

sociology in our times

sociology in our times explores the dynamic ways in which societies evolve, interact, and respond to modern challenges. This article provides a comprehensive overview of contemporary sociology, highlighting its significance in understanding social structures, cultural shifts, and collective behavior. Readers will discover how sociologists analyze pressing issues such as technology, globalization, inequality, and diversity. This guide delves into the foundations of sociology, its major theories, and the practical relevance of sociological research in today's rapidly changing world. Whether you're a student, professional, or simply curious, this article clarifies the role of sociology in shaping our perspectives, policies, and everyday lives. Discover the core concepts, modern applications, and future trends that define sociology in our times. The following sections will guide you through key areas and emerging topics within the field, providing insight into the ways sociology helps decode the complexities of contemporary society.

- Understanding Sociology in the Modern Era
- Major Sociological Theories and Their Contemporary Applications
- Impact of Technology and Digitalization on Society
- Globalization and Cultural Dynamics
- Social Inequality and Stratification Today
- Diversity, Identity, and Social Change
- Methods and Approaches in Modern Sociological Research
- Future Directions and Trends in Sociology

Understanding Sociology in the Modern Era

Sociology in our times is more relevant than ever, serving as a crucial lens for interpreting rapid social changes and challenges. The discipline systematically studies human groups, institutions, and societies, focusing on patterns of interaction and collective behavior. As globalization, digitalization, and shifting social norms reshape communities, sociology equips us to analyze and respond to new complexities. Modern sociologists investigate phenomena such as remote work, online communities, and migration, providing valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and business leaders. By examining the social fabric and its transformations, sociology

helps explain the forces driving public opinion, cultural trends, and institutional changes.

Core Concepts in Contemporary Sociology

Social structure, culture, norms, and values remain foundational to sociology. Today, these concepts are applied to both traditional and digital environments, reflecting how social interactions occur across physical and virtual spaces. Sociologists also focus on power dynamics, socialization, and collective identity—key elements for understanding current social movements and shifting cultural landscapes.

Major Sociological Theories and Their Contemporary Applications

Several foundational theories continue to shape sociology in our times, each offering unique perspectives on social organization and change. The relevance of these theories persists as they are adapted to address modern issues such as technological disruption, globalization, and inequality.

Structural Functionalism

This theory views society as a complex system with interdependent parts, each serving a function to maintain stability. In contemporary contexts, structural functionalism is applied to analyze institutions like education, healthcare, and government, examining how they adapt to new demands and disruptions.

Conflict Theory

Conflict theory emphasizes power struggles and inequality, focusing on the tensions between different social groups. Modern sociologists use this perspective to study economic disparities, social justice movements, and the impact of policies on marginalized communities.

Symbolic Interactionism

Symbolic interactionism centers on everyday interactions and the meanings individuals attach to symbols, language, and behaviors. In today's digital society, this theory helps explain phenomena such as social media dynamics, online identity formation, and virtual communication patterns.

Contemporary Theoretical Perspectives

- Feminist Theory: Examines gender roles, power relations, and the ongoing struggle for equality.
- Postmodernism: Analyzes fragmented social narratives, questioning universal truths and embracing diversity.
- Critical Race Theory: Investigates the influence of race and racism in shaping social structures and experiences.

Impact of Technology and Digitalization on Society

Technology and digitalization have transformed the way people interact, work, and form communities. Sociology in our times addresses these shifts by exploring the sociocultural impact of innovations such as social media, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality. These changes have generated new forms of communication, identity, and socialization, as well as challenges like cyberbullying, digital inequality, and data privacy.

Key Areas of Sociological Analysis in Technology

- Online Communities: Sociologists study the formation and dynamics of virtual groups, from forums to social networks.
- Digital Labor: Research explores the implications of remote work, gig economy platforms, and changing employment patterns.
- Surveillance and Privacy: The rise of digital monitoring raises questions about individual rights and social control.
- Technology and Socialization: Sociologists examine how digital tools influence youth development, education, and interpersonal relationships.

Globalization and Cultural Dynamics

Globalization is a defining feature of sociology in our times, fostering interconnectedness and cultural exchange across nations. Sociologists assess the impact of global flows of people, ideas, and products, highlighting both opportunities and challenges. Topics such as migration, transnational

communities, and cultural hybridity illustrate how globalization shapes identities and social structures.

Cultural Identity in a Globalized World

As cultures blend and interact, questions of identity, belonging, and adaptation emerge. Sociologists explore how traditional practices are preserved or transformed, and how cultural diversity is managed within increasingly multicultural societies.

Social Inequality and Stratification Today

Social inequality remains a central concern, with new dimensions emerging in the contemporary era. Sociology in our times investigates disparities in income, education, health, and access to resources, considering both local and global contexts. The discipline provides frameworks for understanding the root causes and consequences of inequality, informing strategies for social change and policy interventions.

Forms of Social Stratification

- **Economic Inequality:** Examining wage gaps, poverty rates, and wealth distribution.
- **Educational Disparities:** Assessing barriers to quality education and opportunities for upward mobility.
- **Healthcare Access:** Analyzing differences in health outcomes and availability of medical services.
- **Race, Gender, and Ethnicity:** Investigating how these factors intersect to shape life chances and experiences.

