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Editors' Preface

Sociological Practice Editors

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EDITORS' PREFACE

Sociological practice has been part of American sociology since the beginning of the discipline in the late 1800s. The "practical sociology" of the early 1900s is now referred to as "sociological practice." This general label includes two areas, clinical sociology and applied sociology.

In broadest terms, clinical sociology means sociological analysis and intervention, with emphasis on intervention. Applied sociology refers to applied social research using one or more of the methods of problem evaluation or social impact assessment. The two approaches, clinical sociology and applied sociology, should be seen as complementary. Many practicing sociologists use both clinical and applied approaches even though one approach is central to each person's work.

The Sociological Practice Association acquired the journal *Sociological Practice* in 1989. It is intended to be a basic resource for practitioners, faculty, graduate students and upper-level undergraduate students who are in the social sciences. Published as an annual, each volume of *Sociological Practice* is devoted to one particular area of practice. Past volumes are *The Development of Clinical and Applied Sociology* (Volume 7, 1989), *Community Development and Other Community Applications* (Volume 8, 1990), and *Health Sociology* (Volume 9, 1991). This volume (Volume 10) is *Conflict Processing*.

Each special theme issue of *Sociological Practice* includes a historical overview of the field as well as examples of sociological practice drawn from research, intervention, and teaching relevant to the theme. Beginning with this issue, abstracts will appear in French as well as English.