



The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology ONLINE

NEWSLETTER – FIFTH UPDATE

www.sociologyencyclopedia.com

Welcome to the Newsletter for the Fifth Update of the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online**. Within this newsletter you will find a brief summary of over 15 new entries, as well as a sneak preview of future entries.

Have an idea for a new entry? Suggest a new entry for the Online Encyclopedia and if your suggestion is chosen you could win an Amazon gift certificate! (See details below)

Finally, be sure to check out the [reviews](#) of the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology**, and pass this newsletter on to your librarian.

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About the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology

The **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online** provides a living, breathing resource for the academic community in sociology, including faculty, students, and researchers. The print version, published in 2007, contains nearly 1,800 entries and over 3.5 million words, arranged in a-z format over 11 volumes, making it the most comprehensive reference work ever published in sociology. Using the material from this unrivalled

reference as a starting point, and under the continuing editorship of George Ritzer, the Online Encyclopedia is being updated three times a year. The **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online** includes new entries and updates to existing entries. Suggestions for new topics to be covered are welcome, and for those who did not contribute to the print version, there may be an opportunity to contribute to the Online Encyclopedia.

To learn more about the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology**, visit www.sociologyencyclopedia.com.

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Fifth Update – New Entries to the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology ONLINE

Clinical Sociology (Stanley Clawar)

Clinical sociology is the application of sociological theories, research, methods, and interventions to social issues and problems presented by clients. Other terms for clinical sociology include 'sociological practice', 'applied sociology' and 'doing sociology'.

Consumer Society (Roberta Sassatelli)

The notion of 'consumer society' emerged after World War II and suggests that the society in which we live is a late variant of capitalism characterized by the primacy of consumption over production. Studies of consumer society today are often linked with inquiries into the nature and effects of globalization.

Diderot Effect (Janet Lorenzen)

Grant McCracken coined the term 'The Diderot Effect' to describe a theory of upward mobility based on improving consumer patterns, or trading up. It stems from the story of French philosopher Denis Diderot who, after receiving the gift of a new nightgown proceeded to 'upgrade' all of his room to match the luxury of the new gift.

Elections, The Sociology of (Matt Qvortrup)

In this timely essay, the author explores the sociological study of elections. Theoretical as well as empirical models of understanding elections and the electoral process are explored.

Fair Trade (Vince Carducci)

Fair trade has certainly become a buzzword among an increasing number of consumers and social advocates in recent years. Fair trade is an approach to market exchange that advocates values, such as social justice and equality, that are outside the purely economic metrics of rational choice and self-interest.

Hurricane Katrina (Lori Peek and Kai Erikson)

Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in the summer of 2005. It has since become a useful lens for many to understand class, race, and political inequalities and institutions both in the region and throughout the United States.

Japan Sociological Society (Inoue Shun)

The Japan Sociological Society (JSS) is the nationwide organization for sociologists in Japan. Founded in 1924, the JSS has a membership of over 3600 as of 2008.

Lundberg, George A. (Martyn Hammersley)

George Andrew Lundberg, a former president of the American Sociological Association, became renowned as a champion of a neo-positivistic and quantitative approaches to social science. His influential book, *Foundations of Sociology* (1964), summarized his account of the proper nature of sociology as a natural science.

Macrosociology (Manuela Botaca)

Macrosociology can be seen as a subfield of sociological analysis and theory dealing with large-scale, long-term social processes, phenomena, and structures such as social change, stratification, or the capitalist

world-economy. The term 'macrosociology' is a relational one meant to distinguish it from microsociology, which studies small-scale units and individual relationships.

Online Social Networking (Lyn Gorman)

Online social networking is a relatively recent phenomenon emerging in the last five or so years. It refers to the use of social network sites – such as Facebook, MySpace, or Friendster – for online communication, the establishment and extension of friendships and personal networks.

Referendums, The Sociology of (Matt Qvortrup)

A referendum refers to a vote by the citizens on a proposed or already existing law. This entry outlines the sociological research on the topic which has generally dealt with the determinants as well as the outcomes of referendums.

Refusals (Tiffani Everett)

Refusals are the most aggressive form of accounting behavior. While other types of accounts involve the admission of guilt or responsibility for a behavior, a refusal is the outright denial of responsibility and the negative nature of an event.

Spokespersonship (Charalambos Tsekeris and Ioannis Katerelos)

Spokespersonship involves the representational work of publicly performing, evoking, or making visible and available that which is absent or which is not able to speak for itself. This concept, although most commonly thought of as applying to people, can also be applied to things, facts, or relations.

Strauss, Anselm L. (Adele E. Clarke)

Anselm Strauss is perhaps best known for his qualitative research approach for the study of meaning-making and action in human social life called grounded theory and developed with Barney Glaser. He also, however, made important contributions to medical sociology, the sociology of work, meso-level theory, social psychology, symbolic interactionism, and the study of US cities.

Thomas, Dorothy Swaine (Robert C. Bannister)

Dorothy Swaine Thomas authored more than 9 books and 70 articles. She was the first woman professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and also the first woman to be elected president of the American Sociological Association.

The UK Institute of Sociology (David Evans)

The Institute of Sociology was established in London in January 1930. It was the only UK body representing sociology until 1951 when the British Sociological Association was formed.

Web 2.0 (Roger Burrows)

A very crude, but perhaps helpful, set of distinctions might be drawn between Web 1.0 and Web 2.0 applications. If Web 1.0 was primarily about 'reading' or 'browsing' web pages, Web 2.0 is still about this, but with the added ability that people can now 'write' and 'contribute' as well. Examples include Wikipedia, YouTube, and blogging.

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Future Updates

The sixth update (scheduled for December 2008) will feature new entries as well as updates to existing entries to keep the Online Encyclopedia at the cutting edge of sociology.

Some of the planned new entries include:

- **Corporate Social Responsibility** (Paul Dean)

- **Galbraith, John Kenneth** (Richard Parker)
- **Public Sociology** (Steve Lopez)
- **Geertz, Clifford** (Philip Smith)

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Suggest a New Entry and Win an Amazon Gift Certificate

If you have suggestions for potential new entries, please send them to J. Michael Ryan, Senior Managing Editor of the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online**, at miker@socy.umd.edu. We are awarding a £100/\$150 Amazon gift certificate for the best suggestions featured in subsequent updates to the Encyclopedia online*.

*One prize will be given for each of the Publisher's major updates to the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online. The judges' decision is final.

Congratulations to Michael Reay

Michael's suggestion for a new entry on Humor was selected as the winning new entry to the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online**.

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Reviews

"The most up-to-date work on this topic ... Essential. Lower-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers."

-Choice

"**The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology** will increase students' understanding of important concepts, people, and trends in social sciences, and serve as a ready reference for scholars and teachers who need a well developed but concise exposition of a concept. Recommended for purchase in academic libraries."

-Reference Reviews

"Attractive, easy to use and pleasingly set out, the site offers features that work well and are refreshingly straightforward ... There are useful bibliographical references at the end of each entry, and it is possible to find related topics of interest very quickly."

-Information World Review

"This work will be an important addition to large university libraries with sociological departments. It represents important scholarship in this field and will be a resource that will be well used and reliable."

-American Reference Books Annual

"Ritzer has created the literal *bible* of sociology – a comprehensive and vital tome that houses an ever-evolving snapshot of the structure of our society ... Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Sociology deserves a place in all college-level libraries. Simply, we have seen no other sociological-based resource as comprehensive or as classy – this point of reference that outlines the academic mission in beautiful almost elegant terms, in turn recording our never-ending quest for knowledge and enlightenment."

-The Electric Review

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