

# The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology ONLINE

## Winter 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to the winter 2009 newsletter for the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology ONLINE**. Within this newsletter you will find a brief summary of the sixth update which features 10 new and 5 updated 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 included 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 ONLINE

The **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology ONLINE** provides a living, breathing resource for the academic community in sociology, including faculty, students, and researchers. The most comprehensive reference work ever published in sociology, the Encyclopedia is updated three times a year with 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 <http://www.sociologyencyclopedia.com>

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## New Entries for the Sixth Update

### [Bosnia – Keith Doubt](#)

This entry provides a strong historical and cultural base for understanding the events that unfolded in Bosnia during the early to mid 1990s. It uses those events as a means of understanding sociological concepts such as Weber's distinction between an ethic of responsibility and an ethic of ultimate ends as well as sociocide

(an entry to be included in the spring update).

### [Education, Social Functions of – Vasiliki Kantzara](#)

This entry examines the sociological understanding of the relationship between education and the functioning of other societal institutions. Although there is consensus that this relationship exists and is a close one, there is disagreement about the exact role education plays or the role that it ought to play.

### [Humor – Mike Reay](#)

Humor is a common feature of social interactions and yet it receives little attention in the social sciences. This entry examines the meanings of humor in daily life, especially as they relate to self and group identity.

### [Incest – Alexandra Maryanski](#)

This entry covers the often emotionally charged issue of incest, and more specifically, the incest taboo. While incest refers to a particular biological act, the incest taboo refers to a cultural rule.

### [Juries – Holly J. McCammon](#)

Juries are described as a fundamental democratic institution used to determine community justice. This entry examines the three central topics of concern related to juries in the social science literature – questions of jury competence, selection of juries, and the representativeness of juries.

### [Pragmatic Acculturation – Stella R. Quah](#)

Pragmatic acculturation refers to the borrowing of ways of thinking or ways of doing from one culture by another culture for the purpose of solving a specific problem. The concept helps contribute to, among other things, an understanding of the permeability of cultural boundaries.

### [Prestige – Vasiliki Kantzara](#)

Prestige, which is related to but different from status, refers to a series of social processes as well as the outcome of those processes related to social evaluation used to define standing in society. It is a type of symbolic value bestowed upon individuals and social groups in society seen to possess desirable traits.

### [Schizophrenia – Keith Doubt](#)

This entry explores the commonly misunderstood phenomenon of schizophrenia using three paradigms – the medial, the sociological, and the postmodern. It pays particular attention to the complex ways in which schizophrenia is not only a physical pathology but also a social phenomenon.

### [Transport and Development – Theodore Tsekeris](#)

This entry examines the complex, often unrealized, relationship between transport and development. The author examines various components of transport networks, most notably those related to infrastructure, and both their positive and negative effects on development, or the reduction of inequalities.

### [Whole Foods Market– Josee Johnston](#)

In addition to its growing popularity among the lay public, Whole Foods Market is also becoming an increasing popular paradigm among academics. This entry examines two topics of concern to sociologists – consumption and corporate capitalism – as they relate to Whole Foods Market.

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**Future Updates**

The seventh update (scheduled for April 2009) will feature additional 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:

- **Public Sociology** – Steve Lopez and Rachel Dwyer
  - **Sociocide** – Keith Doubt
  - **Wittgenstein, Ludwig** – William Lynch
  - **World Bank** – Susan Lee
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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](mailto: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.

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## Access the Encyclopedia

If your library has a subscription, you can access the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology** online through <http://www.blackwellreference.com>.

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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

*As a product aimed at students, lecturers, and researchers, The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online provides both the depth and breadth required to meet a variety of individual needs. With its multiannual updates and added entries, the editor has created a resource of continued relevancy in a field with an important mission of exploring current social issues as well as providing historical context*

-Charleston Review

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## Recommend the Encyclopedia

Does your library have access in 2009? Be sure to tell your librarian how important the **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology ONLINE** is to you and your colleagues. Many libraries will consider whether to renew their subscription to the Encyclopedia in the coming months. Remind your librarian how important the Encyclopedia is to you, your students, and your colleagues. In addition to reminding your library about this great resource, encourage your fellow researchers and students to consult the Encyclopedia for all of their research needs. Libraries make subscription decisions based on usage, as well as recommendations. The more your institution uses the Encyclopedia, the better chance that you will have access for years to come.

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