Diversity, Identity, and Social Change

Modern societies are increasingly diverse, prompting sociologists to analyze the processes of inclusion, exclusion, and identity formation. Sociology in our times explores the experiences of various groups and the factors that influence social cohesion or conflict. Research addresses topics such as multiculturalism, LGBTQ+ rights, and generational change, emphasizing the importance of understanding and managing diversity.

Social Movements and Collective Action

Contemporary social movements, from environmental activism to racial justice campaigns, demonstrate the power of collective action. Sociologists study the organization, strategies, and impacts of these movements, revealing how grassroots efforts can drive significant social change.

Methods and Approaches in Modern Sociological Research

Sociology utilizes a range of methods to investigate social phenomena, blending quantitative and qualitative approaches. In our times, researchers increasingly use digital tools, big data, and interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance their analyses.

Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research

- Qualitative Methods: Interviews, ethnography, and case studies provide deep insights into lived experiences.
- Quantitative Methods: Surveys, experiments, and statistical analyses reveal patterns and correlations in large populations.

Emerging Research Tools

Innovative technologies such as social media analytics, machine learning, and geospatial mapping are expanding the scope of sociological inquiry. These tools enable researchers to study trends, predict behaviors, and visualize complex data in new ways.

Future Directions and Trends in Sociology

Sociology in our times is evolving to address emerging challenges and opportunities. Key trends include the study of climate change, digital ethics, and global migration. Sociologists are increasingly focused on interdisciplinary collaboration, policy impact, and public engagement, ensuring that the discipline remains relevant and responsive to societal needs. As new issues arise, sociology will continue to provide critical insights for understanding and navigating the complexities of contemporary life.

Q: What is the significance of sociology in our times?

A: Sociology in our times is vital for understanding rapid social changes, cultural diversity, and emerging challenges such as digitalization and globalization. It helps policymakers, educators, and communities address complex issues and improve social well-being.

Q: How does technology impact sociological research today?

A: Technology has expanded the scope of sociological research by providing new tools like social media analytics, big data, and virtual ethnography. These innovations enable deeper analysis of social interactions and trends in digital environments.

Q: What are the main theories used in contemporary sociology?

A: Major theories include structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism, along with feminist, postmodern, and critical race theories. Each offers unique insights into social organization and change in the modern era.

Q: How does globalization affect cultural identity?

A: Globalization fosters cultural exchange and hybridity, which can challenge traditional identities while promoting multiculturalism. Sociologists study how individuals and groups adapt to and navigate these changes.

Q: What forms of social inequality are most prevalent today?

A: Common forms of social inequality include economic disparities, educational barriers, healthcare access differences, and disparities based on race, gender, and ethnicity.

Q: Why is diversity a central topic in modern sociology?

A: Diversity is essential in understanding how societies manage inclusion, identity formation, and social cohesion. Sociologists analyze the experiences of various groups and the impact of policies and cultural norms on diversity.

Q: How do sociologists study online communities?

A: Sociologists examine online communities through digital ethnography, surveys, and social network analysis to understand group dynamics, identity formation, and patterns of interaction in virtual spaces.

Q: What emerging trends are shaping the future of sociology?

A: Key trends include a focus on climate change, digital ethics, global migration, interdisciplinary research, and increased public engagement to address evolving societal challenges.

Q: How does sociology contribute to solving social problems?

A: Sociology provides evidence-based insights into the causes and effects of social problems, helping design effective policies and interventions for issues like inequality, discrimination, and health disparities.

Q: What is the role of social movements in contemporary society?

A: Social movements play a crucial role in advocating for change, raising awareness, and influencing policies on issues such as environmental protection, social justice, and human rights. Sociologists study their organization, strategies, and impacts.

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Sociology in Our Times: Understanding the Social World Around Us

Introduction:

We live in a world overflowing with complex social issues – from the rise of social media's influence on our identities to the persistent challenges of inequality and climate change. Understanding these issues isn't just about passively observing; it's about actively engaging with the forces shaping our lives. This is where sociology steps in. This blog post will explore the relevance of sociology in our times, examining how its core concepts illuminate contemporary social phenomena and empower us to be more informed, engaged citizens. We'll delve into key sociological perspectives, explore pressing social issues through a sociological lens, and highlight how understanding sociology can lead to positive social change.

H2: What is Sociology and Why Does it Matter Today?

Sociology is the scientific study of society, social institutions, and social relationships. It goes beyond simply observing human behavior; it seeks to understand the underlying patterns, structures, and processes that shape our interactions and experiences. In our rapidly changing world, characterized by globalization, technological advancements, and increasing social complexity, the insights offered by sociology are more crucial than ever. It equips us with the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze social problems, understand different perspectives, and contribute to meaningful solutions.

H2: Key Sociological Perspectives: Different Lenses, Shared Goals

Several major sociological perspectives offer different frameworks for understanding the social world. These include:

H3: Functionalism: This perspective views society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. It emphasizes social order and the functions of various social institutions. For example, functionalists might analyze how education contributes to social cohesion by socializing individuals into shared values and norms.

