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The University of Kansas

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- Bartholomew Landheer Comment
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STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICY

The Kansas Journal of Sociology offers a means of communication for students in the various disciplines of inquiry concerned with human society. Students, in our view, are not defined by age, rank, or academic degree. As members of the scientific community, they wish to construe a universe that is above all truthfully conceived, while knowing that no truth-claim is ever more than tentative, that no understanding ever more than a temporary approximation, and that the question is the mark of science. As "youthful" members of that community, they are less anxious to be among the many that know the answers than they are intent to be among the few who discover the questions. Since boldness is an old test of youth, and hard-nosed curiosity the students' sport, they often venture into unmapped fields, experiment with rustic or forgotten tools of thought, and probe the bite of concepts in the recalcitrant, abstruse, but, for them, always fascinating material worlds construed by men.

In other words, the journal opens for all serious students a way to contribute more to the spirit of their discipline than to the ritual of the profession.

The article is welcome. Particularly invited is the creative, thought-provoking paper of broad sociological interest. If reports are submitted, let the theoretical problem be clear, the assumptions recognized, the strategy of research discussed and, most important, let the meaning of the particular investigation for further thought and research be evident. But the hard and terse prose is not the only source of insight or stimulation. The short essay, the querulous statement, the searching comment, the informative book review, the considered rejoinder--these and other expressions of the inquisitive mind have their place. Even the report of a flagrant failure may be more enlightening than the confession of a confirmed hypothesis. The journal's envoi goes to imagination in the sociological discipline and discipline in the sociological imagination. Its motto is "from the students to the students," for in the end, the creative students themselves will decide that the spirit of this journal shall live.