

# MARS

---

MID-AMERICAN REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY

---

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2 SPRING 1991

E. O. Wright	<i>Falling into Marxist Sociology</i>
B. Wright	<i>A Parent's View</i>
Ritzer	<i>I Never Met a Theory I Didn't Like</i>
Scott	<i>Meta-Sociology: Doings &amp; Reflections</i>
Foulke	<i>A Road Worth Taking</i>
Van Delinder	<i>Streetcorner Sociology</i>
Zale	<i>The Tradition Continues</i>
Kelly & Barter	<i>Women and Men from MARS</i>

---

**Mid-American Review of Sociology**  
Edited at the Department of Sociology, University of Kansas

**Editor**  
Mary E. Kelly

**Advisory Editor**  
Christopher Bohling

**Associate Editors**

Gary Foulke	Stephanne Zale
Andrea Anders	Tony Foy
William Swart	Jean Van Delinder
Laura Barter	Kathleen Barron

**Book Review Editor**  
Brad Whorton

**Faculty Sponsor**  
William G. Staples

**Advisory Board**

William E. Thompson  
Emporia State University

Jeffrey H. Bair  
Emporia State University

Carol A. B. Warren  
University of Kansas

Richard Stevens  
Greenville College

Dale Hoffman  
Bethany College

Dan Muhwezi  
Bethany College

Lourdes Gouveia  
University of Nebraska-Omaha

Tracy Beverly  
University of Nebraska-Omaha

John Hartman  
Wichita State University

Jan Fritz  
University of California,  
San Bernardino

Paula J. Snyder  
University of California,  
San Bernardino

CONTENTS

Contributors		iii
Introduction	<i>Carol A.B. Warren</i>	v

---

ARTICLES

Falling into Marxist Sociology: Choosing to Stay	<i>Erik Olin Wright</i>	1
A Parent's View of a Kid Growing Up in Lawrence	<i>Beatrice A. Wright</i>	15
I Never Metatheory I Didn't Like	<i>George Ritzer</i>	21
Meta-Sociology: Doings and Reflections	<i>W. Richard Scott</i>	33
A Road Worth Taking: Sociology as a Vocation and the Legacy of Carroll D. Clark	<i>Gary Foulke</i>	43
Streetcorner Sociology	<i>Jean Van Delinder</i>	59
The Tradition Continues: A Gendered Perspective	<i>Stephanné L. Zale</i>	71
Women and Men from <i>MARS</i> : Editors of the <i>Mid-American Review of Sociology</i>	<i>Mary E. Kelly</i> <i>Laura Z. Barter</i>	81

---

BOOK REVIEWS

Alejandro Portes and Ruben G. Rumbaut, <i>Immigrant America: A Portrait</i>	<i>Brad Whorton</i>	87
---	---------------------	----

**Mid-American Review of Sociology Sponsors**

BETHANY COLLEGE  
Social Science Department

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Division of Sociology, Family Sciences  
and Anthropology

GREENVILLE COLLEGE  
Department of Sociology

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
Department of Sociology\*

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-OMAHA  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology

WICHITA STATE UNIVESITY  
Department of Sociology/Social Work

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN BERNARDINO  
Department of Sociology

\*Department offering Ph.D. program

## CONTRIBUTORS

**LAURA Z. BARTER** ("Women and Men from *MARS*: Editors of the *Mid-American Review of Sociology*") is a graduate student in sociology at the University of Kansas. She was instrumental in organizing the "Sociology as a Vocation" Centennial Conference at the University of Kansas. Her connection with the conference has made her take a greater interest in historical and archival research. Her current research interests include education and third world development.

**GARY FOULKE** ("A Road Worth Taking: Sociology as a Vocation and the Legacy of Carroll D. Clark") is a graduate student in sociology at the University of Kansas. His research interests include gender, family, and the sociology of work. He is currently studying marriage and family issues among shift workers.

**MARY E. KELLY** ("Women and Men from *MARS*: Editors of the *Mid-American Review of Sociology*") is a doctoral student in sociology at the University of Kansas. Her research interests include feminist theory, the intersection of work and family, ethnicity and gender. She is currently working on her dissertation "Symbolic Ethnicity, Class, and Gender: Lithuanian-Americans in Greater Kansas City" which explores the maintenance of ethnic identity, particularly through the women of the community.

**GEORGE RITZER** ("I Never Metatheory I Didn't Like") is Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland. His major areas of interest are sociological theory and the sociology of work. He has served as Chair of the American Sociological Association's sections on Theoretical Sociology (1989-1990) and Organizations and Occupations (1980-1981). Professor Ritzer has been Distinguished Scholar-Teacher at the University of Maryland and has been awarded a Teaching Excellence award. He has held a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship and been Scholar-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences.