H3: Conflict Theory: Conflict theory focuses on power struggles, inequality, and social change. It emphasizes how social structures perpetuate inequalities based on factors like class, race, and gender. For example, a conflict theorist might examine how economic disparities contribute to social unrest and inequality of opportunity.

H3: Symbolic Interactionism: This micro-level perspective emphasizes the role of symbols and interactions in shaping our understanding of the world. It focuses on how individuals create meaning through their interactions and how these meanings influence social behavior. For example, symbolic interactionists might study how online interactions shape identity formation and social relationships.

H2: Sociology in Action: Examining Contemporary Social Issues

Sociology provides a framework for analyzing a wide range of contemporary social issues:

H3: Social Media and Identity: Sociology helps us understand how social media platforms shape our self-perception, relationships, and political views. It explores the impact of online communities, the spread of misinformation, and the creation of online identities.

H3: Inequality and Social Justice: Sociological research sheds light on systemic inequalities based on race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. This understanding is crucial for developing effective strategies to address these issues and promote social justice.

H3: Globalization and its Impacts: Sociology examines the far-reaching consequences of globalization, including economic interdependence, cultural exchange, and migration patterns. It analyzes both the benefits and challenges associated with an increasingly interconnected world.

H3: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability: Sociology plays a critical role in understanding how social structures and cultural values influence environmental attitudes and behaviors. It explores the social dimensions of climate change, including its impact on vulnerable populations and the potential for collective action.

H2: The Power of Sociological Inquiry: Making a Difference

Understanding sociology is not just an academic exercise; it's a tool for positive social change. By understanding the social forces at play, we can become more effective advocates for social justice, develop informed policies, and contribute to creating a more equitable and sustainable society. Sociological research informs policy decisions, shapes social movements, and provides valuable insights for addressing pressing social problems.

Conclusion:

Sociology in our times is not merely a subject of academic study; it's a vital lens through which to understand the complex world we inhabit. By examining social structures, interactions, and inequalities, sociology provides the critical thinking skills and analytical tools necessary to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Embracing a sociological perspective allows us to become more informed, engaged, and effective agents of social change.

FAQs:

1. How is sociology different from psychology? Sociology focuses on group behavior and societal structures, while psychology primarily focuses on individual behavior and mental processes. While they overlap at times, they address different levels of analysis.
2. Can sociology predict the future? Sociology can't predict the future with certainty, but it can identify trends, patterns, and potential consequences of current social forces, allowing for more informed predictions and proactive planning.
3. Is sociology a biased discipline? Like any social science, sociology is subject to biases, but rigorous methodologies and critical self-reflection aim to minimize these biases and promote objective analysis. Different sociological perspectives offer varied interpretations, enriching the overall understanding.
4. How can I use sociology in my daily life? You can use sociological insights to better understand news events, analyze social interactions, critique social policies, and advocate for social justice in your community.
5. Where can I learn more about sociology? Numerous resources are available, including introductory sociology textbooks, online courses (MOOCs), documentaries, and reputable sociological journals and websites.

sociology in our times: Sociology in Our Times Diana Kendall, 2004-03-01 This cutting-edge, applied book highlights the relevance of sociology by including a diverse collection of theories, research, and lived experiences that accurately mirror the diversity in society itself. The author's vivid, applied, personal writing style engages students, and activates compelling everyday examples that make sociology particularly relevant to diverse students. A social issue or application opens each chapter and provides various topics for boxes, features, and examples that are carried throughout the entire chapter. Kendall's text is acclaimed in the field for being the first textbook to integrate race, class, and gender issues; as well as for its thorough presentation of sociological theory, which includes diverse theoretical viewpoints such as feminist and postmodernist theory. Kendall shows students that sociology involves important questions and issues that they confront both personally and vicariously.

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sociology in our times: Resonance Hartmut Rosa, 2019-07-26 The pace of modern life is undoubtedly speeding up, yet this acceleration does not seem to have made us any happier or more content. If acceleration is the problem, then the solution, argues Hartmut Rosa in this major new work, lies in "resonance." The quality of a human life cannot be measured simply in terms of resources, options, and moments of happiness; instead, we must consider our relationship to, or resonance with, the world. Applying his theory of resonance to many domains of human activity, Rosa describes the full spectrum of ways in which we establish our relationship to the world, from the act of breathing to the adoption of culturally distinct worldviews. He then turns to the realms of concrete experience and action – family and politics, work and sports, religion and art – in which we as late modern subjects seek out resonance. This task is proving ever more difficult as modernity's logic of escalation is both cause and consequence of a distorted relationship to the world, at individual and collective levels. As Rosa shows, all the great crises of modern society – the environmental crisis, the crisis of democracy, the psychological crisis – can also be understood and analyzed in terms of resonance and our broken relationship to the world around us. Building on his now classic work on acceleration, Rosa's new book is a major new contribution to the theory of modernity, showing how our problematic relation to the world is at the crux of some of the most pressing issues we face today. This bold renewal of critical theory for our times will be of great interest to students and scholars across the social sciences and humanities.

