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## EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

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### *On the (Mis)Management of Conflict and Crisis*

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The past year has been marked by profound social unrest alongside a concomitant reconfiguration of our every-day values and social practices. While the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled many important aspects of our lives, it has also reminded us of the need for sociological inquiry. The global pandemic bore with it many pervasive shifts in our economic, social, and political climate. Yet, it was precisely in such a context of continuous social rupture and a reorientation of society that sociological inquiry first emerged and found footing as its own disciplinary approach – attempting to make sense of a chaotic and sweeping social transformation. We are reminded that sociological explanations are crucial to making sense of our world in these times of crisis and social upheaval.

This collection of research, reviews, and interviews presented herein all engage with the problems of a pre-pandemic moment, yet is through a study of the ways in which we have managed (and mismanaged) social problems of the past that we can begin to say something about how we might navigate social problems to come.

In Volume 36, authors discuss various struggles in the world of politics, industry, and crises management. The volume opens with an interview with Dr. Alessandro Bonanno over the intersections of global food security, sovereignty, and democracy. Dr. Bonnano applies critical theory to explore the mechanisms of democratization and the role of markets and food activists in shaping the contours of the global food supply chain.

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Elyse Neumann is a fat studies scholar and a PhD candidate at the University of Kansas. Her work focuses on body and embodiment, new materialism, stigma, gender, and medical sociology. David Heath Cooper is a doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas, whose work focuses on environmental sociology, social movements, decoloniality, Latin America, and the sociology of law. His dissertation *Wild Law: Environmental Imaginations and the Rights of Nature* investigates the drivers and outcomes of granting legal personhood to nature and/or natural entities.

The volume continues with an interview with Dr. Elizabeth Legerksi, where she details her work on gender inequality in the way family characteristics, employment opportunities, and social policies shape the lives of low-income and working-class families. Her work explores issues related to interpersonal violence, gender inequality, and educational/employment disruptions in the wake of the COVID crisis. We also reflect on her time as a former tenure as an editor for the *Social Thought and Research* journal, her experiences as a graduate student, as well as her efforts in union organizing in the world of academia.

This volume's empirical article, "Bloody Necessary: Climate Change, Menstruation, and Emergency Planning in Kansas," by Danielle Mullins and Joane Nagel, argues that climate change disproportionately affects certain vulnerable populations (women), yet female-specific supplies and gender-sensitive policies in disaster plans in the Midwest are lacking. Mullins and Nagel point to the meager resources employed in Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) during times of climate crises. Focusing on the Midwest region, this article argues for greater attention and the greater distribution of MHM infrastructural changes as climate crises continue to worsen on a global scale.

The two book reviews featured in this volume point to divisions and pathways forward for sociological thought and research. Luke Herrington reviews R. Marie Griffith's 2017 book *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics*. In this issue's second review, Derek Wilson reviews Anabel Quan-Haase's 2016 text *Technology & Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality*. These books reflect on historical, cultural, and political conflicts that exacerbate structural inequalities in times of crises.

We hope you enjoy this volume. Stay safe and be well.

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Editors  
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