remaining errors are my responsibility. The reviewers are: William Clute, University of Nebraska–Omaha; Charles Faupel, Auburn University; James D. Jones, Mississippi State University; Josephine Ruggiero, Providence College; Lynne Schlesinger, SUNY at Plattsburgh; James Sherohman, St. Cloud State University; Bill Tregoe, Adrian College; and James Williams, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. Special thanks go to Kevin Demmitt at Clayton State College for class-testing a preliminary version of the workbook and software.

My final acknowledgment goes to my family, Barb, Dave, and Joey. I dedicate this book to them for their love, patience, and understanding as I juggled the writing of this workbook with my other professional and family responsibilities. I hope they will agree that the effort was worth it.

GETTING STARTED

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to ExplorIt! With the easy-to-use software accompanying this workbook, you will have the opportunity to learn about sociology by exploring dozens of sociological issues with data from the United States and around the world.

Each exercise in this workbook deals with a standard topic in typical sociology courses. The preliminary section of each exercise uses data from the workbook's software to illustrate key issues and social relationships related to that topic. You can easily create all the graphics in this part of the exercise by following the ExplorIt Guides you'll be seeing. Doing so will take just a few clicks of your computer mouse and will help you become familiar with ExplorIt. The ExplorIt Guides are described in more detail below.

Each exercise also has a worksheet section where you'll do your own data analysis. This section usually contains about a dozen questions that will either follow up on examples from the preliminary section or have you explore some new issues. You'll use the workbook's software to answer these questions.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Two versions of Student ExplorIt have been provided with this book: a Windows 95 version and a DOS version. The Windows 95 version can be used only on computers running Windows 95 (or higher). The DOS version of the software will run on almost any DOS- or Windows-compatible computer, including those using Windows 3.1 and Windows 95. Here is more detailed information about the minimum computer requirements for each version of the student software.

Student ExplorIt for Windows 95—This version will run on almost any computer using Windows 95 (or higher).¹ For installation purposes, a CD-ROM drive and a 3.5" floppy drive are also required.

Student ExplorIt for DOS (or Windows 3.1)—This version requires an IBM or compatible computer with 286 or better processor, 640K RAM, DOS 3.1 or higher (or Windows 3.1 or higher), VGA-level graphics, and a mouse. A CD-ROM drive is *not* required.

Before installing any software on a hard drive, check with your instructor to see if a network version of Student ExplorIt has already been installed. If a network version has already been installed, skip to the section "Starting Student ExplorIt."

If the operating system on your computer is DOS or Windows 3.1, then you must use *Student ExplorIt for DOS*. If this is your case, skip to the section "Starting Student ExplorIt." Even if your computer has

¹ *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95* requires 8 megabytes of RAM, 10 megabytes of free hard disk space (network installations require about 1 megabyte of temporary storage on hard drives of user terminals), VGA-level graphics, and a mouse.

Windows 95 (or higher), there are some situations in which you should still use *Student ExplorIt for DOS*:

- Your teacher has instructed you to use the DOS version (yes, the DOS version can be used on Windows 95 computers).
- You are not allowed to install software on the hard drive of the computer (such as in a lab setting).
- Your computer does not have a CD-ROM drive.
- Your computer does not have a CD-ROM drive and a floppy drive that can be used at the same time (as with some notebook computers).

If any of these conditions apply, you should skip to the section “Starting Student ExplorIt.”

NETWORK VERSIONS OF STUDENT EXPLORIT

Network versions are available for both the *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95* and *Student ExplorIt for DOS*. These special versions of the software are available at no charge to instructors who adopt this book for their courses (instructors should contact MicroCase Corporation for additional information). It's worth noting that *Student ExplorIt for DOS* can be run directly from the diskette on virtually any computer network—regardless of whether a network version of Student ExplorIt has been installed.

INSTALLING STUDENT EXPLORIT FOR WINDOWS 95

If you will be using *Student ExplorIt for DOS* (see above discussion), you do not need to read this section. Skip to “Starting Student ExplorIt.”