sociology in our times: Sociology in Our Times Diana Kendall, 2011 This best-selling comprehensive book conveys the relevance of sociology by including a timely collection of theories, research, and examples, including its signature first-person accounts that open chapters. Experiences represented in the chapter openers accurately mirror the richness and complexity of society itself while also establishing the themes that are carried throughout the chapters. The author's vivid, inviting writing style, emphasis on applications, eye for the most compelling current examples, and use of assignable photo-essays and companion video engages readers and further highlights sociology relevance to all students. Kendall's text is acclaimed in the field for being the first textbook to integrate race, class, and gender issues, and for its thorough presentation of sociological theory, including contemporary perspectives such as feminism and postmodernism.

sociology in our times: The Sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois José Itzigsohn, Karida L. Brown, 2020-03-24 The first comprehensive understanding of Du Bois for social scientists The Sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois provides a comprehensive introduction to the founding father of American sociological thought. Du Bois is now recognized as a pioneer of American scientific sociology and as someone who made foundational contributions to the sociology of race and to urban and community

sociology. However, in this authoritative volume, noted scholars José Itzigsohn and Karida L. Brown provide a groundbreaking account of Du Bois's theoretical contribution to sociology, or what they call the analysis of "racialized modernity." Further, they examine the implications of developing a Du Boisian sociology for the practice of the discipline today. The full canon of Du Bois's sociological works spans a lifetime of over ninety years in which his ideas evolved over much of the twentieth century. This broader and more systematic account of Du Bois's contribution to sociology explores how his theories changed, evolved, and even developed to contradict earlier ideas. Careful parsing of seminal works provides a much needed overview for students and scholars looking to gain a better grasp of the ideas of Du Bois, in particular his understanding of racialized subjectivity, racialized social systems, and his scientific sociology. Further, the authors show that a Du Boisian sociology provides a robust analytical framework for the multilevel examination of individual-level processes—such as the formation of the self—and macro processes—such as group formation and mobilization or the structures of modernity—key concepts for a basic understanding of sociology.

sociology in our times: Youth Sociology Alan France, Julia Coffey, Steven Roberts, Catherine Waite, 2020-04-09 Falling somewhere between childhood and adulthood, 'Youth' is a key period of transition. It can be difficult to define and make sense of this period in one's life. However it is categorised, young people face a number of challenges and issues growing up in today's world. From the pressures created by social media to the increasing precarity of employment, the major social, cultural and economic developments of our time are each impacting this period of the lifecourse in myriad ways. Youth Sociology helps readers to understand how such changes factor into the experience of being young today, and illuminates the realities of the world in which young people live. Embedding perspectives and insights from a wide range of disciplines beyond sociology, this authoritative new textbook will be incredibly useful for all students of youth.

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Completely revised and up to date, Kendall's SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES: THE ESSENTIALS, International Edition builds on the best of this popular text's previous editions in a new succinct format. A vibrant new interior design and an exciting collection of new videos with assignable activities complement the text's new coverage of timely topics such as health care legislation, the U.S. and global economies, Barack Obama's presidency, and the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Chapters immediately draw students in with first-person accounts of individuals' lived experience and include significantly updated coverage, a wealth of learning tools, and opportunities for students to apply what they learn and make a difference in their own communities. Compelling examples, a

vivid writing style, and chapter themes grounded in social issues already familiar to students engage their sociological imaginations as they learn the concepts, theories, and research that comprise sociology today.

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sociology in our times: Sociology in Our Times Diana Elizabeth Kendall, 2002 This mainstream, best-selling essentials text is especially strong in its coverage of current social issues, along with its integration of race, class, gender, and age perspectives. The author includes diverse theoretical viewpoints, including feminist theory. A social issue or application opens each chapter and provides various topics for boxes, features, and examples that are carried throughout the entire chapter. The author's vivid, applied, personal writing style engages students, and activates compelling everyday examples that make sociology particularly relevant to diverse students. This cutting-edge, applied book highlights the relevance of sociology by including a diverse collection of theories, research, and lived experiences that accurately mirror the diversity in society itself. Kendall shows students that sociology involves important questions and issues that they confront both personally and vicariously.

sociology in our times: Why Love Hurts Eva Illouz, 2013-05-20 Few of us have been spared the agonies of intimate relationships. They come in many shapes: loving a man or a woman who will not commit to us, being heartbroken when we're abandoned by a lover, engaging in Sisyphean internet searches, coming back lonely from bars, parties, or blind dates, feeling bored in a relationship that is so much less than we had envisaged - these are only some of the ways in which the search for love is a difficult and often painful experience. Despite the widespread and almost collective character of these experiences, our culture insists they are the result of faulty or insufficiently mature psyches. For many, the Freudian idea that the family designs the pattern of an individual's erotic career has been the main explanation for why and how we fail to find or sustain love. Psychoanalysis and popular psychology have succeeded spectacularly in convincing us that individuals bear responsibility for the misery of their romantic and erotic lives. The purpose of this book is to change our way of thinking about what is wrong in modern relationships. The problem is not dysfunctional

childhoods or insufficiently self-aware psyches, but rather the institutional forces shaping how we love. The argument of this book is that the modern romantic experience is shaped by a fundamental transformation in the ecology and architecture of romantic choice. The samples from which men and women choose a partner, the modes of evaluating prospective partners, the very importance of choice and autonomy and what people imagine to be the spectrum of their choices: all these aspects of choice have transformed the very core of the will, how we want a partner, the sense of worth bestowed by relationships, and the organization of desire. This book does to love what Marx did to commodities: it shows that it is shaped by social relations and institutions and that it circulates in a marketplace of unequal actors.

