

## Book Review

The Sociology of Occupations. By Elliott A. Krause. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1971.

A criticism that could not be made of Krause's book is that it lacks textual organization. In the introduction, he presents his "strategy of analysis" for sociology of occupations, a description of the various perspectives which will be utilized, the importance of each perspective, and the inter-relations between them. Chapters one through four introduce each of the perspectives in some detail. The remainder of the book focuses on occupational fields, such as health, law, military, etc., employing the four perspectives.

The first perspective is historical. Krause emphasizes the need for developmental knowledge in the understanding of change. He points out, for instance, that a concept such as exploitation cannot be grasped without knowing something about patterned power relationships that have existed through history. Krause also warns that a knowledge of origins is important in assuring that the sociologist does not adopt occupational mythologies and ideologies which would cloud his analysis.

Krause's second perspective is labeled the "Biographical Approach" and focuses on relationships between the individual and his occupation, particularly achievement aspiration, the role of education, career patterns, and socialization processes -- in general, a social-psychological perspective emphasizing the subjective aspect of the sociological analysis of work.

For the third and fourth perspectives, Krause moves into a more purely "sociological" realm presenting respectively functional and conflict outlooks of the relationships between occupations and the social system. From a systemic perspective, he asks first what occupational relationships contribute to a functional system, and second, what occupational relationships lead to conflicting interests, hence lead to system conflict. By utilizing these two "systems approaches" in conjunction with the historical and social-psychological approaches in his consideration of each occupational group, Krause feels he has provided a well-rounded introduction to the sociology of occupations.

In introducing any field, there is always a conflict between conveying the fine points of that field to the student and conveying the general ideas in an easily grasped form. Krause has clearly outdone himself in the latter, but his attempts to convey the former are overshadowed by structure -- a problem that is perhaps more the fault of the organization of the book rather than a lack of understanding on Krause's part. In keeping his perspectives neatly compartmentalized for easy comprehension, the part played in sociological analysis by various combinations of those perspectives becomes grossly overshadowed. For instance, in the conclusion of his presentation of the historical perspective, Krause points out the usefulness (as mentioned above) of noting patterns of social behavior over time. Yet in the individual analysis of occupational groups, the historical sections tend more toward the story telling approach without much application of, for instance, his systems approach for the same group. Any attempt to understand exploitation, as he points out, must necessarily consider historical development, but it must also utilize some theoretical approach in the explanation -- otherwise, how was the concept derived. While Krause points this out throughout his book, he rarely employs combined theoretical analyses in the illustrations -- again, perhaps, the fault of the structure.

In another area, Krause would also have done well to follow his own advice; this time however the omission is not inherent in the book structure. He emphasizes that sociologists should not "buy" occupational ideologies in the course of analysis, yet I would ask if Krause has not been at least partially guilty of this in his categorization of occupational groups. At the introduction of a new occupational group, Krause provides a paragraph justifying that particular category. In the case of the health field, for instance, he states that health is an important problem for any society and, as such, can be studied as an inclusive group. Yet as has been pointed out by Friedson, Bucher and Strauss (whom Krause cites), and others, the classification by health is often the result of an internal political labeling process and is hardly a natural category for any society. In any event, since Krause claims he is following a "process model" in his analysis, more consideration should be given to the social forces behind the ebb and flow of labels in this field -- an emphasis necessary for his functional perspective and vital for his conflict perspective.

To account for limitations in the book, it might have been augmented by selected readings which would serve to illustrate some of the problems to which Krause gives minimal treatment. This could have been included in the form of a directed bibliography with specific references to the text. While Krause rightly points out that occupational groups do not live in social vacuums, there is still the problem of the nature of analysis which needs further explication.

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