To install *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, you will need the diskette and CD-ROM that are packaged inside the back cover of this book. Then follow these steps:

1. Start your computer and wait until the Windows 95 desktop is showing on your computer.
2. Insert the diskette into the A drive (or B drive) of your computer.
3. Insert the CD-ROM disc into the CD-ROM drive.
4. Click [Start] from the Windows 95 desktop, click [Run], type **D:\SETUP** (if your CD-ROM drive is not the D drive, replace the letter D with the proper drive letter), and click [OK].
5. During the installation, you will be presented with several screens (described below). In some cases you will be required to make a selection or entry and then click [Next] to continue.

The first screen that appears is the **Welcome** screen. This provides some introductory information and suggests that you shut down any other programs that may be running. Click [Next] to continue.

You are next presented with a **Software License Agreement**. Read this screen and click [Yes] if you accept the terms of the software license.

If this is the first time you are installing Student ExplorIt, an **Install License** screen appears. (If this software has been previously installed or used, it already contains the licensing information. A screen simply confirming your name will appear instead.²) Here you are asked to type in your name. It is important to type your name correctly, since it cannot be changed after this point. Your name will appear on all printouts, so make sure you spell it completely and correctly! Then click [Next] to continue.

The next screen has you **Choose the Destination** for the program files. You are strongly advised to use the destination directory that is shown on the screen. Click [Next] to continue.

The **Install Checkbox** screen requires you to make a choice as to whether or not to copy the data files (currently located on the diskette) to your hard drive. Carefully read the choices on the screen before making your selection.

When the **Setup Complete** window appears, click [Finish]. You will find it easier to start Student ExplorIt if you place a “shortcut” icon on your Windows desktop. A folder named “MicroCase” should now be showing on the horizontal task bar at the bottom of your Windows desktop. Click on this button and a window will appear with a “shortcut” icon for Student ExplorIt.³ Place your mouse pointer over this icon, then press down *and* hold the left mouse button as you drag the icon outside the window to an open space on your Windows desktop. Once the Student ExplorIt icon has been moved to your desktop, you can close the window that previously contained the icon by clicking the little “x” button that appears in the top right corner of the window. From this point on, you will be able to double-click the Student ExplorIt shortcut icon to start the software.

STARTING STUDENT EXPLORIT

The first section below describes how to start *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, while the second section describes how to start *Student ExplorIt for DOS*. Read the section that is appropriate for you.

Starting Student ExplorIt for Windows 95

Student ExplorIt for Windows 95 must be installed on a hard drive (or a computer network) before you can start it. If the program has not been installed, review the software installation section above.

If the data files were not copied to the hard drive of the computer during the installation of *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, it will be necessary for you to insert your 3.5" data file diskette into the A or B

² If an installation of Student ExplorIt is already on your hard drive, you will get a warning message indicating that a copy of the program is already present on your computer. If your intention is to *replace* the previously installed version of Student ExplorIt, use the default directory offered by the installation program. If you want to create a completely separate installation of Student ExplorIt, select a new directory using the “Browse” button.

³ If you have another installation of Student ExplorIt on your hard drive (including a version distributed with a different MicroCase textbook), make sure to rename the label for its “shortcut” icon on your Windows desktop before following the instructions in the next sentence (you can name it anything except “Student ExplorIt”). To rename a shortcut, click once on the shortcut label, then click it again. This causes the text for the shortcut to be highlighted, after which it can be modified.

drive of your computer. (If you are starting Student ExplorIt from a network, you *must* insert your diskette before continuing.) Don't worry, you will be prompted to insert your diskette if you forget.

If the software was installed properly, there should be a "shortcut" icon on your Windows desktop that looks something like this:



To start *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, position your mouse pointer over the shortcut icon and double-click (that is, click it twice in rapid succession). If you did not move the shortcut icon onto your desktop during the install process, you can alternatively follow these directions to start the software.

Click [Start] from the Windows 95 desktop.

Click [Programs].

Click MicroCase.

Click Student ExplorIt.

After a few seconds, Student ExplorIt should appear on your screen. Skip down to the "Main Menu of Student ExplorIt" section below to continue your introduction to the software.