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sociology in our times: *The SAGE Handbook of Sociology* Craig Calhoun, Chris Rojek, Bryan S Turner, 2005-06-18 Sociology has evolved greatly since its inception as an academic discipline. It has diverged into numerous strands often flowing in disparate directions - so much so that today the notion of canonical sociology has become widely disputed. The field of sociology at present approximates to one of multi-paradigmatic complexity in which many approaches to theory must be distinguished and situated. In addition, the discipline has had to confront new challenges from globalization, the shift of interest from production to consumption, the rise of new social movements, the challenge of bio-engineering, the collapse of a 'presently existing socialist alternative' and much else besides. The new SAGE Handbook of Sociology aims to address these new developments, while at the same time providing an authoritative guide to theory and method, the key sub-disciplines and the primary debates of today. To undertake this ambitious project three leading figures in the field of sociology were selected as editors to bring together the foremost exponents of the different strands that contribute towards the make up modern sociology. Drawn from both sides of the Atlantic the contributors have been commissioned to utilise the most up to date research available to provide a critical, international analysis of their area of expertise. The result is this essential resource collection that not just reflects upon the condition of sociology today but also looks to future developments in the discipline. The Handbook is invaluable not just all sociologists but to a wide variety of students and researchers across the social sciences. Click on 'Sample Chapters & Resources' to download the introduction.

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everyday examples that make sociology particularly relevant to diverse students. This cutting-edge book highlights the relevance of sociology by including a diverse collection of classical and contemporary theories, interesting and relevant research, and lived experiences that accurately mirror the diversity in society itself. Kendall shows students that sociology involves important questions and issues that they confront both personally and vicariously.

sociology in our times: The Sociology of Science Robert K. Merton, 1973 The exploration of the social conditions that facilitate or retard the search for scientific knowledge has been the major theme of Robert K. Merton's work for forty years. This collection of papers [is] a fascinating overview of this sustained inquiry. . . . There are very few other books in sociology . . . with such meticulous scholarship, or so elegant a style. This collection of papers is, and is likely to remain for a long time, one of the most important books in sociology.—Joseph Ben-David, New York Times Book Review The novelty of the approach, the erudition and elegance, and the unusual breadth of vision make this volume one of the most important contributions to sociology in general and to the sociology of science in particular. . . . Merton's Sociology of Science is a magisterial summary of the field.—Yehuda Elkana, American Journal of Sociology Merton's work provides a rich feast for any scientist concerned for a genuine understanding of his own professional self. And Merton's industry, integrity, and humility are permanent witnesses to that ethos which he has done so much to define and support.—J. R. Ravetz, American Scientist The essays not only exhibit a diverse and penetrating analysis and a deal of historical and contemporary examples, with concrete numerical data, but also make genuinely good reading because of the wit, the liveliness and the rich learning with which Merton writes.—Philip Morrison, Scientific American Merton's impact on sociology as a whole has been large, and his impact on the sociology of science has been so momentous that the title of the book is apt, because Merton's writings represent modern sociology of science more than any other single writer.—Richard McClintock, Contemporary Sociology

sociology in our times: Strangers in Their Own Land Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2018-02-20 The National Book Award Finalist and New York Times bestseller that became a guide and balm for a country struggling to understand the election of Donald Trump A generous but disconcerting look at the Tea Party. . . . This is a smart, respectful and compelling book. —Jason DeParle, The New York Times Book Review When Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election, a bewildered nation turned to Strangers in Their Own Land to understand what Trump voters were thinking when they cast their ballots. Arlie Hochschild, one of the most influential sociologists of her generation, had spent the preceding five years immersed in the community around Lake Charles, Louisiana, a Tea Party stronghold. As Jedediah Purdy put it in the New Republic, Hochschild is fascinated by how people make sense of their lives. . . . [Her] attentive, detailed portraits . . . reveal a gulf between Hochschild's 'strangers in their own land' and a new elite. Already a favorite common read book in communities and on campuses across the country and called humble and important by David Brooks and masterly by Atul Gawande, Hochschild's book has been lauded by Noam Chomsky, New Orleans mayor Mitch Landrieu, and countless others. The paperback edition features a new afterword by the author reflecting on the election of Donald Trump and the other events that have unfolded both in Louisiana and around the country since the hardcover edition was published, and also includes a readers' group guide at the back of the book.

sociology in our times: *Ibn Khaldūn and the Arab Origins of the Sociology of Civilisation and Power* Annalisa Verza, 2021-04-30 This book presents Ibn Khaldūn's anticipatory sociology of civilisations and power. Half a millennium before the birth of modern sociology in the West, Ibn Khaldūn—scholar, political counsellor, and Malikite judge—wrote a revolutionary sociological-philosophical treatise, the Muqaddima. This book places his broad, complex, and refined treatise against the background of the Islamo-Greek culture of his time and analyses its main sociological, but also philosophical, historical, and scientific perspectives. Finally, thanks to its universalisable core, the author recontextualizes the teachings from the Muqaddima to reveal the deep insights it provides into the society, politics and law of contemporary liberal and multicultural civilisations. A deeper reception of Ibn Khaldūn's perspective is not only important in understanding

the Arab contribution to social theory, social history and philosophy, but also diversifies the sociological project beyond the Euro-American standpoint. Given its interdisciplinary appeal, the book addresses a wide readership of students and scholars in sociology, the sociology of law, philosophy of law, philosophy of history, political philosophy, history of civilisations, political sociology, and Arabic studies.

