

1-1-1994

Editor's Preface

Susan Brown Eve
University of North Texas

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/csr>

Recommended Citation

Eve, Susan Brown (1994) "Editor's Preface," *Clinical Sociology Review*: Vol. 12: Iss. 1, Article 2.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/csr/vol12/iss1/2>

This Editor's Preface is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@WayneState. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clinical Sociology Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@WayneState.

Editor's Preface

Susan Brown Eve
University of North Texas

This issue of the *Clinical Sociology Review* includes articles on a range of topics of interest to clinical sociologists and sociological practitioners. These topics include concerns for the discipline itself and its place in the broader field of sociology; the development of a unique body of sociological practice theory; the application of research methods to practice; and the application of sociological practice and clinical sociology at the individual, organizational, and community levels. The book reviews also cover a wide range of applications of sociological concepts at the micro-, meso-, and macro-levels of society, from individual to organization to societies.

The historical article selected for inclusion by the Historical Section Editor, **Jan M. Fritz**, is "Some Remarks about the Dyad Observer-Observed and the Relationship of the Observer to Power," by **Jacques Van Bockstaele**, **Maria Van Bockstaele**, and **Martine Godard-Plasman**. The authors explore the historical roots of clinical sociology for the past two centuries in Europe and the United States. These examples range from the founding of the Royal Medical Society in France to improve the health of the population for the good of the economy, to Saul Alinsky's work in community organization in Chicago.

Joseph A. Ruggiero and **Louise C. Weston** report on the results of their survey of a sample of 178 members of the ASA's Sociological Practice Section and the Sociological Practice Association in their article, "Results of a Practitioner Survey and Comparison with the Themes of Articles Published in ASA *Footnotes*: Major Issues Facing the Discipline of Sociology." The three issues that ranked highest in concern among those sampled were (1) dealing with specific social problems or issues at the macro or micro level; (2) dealing with issues specifically pertinent to the discipline of sociology; and (3) dealing with career or professional concerns. The authors conclude that these are concerns that the members of the discipline must address if the discipline is to thrive.

Manuscript submissions for this issue which treated methodological issues were unusually numerous and strong. As practicing sociologists have worked to adapt basic social research methods to applied social problems and issues, they have learned lessons that can be instructive to others following their example. **Rosalind J. Dworkin** and **Anthony Gary Dworkin** report on their research on the interviewer preferences which can affect the quality of data collected in "Interviewer Attitudes about the Mentally Ill." They discovered that potential interviewers were least likely to want to interview these research subjects, and that their attitudes toward the mentally ill were most strongly influenced by prior contact with mentally ill people and by the perception of the mentally ill as dangerous. The second and third articles in the research section report on research projects in which the researchers found themselves forced into a clinical role. **Stephen M. Ortiz** reports on his research on the wives of professional athletes in "Clinical Typification of Wives of Professional Athletes: The Field Researcher as Therapist." The wives in this research live in a highly competitive world where rumor can ruin professional careers. They found in the researcher a safe confidant, someone to listen to their problems who would not sell the information to the media or report problems to the coaching staff. Similarly, **Mary C. Sengstock** reports on her inadvertent role as a clinician in her article, "Researching an Iraqi Community in the midst of the U. S.-Iraq War: The Researcher as Clinician." The project was originally designed to study the needs of elderly Arabs, but the researchers soon found themselves advising and counseling with community members about their concerns about their role in the U. S. after the outbreak of the war. In "Methodological Observations on Clinical Organization Research," **J. J. Ramondt** discusses the linkages among the production of new organizational knowledge, the practical role of practice research in organizations, and the research methodology used. In "The Integration of Intervention and Evaluation: Avoiding Theoretical Pitfalls," **Kees Mesman Schultz** argues that practitioners and researchers in innovative studies must work closely together to ensure that the program that is evaluated is the one that was actually implemented. Her article is based on her research experience with youth welfare programs in The Netherlands.

Two articles were concerned primarily with sociological practice theory and clinical settings at the microlevel. **Janet Billson** argues for an expanded use of the interactionist principles of emergence, voluntarism, and process as a basis for clinical sociology, in her article, "Self and Society: A Symbolic Interactionist Framework for Sociological Practice." She argues that psychology has adopted these principles as principles of psychological theory. **Kimberly A. Folse** and

Dennis L. Peck present a new model of suicide they developed based on their study of suicide notes and supporting materials held in two Medical Examiner's Offices, in their article, "Toward a Three Dimensional Model of Suicide." In "Terminating Addiction Naturally: Post-Addict Identity and the Avoidance of Treatment," **William Cloud** and **Robert Granfield** report on their interviews with twenty-five former addicts who terminated their addictions without formal treatment or self-help group assistance and consider the implications of their findings for clinical treatment and social policy.

In the first of five articles on clinical sociology in formal organizations, "Evaluation Research and the Psychiatric Hospital: Blending Management and Inquiry in Clinical Sociology," **George W. Dowdall** and **Diane M. Pinchoff**, report on their perceptions of the multiple roles practicing sociologists play in evaluation research in psychiatric hospitals. In addition to strong training in research methods and statistics, and knowledge of public policy relevant to mental health, the researchers recommend developing a mindset that would allow sociologists to work comfortably as team members with other professionals.