Starting Student ExplorIt for DOS

This section explains how to start *Student ExplorIt for DOS*. You can run *Student ExplorIt for DOS* directly from the diskette on almost any DOS or Windows computer (including computers using Windows 3.1 or Windows 95).

The instructions for starting *Student ExplorIt for DOS* differ depending on the operating system you are using. In all cases, you will first need to place the 3.5" diskette in the A or B drive. Go ahead and do that now. Then follow the appropriate instructions below to start *Student ExplorIt for DOS* on your computer.

MS-DOS:

Type **A:EXPLORIT** (or **B:EXPLORIT**) and press <Enter>.

Windows 3.1:

From the Program Manager, click [File].

Click [Run].

Type **A:EXPLORIT** (or **B:EXPLORIT**) and click [OK].

Windows 95:

Click [Start].

Click [Run].

Type **A:EXPLORIT** (or **B:EXPLORIT**) and click [OK].

The first time you start *Student ExplorIt for DOS*, you will be asked to enter your name. It is important to type your name correctly, since it will appear on all printouts. Type your name and click [OK] or press <Enter>. If your name is correct, simply click [OK] or press <Enter> in response to the next prompt. (If you wish to correct a mistake, click [Cancel] to make a correction.) To continue to the main menu of the program, press the <Enter> key or click the left mouse button.

Note: If you are using Windows 3.0 or 3.1 and the mouse fails to appear or it does not work properly, refer to Appendix A.

MAIN MENU OF STUDENT EXPLORIT

Student ExplorIt is extremely easy to use. All you do is point and click your way through the program. That is, use your mouse arrow to point at the selection you want, then click the left button on the mouse. The main menu is the starting point for everything you will do in Student ExplorIt. Let's take a look at how it works.

Student ExplorIt for Windows 95—Not all options on the menu are always available. In the Windows 95 version of Student ExplorIt, you will know which options are available at any given time by looking at the colors of the options. For example, when you first start the software, only the OPEN FILE option is immediately available. As you can see, the colors for this option are brighter than those for the other tasks shown on the screen. Also, when you move your mouse pointer over this option, it is highlighted.

Student ExplorIt for DOS—When you are at the main menu of the DOS version of Student ExplorIt, only those tasks that have a bright yellow background are available. As you can see, no tasks are available until you select a data file with which to work.

EXPLORIT GUIDES

Throughout this workbook, there are "ExplorIt Guides" that provide you with the basic information needed to carry out each task. Here is an example:

- *Data File:* **STATES**
 - *Task:* **Mapping**
- *Variable 1:* **97) MURDER**
 - *View:* **Map**

Each line of the ExplorIt Guide is actually an instruction. Let's follow the simple steps to carry out this task.

Step 1: Select a Data File

Before you can do almost anything in Student ExplorIt, you need to open a data file.

Student ExplorIt for Windows 95—To open a data file, click the OPEN FILE task. A list of data files will appear in a window (e.g., GSS, NATIONS, STATES, etc.). If you click on a file name *once*, a description of the highlighted file is shown in the window next to this list. In the ExplorIt Guide shown above, the ► symbol to the left of the Data File step indicates that you should open the STATES data file. To do so, click STATES and then click the [Open] button (or just double-click STATES). The next window that appears (labeled File Settings) provides additional information about the data file, including a file description, the number of cases in the file, and the number of variables, among other things. To continue, click the [OK] button. You are now returned to the main menu of Student ExplorIt. (You won't need to repeat this step until you want to open a different data file.) Notice that you can always see which data file is currently open by looking at the file name shown on the top line of the screen.

Student ExplorIt for DOS—In the DOS version of Student ExplorIt, the available data files are listed in the window at the left of the screen, and the description of the highlighted file is shown in the window beneath this list. To see the description of a file, click it once. To select a file, double-click its name. The “x” in the box next to the name of the file indicates which file is open. In this example, you should open the STATES data file. (You won't need to repeat this step until you want to use a different data file.)

Step 2: Select a Task

Once you have selected a data file, the next step is to select a program task. Six analysis tasks are offered in this version of Student ExplorIt. Not all tasks are available for each data file, because some tasks are appropriate only for certain kinds of data. Mapping, for example, is a task that applies only to ecological data, and thus cannot be used with survey data files.