Dr. Ritzer's main theoretical interests lie in metatheory as well as in the theory of rationalization. In metatheory, his most recent book is *Matatheorizing in Sociology* (Lexington Books, 1991). Earlier books on this topic include *Sociology: A Multiple Paradigm Science* (1975, 1980) and *Toward an Integrated Sociological Paradigm* (1981). He has written a number of essays on rationalization as well as the soon-to-be published *Big Mac Attack: The McDonaldization of Society* (Lexington Books, 1992).

Anthony J. Cortese, *Ethnic Ethics: The Restructuring of Moral Theory*

Anthony J. Reich 89

---

## INDEXES

Author Index: Volume 1, Number 1-Volume 15, Number 1 91

Title Index: Volume 1, Number 1-Volume 15, Number 1 103

**JEAN VAN DELINDER** ("Streetcorner Sociology") is a Ph.D. student studying sociology at The University of Kansas. She has worked on numerous projects involving historical research and has conducted several oral histories. Her most recent research project was for the National Civil Rights Museum which is currently under construction in Memphis, Tennessee. In addition to being an historical detective, she wrote manuscripts for several exhibit areas in the museum.

**W. RICHARD SCOTT** ("Meta-Sociology: Doings and Reflections") is a Professor in the Department of Sociology at Stanford University with courtesy appointments in the Graduate School of Business, School of Education, and School of Medicine. He is also the Director of the Stanford Center for Organizations Research (SCOR).

His current interests are in elaborating and testing institutional theory. Empirical research is currently being carried out on educational and training programs in corporate organizations.

**BEATRICE A. WRIGHT** ("A Parent's View of a Kid Growing Up in Lawrence") is Emerita Professor of Psychology at the University of Kansas. She has been active in the field of Rehabilitation Psychology for many years, as teacher, scholar, author, and consultant. Her book, *Physical Disability -- A Psychological Approach* is recognized as a classic in the field. She has received numerous awards, and in 1988 a Scholarship in Health and Rehabilitation Psychology was established in her name. An extensive interview of her as a "pioneer in counseling and human development" can be found in the *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 1989.

**ERIK OLIN WRIGHT** ("Falling into Marxist Sociology; Choosing to Stay") is C. Wright Mills Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and director of the A. E. Havens Center for the Study of Social Structures and Social Change. His most recent books include *Classes* (London: Verso, 1985), *The Debate on Classes* (London: Verso, 1990) and *Reconstructing Marxism* (with Andrew Levine and Elliott Sober, London: Verso, 1991).

**STEPHANNE L. ZALE** ("The Tradition Continues: A Gendered Perspective") is a Ph.D. student in sociology at The University of Kansas. She is currently doing research on successful labor organizing by staff nurses at a large midwestern hospital.

## INTRODUCTION

Carol A.B. Warren  
University of Kansas

Mid-American Review of Sociology, 1991, Vol XV, No. 2:v-vii

A century of history comes to life on the pages of this issue of *MARS*; a hundred years of continuity and change in the Sociology Department at the University of Kansas. These articles speak of continuity in the intellectual life and community of KU and of Lawrence, and of change in academia and in race and gender relations in society and in the University. They speak, also, of continuity and change in Sociology itself; of change in paradigms, theories and metatheories, but continuity in the commitment of sociologists to sociology as a vocation.

The context for this issue of *MARS* is the Centennial celebration held by the department of Sociology on April 5-6 1991. Some of the papers in this issue--those by Erik Wright, Beatrice Wright, George Ritzer, W. Richard Scott, and Gary Foulke--were presented at the Centennial. The papers by Zale, Van Delinder, and Kelly and Barter were written for, but not presented at the Centennial. A keynote speech by William Julius Wilson of the University of Chicago, and presentations by Barrie Thorne (University of Southern California) and Jill Quadagno (Florida State University) are not included in this volume.

The Kansas Department of Sociology, admitted even by the University of Chicago to have taught the first Sociology course in 1889--Elements of Sociology, taught by Frank Blackmar--has had a long tradition of excellence in the kinds of sociology referred to variously in this issue as theoretical, "humanist," interpretive, and ethnographic. The comments by Ritzer, Erik Olin Wright, the oral history of Jack Baur, and the historical analysis of Carroll D. Clark and Mabel Elliott evoke a town, a University and a department in which intellectual and personal connections combine to provide a rich tradition, and shared intellectual home for professors and graduate students.