The remaining four articles in this section reflect concerns with diversity in American culture. In "Diversity: A Managerial Paradox," **Karen Stephenson** argues that women and minorities are less likely to "climb the corporate ladder" than their white, male counterparts because women and minorities are likely to have weaker and sparser ties than white males. Stephenson further argues that this situation results in costly turnover in "targeted groups" within corporations. Strategies that corporations can use to counter these trends include anti-discrimination training among managers, succession planning, mentoring of targeted groups, and using diversified team approaches to work tasks. **Nita L. Bryant**, **David W. Hartman**, and **Dexter Taylor** report the results of three years of field work in a predominantly African American, inner city elementary school in their article, "Educational Policy and Training Implications of Social Science Research: Lessons from an Inner City Elementary School." Based on their findings that the school systems continue to be unable to effectively prepare these children for the society in which they must live and work, the authors present a series of recommendations for changes in teacher training as well as in macrolevel social policy. In "Health and Social Services, Formal Organizations and the Mexican American Elderly," **Norma Williams** examines the barriers that elderly Mexican Americans encounter in obtaining health and social services to which they are legally entitled. Based on interviews with a sample of sixty older Mexican Americans in Dallas, Texas, Prof. Williams found that a major barrier to service was that older Mexican Americans lacked an adequate "stock of knowledge" of effective ways of working with organizational personnel. Factors affecting this

lack of knowledge include low levels of education and an inability to read, write and speak English. **Jennie R. Joe** and **Dorothy Lonewolf Miller** report on a study of the factors which affect success of Navajo clients in a vocational rehabilitation program in the article, "Field Initiated Research to Predict Work Related Motivation among Navajo Vocational Rehabilitation Clients." Socio-economic factors and attitudes toward work were found to have be the most predictive of success at work.

In "Latina Immigrant Women and Paid Domestic Work: Upgrading the Occupation," **Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo** reports on her research among Mexican immigrant women in a community in San Francisco. Through her research, she was able to aid in the development of a community based advocacy program for these women.

Harry Cohen has assembled a very stimulating collection of book reviews. **Harris Chaiklin** reviews *The Power of the Clan: The Influence of Human Relationships on Heart Disease*, in which John C. Bruhn reports on a replication of a study between heart disease and family and community networks in a small town in Pennsylvania. **L. John Brinkerhoff** reviews *Quantum Psychology: Steps to a Postmodern Ecology of Being* by Stephen T. DeBerry, in which the author explores the "schizoid" condition of postmodern culture. *Trouble on Board: The Plight of the International Seafarers*, written by Paul K. Chapman and reviewed by **Charles S. Green III**, documents the mistreatment of workers in the commercial cargo maritime industry and makes specific recommendations for reforms. **Ramona Ford** reviews the highly touted *The McDonaldization of Society: An Investigation into the Changing Character of Contemporary Social Life* by George Ritzer, concluding that Ritzer's thirty suggestions that individuals can use to resist a dehumanized society are sure to be thought provoking in class discussion. In *Occupational Subcultures in the Workplace*, by Harrison M. Trice and reviewed by **Rosemarie Livigni**, the author discusses occupations as subcultures, and the effects of their basic ideologies of unionism and professionalism on the organization. **Ruth Harriet Jacobs** reviews *What's a Mother to Do?* by Michele Hoffnung, in which the author examines the dual role of mother and career woman and its attendant stresses. *As the Workforce Ages*, edited by Olivia S. Mitchell and reviewed by **Mary C. Sengstock**, is a collection of papers presented at a conference at Cornell University. **Jan Wilkerson Weaver** reviews *Making Gray Gold, Narratives of Nursing Home Care* by Timothy Diamond, in which the author reports on his participant observation study of a nursing home. *Analyzing Psychotherapy: A Social Role Perspective* by Melvyn L. Fein, reviewed by **Nancy A. Naples**, is recommended reading for graduate classes on evaluating clinical practice.

In this, my last issue as Editor of the *Clinical Sociology Review*, I would like to thank the previous Editor of *CSR* and current President of the Sociological Practice Association, **David Kallen**, for his continued advice and support. I also wish to thank the new *CSR* Editor, **David Watts**, for his assistance in the transition. I also wish to thank the **Dr. James Ward Lee**, Director of the Center for Texas Studies at the University of North Texas, and his staff for their excellent work in publishing the journal. I am especially grateful to **Jane Tanner**, who performed miracles by transforming the messy texts I gave her into a polished journal. I thank the members of the Editorial Board, who are listed elsewhere, for all their assistance over the past three years. I especially wish to thank the reviewers whose time consuming and thorough reviews have made the journal what it is. Finally, I owe a final "*merci beaucoup*" to **Veronique Ingman** for her painstaking translation of the English abstracts into French.

I could not have served as editor without the generous financial assistance of the University of North Texas. **Blaine A. Brownell**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and **Daniel M. Johnson**, Dean of the School of Community Service, have been especially supportive. As with the previous issues, I could not have produced the journal without the dedicated assistance of the Secretary of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, **Fonda Gaynier**; the Department student worker, **Stephanie Lamy**; my Editorial Assistant, **Jennifer Wilson**; and **Betty Griese**, **Rachel Dowdy**, and the staff in Data Entry in the Computing Center who helped with the word processing.

Finally, I thank you, the readers and members of the Sociological Practice Association, for this wonderful opportunity to fulfill a life long goal to be an editor.