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PREFACE

The second edition of this book, *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, is derived from, and is being published simultaneously with, the second edition of *Sociological Theory*, a book devoted to the entire history of the discipline's theory, both classic and contemporary. Although some historical background will be presented here, the main focus is contemporary theory.

It is a testimony to the vitality of sociological theory that this book is dramatically different from the first edition, published only a few years ago. Chapters 1 (the early years) and 2 (the later years) continue to provide an overview of the history of sociological theory, although many recent developments have been added. The rest of the book is devoted to the most important contemporary theories.

Chapter 3 begins with a discussion of structural functionalism, including this time an overview of the structural-functional theories of Talcott Parsons. (Parsons's thoughts on action theory are discussed in Chapter 9.) Also new to this edition is a discussion in Chapter 3 of the recent rise of neofunctionalism. Chapter 3 also includes a discussion of the conflict theory alternative to structural functionalism.

Chapter 4 deals with main varieties of neo-Marxian theory—economic determinism, Hegelian Marxism (with an expanded discussion of Antonio Gramsci), critical theory (with a significant expansion of the treatment of Jurgen Habermas), structural Marxism, neo-Marxian economic sociology (with a new discussion of recent works by Burawoy, Edwards, and Clawson), historically oriented Marxism, and a brief new section dealing with the rise of game-theoretic Marxism.

Chapter 5 deals with symbolic interactionism and includes such recent developments as the reassessment of the significance of Erving Goffman's theories and the work of Robert Perinbanayagam.

Chapter 6 is devoted to phenomenological sociology and ethnomethodology. This chapter now opens with a discussion of the theories of Alfred Schutz. The material on ethnomethodology is greatly changed as a result of an abundance of new work, especially by British ethnomethodologists and conversation analysts.

Chapter 7 deals with exchange theory and behavioral sociology and is little changed from the last edition.

Chapter 8 is an entirely new chapter on feminist theory written especially for this edition by two experts, Patricia Madoo Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge-Brantley. To my knowledge, this is the first time feminist theory has received full-scale coverage in a sociological theory text.

Chapter 9 is devoted to an array of recent developments in contemporary theory. Significant attention is devoted to the changing nature of action theory, systems theory, structuralism and poststructuralism (including a new, detailed treatment of the work of Michel Foucault), structural theory, a new discussion of network theory, and existential sociology.

Chapter 10 is an entirely new chapter devoted to a dramatic development in sociological theory in the 1980s—the rise of efforts to integrate macro and micro theories. A wide array of works is discussed here, the most notable of which are Anthony

Giddens's structuration theory, Jurgen Habermas's recent effort to integrate action and systems theory, Jeffrey Alexander's multidimensional sociology, Randall Collins's attempt to provide the microfoundations of macrosociology, and Michael Hechter's similar effort using rational-choice theory. This effort to integrate macro and micro theories is likely to be a dominant concern in sociological theory into the 1990s and beyond. It is currently occupying the attention of some of the best young theorists in the field.

The book concludes with an appendix which in addition to a discussion of the meta-theoretical approach that undergirds the book as a whole, now also offers an overview of sociological metatheory.

A number of biographical sketches, held over from the previous edition, are presented throughout the text: Robert Park, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, Talcott Parsons, Alfred Schutz, Robert K. Merton, Louis Althusser, Immanuel Wallerstein, George Herbert Mead, George Caspar Homans, and Peter Blau. The number of such sketches has been greatly increased in this edition. New sketches deal with Ibn-Khaldun, Auguste Comte, Sigmund Freud, Herbert Spencer, Pitirim Sorokin, C. Wright Mills, Erving Goffman, Nicos Poulantzas, Jessie Bernard, and Dorothy Smith.

I would like to thank Pat Lengermann and Jill Brantley for their excellent, path-breaking chapter on feminist theory. I would also like to thank Roger Reitman and David Walczak for their help in the first edition, contributions that continue to be manifest in this edition. I am especially grateful to Bob Antonio for his many useful ideas on improving this edition. Farid Alatas helped me greatly in preparing this new edition, and he was always a delight in challenging me to take on new theoretical perspectives.

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PART ONE

INTRODUCTION