In the ExplorIt Guide we're following, the ► symbol on the second line indicates that the MAPPING task should be selected, so click the MAPPING option with your left mouse button.

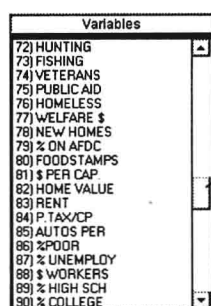
Step 3: Select a Variable

After a task is selected, you will be shown a list of the variables in the open data file. Notice that the first variable is highlighted and a description of that variable is shown in the Variable Description window at the lower right. You can move this highlight through the list of variables by using the up and down cursor keys (as well as the <Page Up> and <Page Down> keys). You can also click once on a variable name to move the highlight and update the variable description. Go ahead—move the highlight to a few other variables and read their descriptions.

If the variable you want to select is not showing in the variable window, click on the scroll bars located on the right side of the variable list window to move through the list. See the following figure:

SCROLL BARS

Scroll bars are provided when all the information in a window or table cannot be viewed at once. A scroll bar is gray and has arrows at either end.



Click here to scroll up one line at a time.

Click the area above the "thumb" to scroll up one page at a time.

The scroll "thumb" indicates your relative position in the list or table.

Click the area below the "thumb" to scroll down one page at a time.

Click here to scroll down one line at a time.

By the way, you will find an appendix section at the back of this workbook (Appendix B) that contains a list of the variable names for key data files provided in this package.

Each task requires you to select one or more variables, and the ExplorIt Guides indicate which variables should be selected. The ExplorIt Guide example here indicates that you should select 97) MURDER as Variable 1. On the screen, there is a box labeled Variable 1. Inside this box, there is a vertical cursor that indicates that this box is currently an active option. When you select a variable, it will be placed in this box. Before selecting a variable, be sure that the cursor is in the appropriate box. If it is not, place the cursor inside the appropriate box by clicking the box with your mouse. This is important because in some tasks the ExplorIt Guide will require more than one variable to be selected, and you want to be sure that you put each selected variable in the right place.

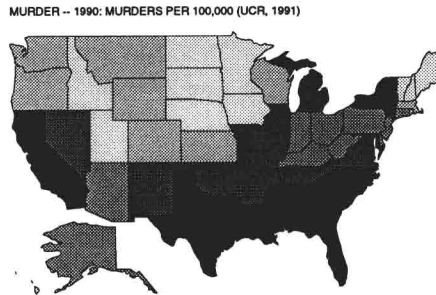
To select a variable, use any one of the methods shown below. (Note: If the name of a previously selected variable is in the box, use the <Delete> or <Backspace> key to remove it—or click the [Clear All] button.)

- Type in the **number** of the variable and press <Enter>.
- Type in the **name** of the variable and press <Enter>. Or, you can type just enough of the name to distinguish it from other variables in the data—MUR would be sufficient for this example.
- Double-click the desired variable in the variable list window. This selection will then appear in the variable selection box. (If the name of a previously selected variable is in the box, the newly selected variable will replace it.)
- In *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, you have a fourth way to select a variable. First highlight the desired variable in the variable list, then click the arrow that appears to the left of the variable selection box. The variable you selected will now appear in the box. (If the name of a previously selected variable is in the box, the newly selected variable will replace it.)

Once you have selected your variable (or variables), click the [OK] button to continue to the final results screen.

Step 4: Select a View

The next screen that appears shows the final results of your analysis. In most cases, the screen that first appears matches the “view” indicated in the ExplorIt Guide. In this example, you are instructed to look at the Map view—that’s what is currently showing on the screen. In some instances, however, you may need to make an additional selection to produce the desired screen.



(OPTIONAL) Step 5: Select an Additional Display

Some ExplorIt Guides will indicate that an additional “Display” should be selected. In that case, simply click on the option indicated for that additional display. For example, this ExplorIt Guide may have included an additional line that required you to select the [Legend] display.