sociology in our times: *Sociology in Our Time* Diana Kendall, 2010 Study more effectively and improve your performance at exam time with this comprehensive guide. Written to work hand-in-hand with SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES, 8th Edition, this user-friendly guide includes a wide variety of learning tools to help you master the key concepts of the course.

sociology in our times: The Political Sociology of Emotions Nicolas Demertzis, 2020-06-01 The Political Sociology of Emotions articulates the political sociology of emotions as a sub-field of emotions sociology in relation to cognate disciplines and sub-disciplines. Far from reducing politics to affectivity, the political sociology of emotions is coterminous with political sociology itself plus the emotive angle added in the investigation of its traditional and more recent areas of research. The worldwide predominance of affective anti-politics (e.g., the securitization of immigration policies, reactionism, terrorism, competitive authoritarianism, nationalism and populism, etc.) makes the political sociology of emotions increasingly necessary in making the prospects of democracy and republicanism in the twenty-first century more intelligible. Through a weak constructionist theoretical perspective, the book shows the utility of this new sub-field by addressing two central themes: trauma and resentment. Trauma is considered as a key cultural-political phenomenon of our times, evoking both negative and positive emotions; resentment is a pertaining individual and collective political emotion allied to insecurities and moral injuries. In tandem, they constitute fundamental experiences of late modern times. The value of the political sociology of emotions is revealed in the analysis of civil wars, cultural traumas, the politics of pity, the suffering of distant others in the media, populism, and national identities on both sides of the Atlantic.

sociology in our times: Media Life Mark Deuze, 2014-01-23 Research consistently shows how through the years more of our time gets spent using media, how multitasking our media has become a regular feature of everyday life, and that consuming media for most people increasingly takes place alongside producing media. Media Life is a primer on how we may think of our lives as lived in rather than with media. The book uses the way media function today as a prism to understand key issues in contemporary society, where reality is open source, identities are - like websites - always under construction, and where private life is lived in public forever more. Ultimately, media are to us as water is to fish. The question is: how can we live a good life in media like fish in water? Media Life offers a compass for the way ahead.

sociology in our times: The Sociology of Time John Hassard, 2016-07-27 The volume offers a comprehensive introduction to the sociology of time. Based on selected contributions from leading writers, it illustrates the range of issues and perspectives which define the field. The volume traces distinct traditions of time analysis in social science and uses these to explain, for example, the development of capitalist time-consciousness, the ways we structure time in organizations and institutions, and how our time perceptions change in line with changes in culture. The book is for those who wish to understand how time comes to condition our everyday actions and affairs.

sociology in our times: Abortion Politics Ziad Munson, 2018-05-21 Abortion has remained one of the most volatile and polarizing issues in the United States for over four decades. Americans are more divided today than ever over abortion, and this debate colors the political, economic, and social dynamics of the country. This book provides a balanced, clear-eyed overview of the abortion debate, including the perspectives of both the pro-life and pro-choice movements. It covers the history of the debate from colonial times to the present, the mobilization of mass movements around the issue, the ways it is understood by ordinary Americans, the impact it has had on US political development, and the differences between the abortion conflict in the US and the rest of the world. Throughout these discussions, Ziad Munson demonstrates how the meaning of abortion has shifted to reflect the changing anxieties and cultural divides which it has come to represent. Abortion Politics is an

invaluable companion for exploring the abortion issue and what it has to say about American society, as well as the dramatic changes in public understanding of women's rights, medicine, religion, and partisanship.

sociology in our times: Mea Culpa , 1993-12 Drawing upon the insights of several disciplines, this work focuses on the structural and experiential dynamics of interpersonal and collective apologetic discourse as means of tempering antagonisms and resolving conflicts in contemporary Western society.

sociology in our times: Explorations in the Sociology of Consumption George Ritzer, 2001-06-04 In this book, one of the leading social theorists and cultural commentators of modern times, turns his gaze on consumption. George Ritzer, author of the famous McDonaldization Thesis, demonstrates the irrational consequences of the rational desire to consume and commodify. He examines how McDonaldization might be resisted, and situates the reader in the new cultural spaces that are emerging in society: shopping malls, casino hotels, Disneyfied theme parks and Las Vegas -- the new 'cathedrals of consumption' as he calls them. The book shows how new processes of consumption relate to globalization theory. In illuminating discussions of the work of Thorstein Veblen and the French situationists, Ritzer unearths the roots of problems of consumption in older sociological traditions. He indicates how transgression is bound up with consumption, through an investigation of the obscene in popular and postmodern culture.

