



Mid-American Review of Sociology

ARTICLES

Michael O. Patton Robert J. Wozniak
Reflections on Professional Practice in Relation to Farmer and Sociologist
As a Social Scientist Nonconformity: A Critique of
Parsons and Liska

Steven K. Strulovici Herbert H. Kamin
Building Better Blockmodels: The British Subject David Maza
A Non-Statistical Excursion on the Sociology of Deviance
of CONCOR With Applications to Regression Analysis

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *Mid-American Review of Sociology* brings some significant changes within our publishing practices. Besides featuring an article from a leading academic sociologist, we have included an article from a practicing non-academic medical sociologist. For future issues of *MARS*, we anticipate publishing articles from notable American and foreign sociological academicians, as well as sociologists who are employed outside the "traditional" scholarly setting. As most social scientists know, employment within the academic world is limited, thus, we hope to create some insights into what types of jobs are available to "applied" sociologists.

The "Book Review Feature" is an addition in *MARS*. Articles which will appear under this major heading will involve reviewing major theorists and their specific writings or a topic (i.e., race relations, doctor-patient relationships) and its respective publications. All articles for this category must be approved by the Editor-in-Chief. In this issue Herbert Haines focuses on Matza's writings concerning his ideas on deviance.

For convenience of our consortium membership, we have inserted an up-to-date list of books which *MARS* has received for reviewing purposes. If you are interested in reviewing one of these books, please contact the Book Review Manager at Kansas University.

I would like to encourage all students to submit their manuscripts for review and possible publication. Although consortium members have priority in publishing their articles, we accept and review *all* manuscripts for possible publication within our journal. Finally, I would like to invite all of our readers to contact me if there is any special topic that you would like to see discussed in future issues.

Renee M. Zimmerman

Contributors

HERBERT H. HAINES received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology from the University of Kansas. He is continuing his education at K.U. by working on his dissertation research which involves the consequences of militancy for political responses to social movements. His primary interest areas include: social movements and collective action, theoretical and comparative criminology, and aging.

MICHAEL QUINN PATTON is Director of the Minnesota Center for Social Research, Department of Sociology, at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of numerous articles, reports, and conference papers in the field of evaluation research, and regularly conducts evaluation workshops. Dr. Patton has also served as an evaluation consultant to many educational and human services projects in the United States and abroad. He is currently directing the Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project, an analysis and planning project sponsored jointly by MUCIA (Midwest University Consortium for International Activities), the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, and United States' AID (Agency for International Development).

STEVEN R. STEIBER is currently a Research Associate with the American Medical Association's Center for Health Services Research and Development. His current research interests include analyses of patterns of physician geographic mobility and sex differentials in physician mortality rates. Data on physician careers are used to analyze the manner in which the geographic mobility of physicians is linked to other occupational changes. His analyses of mortality rates account for some of the persistent sex differentials in mortality rates found in the larger civilian population by unique employment-related risks incurred by physicians.

ROBERT J. WAZIENSKI has a master's degree from Illinois State University and is presently a candidate for the Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Kansas. His current interests include: the study of employment and work as social phenomena, socioeconomic impact assessment, and applied analytic sociology.

REFLECTIONS ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AS A SOCIAL SCIENTIST*

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Mid-American Review of Sociology, 1981, Vol. VI, No. 1:1-15

Is there a difference between basic and applied social science?

This question has been a source of some considerable debate among sociologists. I find that the debate usually involves different definitions of what constitutes "sociology," varying experiences with the conduct and utilization of "basic" research, and divergent perceptions of what social science practitioners actually do. My purpose in this article is to share some of my own experiences in the practice of social science so as to add additional data that can be used in attempting to answer the question of the extent to which there is a difference between applied and basic social science work.

I will not pretend to approach the question in an objective or disinterested manner. I will be presenting a definite point of view. My position is that there are fundamental and critical differences between social science scholarship and the professional practice of social science. Those differences have important implications for the choices that graduate students make, for training programs in the social sciences, and for improving both scholarship and the professional practice of social science. My position derives from my experience. I have done a good deal of basic research and a great deal of applied research. I've also done research that fell into a gray area between the two. But for the most part, my experience has been that the conduct of basic and applied research is quite different.

* I wish to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to the Editor-in-Chief of MARS for unusual assistance in preparation of this manuscript.