The connection between Kansas and Chicago is also illustrated by these articles. Many of the Kansas faculty, such as Baur and Warriner, were trained in Chicago and, in turn, sent their most promising students to Chicago to complete the PhD. The breadth and vicissitudes of methodological focus in Chicago are reflected in Van Delinder's oral history of Jack Baur, whose own training and commitments range, in a typically Chicago fashion, from case studies to survey research to reformist activism. W. Richard Scott lists Kansas and Chicago as two of his three great loves (the other, Stanford, seems not to have affected Dick's IQ in the manner predicted by Truman Capote!).

Excellent, dedicated graduate students and undergraduate majors have also been a continuing theme in Kansas history. All the articles by or about faculty mention important ties with students, and the passing on of the vocation of sociology from one generation to the next. The article by Kelly

and Barter on the editors and experience of graduate students with *MARS* demonstrates a remarkable level of dedication to sociology, to professional socialization, and to the Kansas tradition, among graduate students from before the inception of *MARS* to the present day.

Reading history through oral history through biography and autobiography, from Carroll D. Clark to Mabel Elliott to Jack Baur and Chuck Warriner, to George Ritzer, Beatrice Wright, Erik Wright and Dick Scott, the reader gets the sense of changes in the academic enterprise, as well as continuities in Kansas's intellectual life. Both in Kansas and elsewhere, the late 1960s and early 1970s formed a political watershed between the sense of public duty and accountability typical of academia in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, and the careerist orientations of the 1980s and 1990s. Sociologists such as Carroll D. Clark saw service as the center of their vocation: service to students, to their University, to the community, and to society. Public life and private life, social, domestic, academic and political intertwined.

Resources were scarce, salaries were low, and teaching and service obligations were numerous in the early twentieth century, but this seems not to have affected these early sociologists' public commitments. The late 1960s and early 1970s, a decade of public political commitment, was followed, ironically, by a more privatizing, inward turn in academia. Rather than the language of duty, obligation, community and service, academics became fluent in the linguistics of salary compression, indirect costs, academic stars, publication record, and movers and shakers. Scarcity and high demands today engender resentment rather than commitment.

The late 1960s and early 1970s signaled another set of political changes of great significance to the academy: the politics of race and gender. Jack and Lillian Baur's admirable activism in the Lawrence community of race prior to the 1960s was unusual for those times; just twenty years later the moral, economic and political demands of affirmative action have made the hiring and promotion of women and minorities a key issue for the University and for the academy in general.

There is little beyond Jack Baur's oral history, and some of the earlier Kansas theses, on race in Kansas sociology. However, race has been an important issue for the department, both as an important area of study by people such as Norm Yetman, and as a concern in the recruitment of faculty and graduate students. The recent recruitment of Assistant Professor Shirley Hill to the department demonstrates the commitment of both the department and the College to increasing the representation of Black Americans on campus.

The theme of gender is, both explicitly and implicitly, an important one in this centennial edition. Stephanie Zale's account of the comparatively stellar record of Kansas sociology on the hiring, tenuring and promotion of women is interesting in the context of Mabel Elliott's career, and of the careers of men such as Carroll D. Clark. The dedication to public service exhibited by men such as Clark and Marston McCluggage occurred within a

domestic and gendered context that has been thoroughly neglected in the study of changes in academic life. Time is what permits dedication and, implicit in the history of nineteenth and early twentieth century male academics such as Gary Foulke's account of Carroll D. Clark, is a wife who provides time by taking over all domestic and childcare responsibilities, even in those cases where the wife also worked outside the home. It is simply not possible for women academics, or for most men academics today, to have the kind of time that allows the free interplay of intellect, community and social service.

Wright's presentation also indicates the power and significance of male bonding in academic life, something which women have in recent decades sought to enter and--with organizations such as SWS--to imitate. Wright's Marxist group with its all male intellectual and social structure seems to have been, and remain, a significant source of Marxist theory and macrosociological research within the discipline as a whole. The basketball games of George Ritzer's fond reminiscence were not--unlike the golf matches played by corporate lawyers--for business, but for fun.

Paradigms, theoretical debates, and metatheories emerge, flourish, shift and disappear in sociology as in all other disciplines. These authors speak of Marxism and postMarxism, of micro and macro, of quantitative and interpretive, of (my favorite) lumpers and splitters. In sociology in general, one can have entire discourses consisting of postmodern and deconstructionist terms unknown when even the Assistant Professor generation went to graduate school. Discourse indeed changes. But what seems not to change is the sense, both individually and collectively, of sociology as a vocation.

These articles contain a passion; a passion for sociology, for ideas, for a way of seeing, for a tradition and a heritage. From Frank Blackmar to Carroll D. Clark to Stephanie Zale, Mary E. Kelly, Gary Foulke and Laura Barter, we do sociology here at Kansas or elsewhere because we love it. The way we do it, and the reasons we love it, are vastly different, as these articles tell us. But for all of us, sociology is a vocation.