Step 6: Continuing to the Next ExplorIt Guide

Some instructions in the ExplorIt Guide may be the same for at least two examples in a row. For instance, after you display the map for murder in the example above, the following ExplorIt Guide may be given:

Data File: STATES
Task: Mapping
► Variable 1: 95) V.CRIME
► View: Map

Notice that the first two lines in the ExplorIt Guide do not have the ► symbol located in front of the items. That’s because you already have the data file STATES open and you have already selected the MAPPING task. With the results of your first analysis showing on the screen, there is no need to return to the main menu to complete this next analysis. Instead, all you need to do is select V.CRIME as your new variable. If you are using *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, click the [OK] button located in the top left corner of your screen (if you are using *Student ExplorIt for DOS*, click the [Exit] button once). The variable selection screen for the MAPPING task appears again. Replace the variable with 95) V.CRIME and click [OK].

To repeat: You need only do those items in the ExplorIt Guide that have the ► symbol in front of them. If you start from the top of the ExplorIt Guide, you’re simply wasting your time.

If the ExplorIt Guide instructs you to select an entirely new task or data file, you will need to return to the main menu. To return to the main menu using *Student ExplorIt for Windows 95*, simply click the [Menu] button located at the top left corner of the screen. (To return to the main menu using *Student ExplorIt for DOS*, click the [Exit] button until the main menu appears. At this point, select the new data file and/or task that is indicated in the ExplorIt Guide.)

That's all there is to the basic operation of Student ExplorIt. Just follow the instructions given in the ExplorIt Guide and point and click your way through the program.

EXITING FROM STUDENT EXPLORIT

If you are continuing to the next section of this workbook, it is *not* necessary to exit from Student ExplorIt quite yet. But when you are finished using the program, it is very important that you properly exit the software—do not just walk away from the computer or remove your diskette. To exit Student ExplorIt, return to the main menu and select the [Exit] button that appears on the screen.

Important: If you inserted your diskette before starting Student ExplorIt, remember to remove it before leaving the computer.

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◆ EXERCISE 1 ◆

THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Tasks: Mapping

Data Files: STATES

We are all individuals, but we are also social beings influenced by our social environments. We grow up in a society and within a family in that society. We grow up as girls or boys and, sooner than our parents would like, become women or men. We are members of a racial or ethnic group or, depending on our parents' ancestry, more than one such group. We have low incomes, medium incomes, or high incomes. Many of us belong to a religious faith. We also grow up in different parts of the country and in urban, suburban, or rural areas in the country. All these aspects of our social environment make up our social background, and they all influence the way we turn out: how we think, how we behave, and our chances for success or failure in life.

This is the fundamental truism of what is often called the sociological perspective: our social backgrounds influence our attitudes, behavior, and life chances. While no two people, even identical twins, are the same, neither are they completely different. If they've both grown up in the United States, they are automatically more similar to each other than if one had grown up in the U.S. and the other in Nigeria or Japan. If they are the same sex—both female or both male—they have more things in common than if one were female and the other male. All this means that if we know enough about an individual's background, we can predict her or his attitudes, behavior, and eventual outcomes in life with surprising accuracy. We won't always be right, but we will be right more often than we're wrong.

This workbook's major goal is to illustrate the sociological perspective with real-life data drawn from the United States and from around the world. You will learn sociology by doing sociology. You'll see again and again how social backgrounds influence behavior, attitudes, and life chances. You'll also see some surprising examples of expected influences not happening. Although much of our exploration will take place in the United States, we'll also be looking at a wide range of other nations, which differ in many ways that have important consequences for the attitudes, behavior, and life chances of their populations. Such a global perspective is increasingly important in today's world, not least because it helps us understand our own society better.

Welcome, then, to our use of Student ExplorIt to discover sociology. The computer program itself is easy and even fun to use, and the hundreds of variables contained in the data sets accompanying this workbook provide you with a vast quantity of intriguing data to aid in your discovery.

This first chapter introduces you to the sociological perspective by using maps of the United States to illustrate regional differences in behavior and possible explanations for these differences. Later chapters will follow a different format. In those, we will first examine the chapter's subject matter with international data, then continue with data on the states of the United States, and end with data from a large national survey of U.S. residents conducted in 1996. These three data sets will complement each other as you discover sociology.