sociology in our times: The Metamorphosis of the World Ulrich Beck, 2016-09-02 We live in a world that is increasingly difficult to understand. It is not just changing: it is metamorphosing. Change implies that some things change but other things remain the same capitalism changes, but some aspects of capitalism remain as they always were. Metamorphosis implies a much more radical transformation in which the old certainties of modern society are falling away and something quite new is emerging. To grasp this metamorphosis of the world it is necessary to explore the new beginnings, to focus on what is emerging from the old and seek to grasp future structures and norms in the turmoil of the present. Take climate change: much of the debate about climate change has focused on whether or not it is really happening, and if it is, what we can do to stop or contain it. But this emphasis on solutions blinds us to the fact that climate change is an agent of metamorphosis. It has already altered our way of being in the world the way we live in the world, think about the world and seek to act upon the world through our actions and politics. Rising sea levels are creating new landscapes of inequality drawing new world maps whose key lines are not traditional boundaries between nation-states but elevations above sea level. It is creating an entirely different way of conceptualizing the world and our chances of survival within it. The theory of metamorphosis goes beyond theory of world risk society: it is not about the negative side effects of goods but the positive side effects of bads. They produce normative horizons of common goods and propel us beyond the national frame towards a cosmopolitan outlook.

sociology in our times: The Study of Sociology Herbert Spencer, 1874

sociology in our times: Sociology and the Field of Public Health Edward Suchman, 1963-07-01 This work is the fifth in a series of bulletins on the applications of sociology to various fields of professional practice prepared under the joint sponsorship of the American Sociological Association and the Russell Sage Foundation. Previous bulletins have dealt with applications of sociology in the fields of corrections, mental health, education, and military organization. Dr. Suchman has performed an important service in his clear delineation of the great potential sociology and related disciplines have for sharpening our understanding of the social factors in health and disease, for intelligent planning and mounting of appropriate action programs, and for improving the organizational structure and institutional mechanisms of the health professions themselves.

sociology in our times: Time for Things Stephen D. Rosenberg, 2021-01-12 Modern life is full of stuff yet bereft of time. An economic sociologist offers an ingenious explanation for why, over the past seventy-five years, Americans have come to prefer consumption to leisure. Productivity has increased steadily since the mid-twentieth century, yet Americans today work roughly as much as they did then: forty hours per week. We have witnessed, during this same period, relentless growth

in consumption. This pattern represents a striking departure from the preceding century, when working hours fell precipitously. It also contradicts standard economic theory, which tells us that increasing consumption yields diminishing marginal utility, and empirical research, which shows that work is a significant source of discontent. So why do we continue to trade our time for more stuff? Time for Things offers a novel explanation for this puzzle. Stephen Rosenberg argues that, during the twentieth century, workers began to construe consumer goods as stores of potential free time to rationalize the exchange of their labor for a wage. For example, when a worker exchanges his labor for an automobile, he acquires a duration of free activity that can be held in reserve, counterbalancing the unfree activity represented by work. This understanding of commodities as repositories of hypothetical utility was made possible, Rosenberg suggests, by the advent of durable consumer goods—cars, washing machines, refrigerators—as well as warranties, brands, chain stores, and product-testing magazines, which assured workers that the goods they purchased would not be subject to rapid obsolescence. This theory clarifies perplexing aspects of behavior under industrial capitalism—the urgency to spend earnings on things, the preference to own rather than rent consumer goods—as well as a variety of historical developments, including the coincident rise of mass consumption and the legitimation of wage labor.

sociology in our times: Thomas Kuhn Steve Fuller, 2000 This work discusses whether Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* was revolutionary. Steve Fuller argues that Kuhn held a profoundly conservative view of science and how one ought to study its history.

sociology in our times: *The Arsonist* Chloe Hooper, 2020-09-29 The true story of one of the most devastating wildfires in Australian history and the search for the man who started it. On the scorching February day in 2009, a man lit two fires in the Australian state of Victoria, then sat on the roof of his house to watch the inferno. What came to be known as the Black Saturday bushfires killed 173 people and injured hundreds more, making them among the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in Australian history. As communities reeling from unspeakable loss demanded answers, detectives scrambled to piece together what really happened. They soon began to suspect the fires had been deliberately set by an arsonist. *The Arsonist* takes readers on the hunt for this man, and inside the puzzle of his mind. But this book is also the story of fire in the Anthropocene. The command of fire has defined and sustained us as a species, and now, as climate change normalizes devastating wildfires worldwide, we must contend with the forces of inequality, and desperate yearning for power, that can lead to such destruction. Written with Chloe Hooper's trademark lyric detail and nuance, *The Arsonist* is a reminder that in the age of fire, all of us are gatekeepers.

sociology in our times: Work Time Cynthia L. Negrey, 2013-04-23 *Work Time* is a sociological overview of a complex web of relations that shapes much of our experience of work and life yet often goes without critical examination. Cynthia Negrey examines work time past and present, exploring structural economic change and the gender division of labor to ask: what are the historical, cultural, public policy, and business sources of current work-time practices? Topics addressed include work-time reduction in the US culminating in the 40-hour statute of 1938, recent trends in annual and weekly hours, overtime, part-time work, temporary employment, work-family integration, and international comparisons. She focuses on the US in a global context and explores how a new political economy of work time is taking shape. This book brings together existing knowledge from sociology, anthropology, history, labor economics, and family studies to answer its central question and will change the way upper-level students think about the time we devote to work.

