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## Editor's Preface

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This volume is another in the series of outstanding work by practicing sociologists all over the world. From Nelson Foote's essay on "Frontiers in Sociological Practice" to essays that report the experiences of sociologists working where the rubber meets the road, Volume 14 is full of practical examples of practitioners using sociological theory and methods to effect real change. Once again, sociologists working at a number of levels have developed interventions that are designed to improve the quality of life for individuals, groups, and their communities.

But we need to do more. As we assess the state of the discipline and sociological practice, there are some demographic facts that we must face. One of them is that all of us are getting older. In two years, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Clinical Sociological Association, the precursor to the Sociological Practice Association. As happens with any social movement that becomes institutionalized, leaders come and go. Undergraduate and graduate students may not have the clear examples of sociological practice in front of them. In an effort to add another dimension to the future of sociological practice, this volume initiates self-portraits of sociological practitioners. We begin this feature with a strong one by Art Shostak. The self-portraits are intended to communicate with sociology students and sociologists who are looking for examples of how others practice sociology, so that they too may be encouraged to make the leap.

Art recently joined SPA-NET and introduced himself to SPA-NET subscribers. His essay grows out of his introduction. *Clinical Sociology Review* subscribers may join SPA-NET at [spa@guvax.acc](mailto:spa@guvax.acc).

**georgetown.edu.** If you wish to nominate someone to do a self-portrait or volunteer to do one yourself, please contact me.

On behalf of both Hugh McCain and myself, I wish to thank our anonymous reviewers for the outstanding work that they have done. They are the silent but very important partners in creating the *Clinical Sociology Review*.

W. David Watts  
Editor