sociology in our times: *Crimes Unspoken* Miriam Gebhardt, 2016-12-20 The soldiers who occupied Germany after the Second World War were not only liberators: they also brought with them a new threat, as women throughout the country became victims of sexual violence. In this disturbing and carefully researched book, the historian Miriam Gebhardt reveals for the first time the scale of this human tragedy, which continued long after the hostilities had ended. Discussion in recent years of the rape of German women committed at the end of the war has focused almost exclusively on the crimes committed by Soviet soldiers, but Gebhardt shows that this picture is

misleading. Crimes were committed as much by the Western Allies – American, French and British – as by the members of the Red Army. Nor was the suffering limited to the immediate aftermath of the war. Gebhardt powerfully recounts how raped women continued to be the victims of doctors, who arbitrarily granted or refused abortions, welfare workers, who put pregnant women in homes, and wider society, which even today prefers to ignore these crimes. *Crimes Unspoken* is the first historical account to expose the true extent of sexual violence in Germany at the end of the war, offering valuable new insight into a key period of 20th century history.

sociology in our times: The Long Twentieth Century Giovanni Arrighi, 1994 Winner of the American Sociological Association PEWS Award (1995) for Distinguished Scholarship The Long Twentieth Century traces the epochal shifts in the relationship between capital accumulation and state formation over a 700-year period. Giovanni Arrighi masterfully synthesizes social theory, comparative history and historical narrative in this account of the structures and agencies which have shaped the course of world history over the millennium. Borrowing from Braudel, Arrighi argues that the history of capitalism has unfolded as a succession of long centuries—ages during which a hegemonic power deploying a novel combination of economic and political networks secured control over an expanding world-economic space. The modest beginnings, rise and violent unraveling of the links forged between capital, state power, and geopolitics by hegemonic classes and states are explored with dramatic intensity. From this perspective, Arrighi explains the changing fortunes of Florentine, Venetian, Genoese, Dutch, English, and finally American capitalism. The book concludes with an examination of the forces which have shaped and are now poised to undermine America's world power.

sociology in our times: The New Sociology of Knowledge Michaela Pfadenhauer, Peter L. Berger, 2013-09-06 A classical sociologist can be defined as someone whose works occupied a central position among the sociological ideas and notions of an era. Following this criterion, Michaela Pfadenhauer demonstrates the relevance of Peter L. Berger's work to the sociology of knowledge. Pfadenhauer shows that Berger is not only a sociologist of religion, but one whose works are characterized by a sociology-of-knowledge perspective. Berger stands out among his fellow social scientists both quantitatively and qualitatively. He has written numerous books, which have been translated into many languages, and a multitude of essays in scholarly journals and popular magazines. For decades, he has played a role in shaping both public debate and social scientific discourse in America and far beyond. As a sociologist of knowledge, Berger has played three roles: he has been a theoretician of modern life, an analyst of modern religiosity, and an empiricist of global economic culture. In all areas, the focus on processes rather than status quo is characteristic of Berger's thinking. This book provides an in-depth view on the critical thinking of one of the most important sociologists that present times has to offer. It includes four written essays by Berger.

sociology in our times: Thick Tressie McMillan Cottom, 2019-01-08 FINALIST FOR THE 2019 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD Named a notable book of 2019 by the New York Times Book Review, Chicago Tribune, Time, and The Guardian As featured by The Daily Show, NPR, PBS, CBC, Time, VIBE, Entertainment Weekly, Well-Read Black Girl, and Chris Hayes, incisive, witty, and provocative essays (Publishers Weekly) by one of the most bracing thinkers on race, gender, and capitalism of our time (Rebecca Traister) "Thick is sure to become a classic." —The New York Times Book Review In eight highly praised treatises on beauty, media, money, and more, Tressie McMillan Cottom—award-winning professor and acclaimed author of *Lower Ed*—is unapologetically thick: deemed thick where I should have been thin, more where I should have been less, McMillan Cottom refuses to shy away from blending the personal with the political, from bringing her full self and voice to the fore of her analytical work. *Thick* transforms narrative moments into analyses of whiteness, black misogyny, and status-signaling as means of survival for black women (Los Angeles Review of Books) with writing that is as deft as it is amusing (Darnell L. Moore). This transgressive, provocative, and brilliant (Roxane Gay) collection cements McMillan Cottom's position as a public thinker capable of shedding new light on what the personal essay can do. She turns her chosen form into a showcase for her critical dexterity, investigating everything from Saturday Night Live,

LinkedIn, and BBQ Becky to sexual violence, infant mortality, and Trump rallies. Collected in an indispensable volume that speaks to the everywoman and the erudite alike, these unforgettable essays never fail to be painfully honest and gloriously affirming and hold a mirror to your soul and to that of America (Dorothy Roberts).

sociology in our times: Understanding Social Problems Enhanced Linda A. Mooney, David Knox, Caroline Schacht, 2018-07-12 PRODUCT ONLY AVAILABLE WITHIN CENGAGE UNLIMITED. UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL PROBLEMS, progresses from micro to macro analysis, focusing first on health care, drugs and alcohol, families, and crime and then looking at the larger issues of poverty and inequality, population growth, aging, environmental problems, and global conflict.

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