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*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Sociology.* Gordon Marshall  
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about urban life, formulated spatial models about urban growth and extensively analyzed urban social problems. They have studied urban political processes and contributed to the development of policies and plans for improving urban conditions. They have also formulated interesting conceptual approaches to analyze urban phenomena. Over the last century, distinctive theoretical perspectives have evolved to frame discussions about urban reality and to facilitating understanding of its many complex forms..

Flannagan's book deals primarily with the theories which have emerged within urban sociology since the end of the 19th century. The book is not, as its title suggests, an introductory survey of urban sociology, but instead offers a comprehensive and sophisticated account of theoretical developments in the field. It is eminently readable, useful and up to date. The author not only reviews familiar theoretical approaches such as the Chicago School's urban ecology approach but covers recent debates on structuration theory and post-modernism as they affect urban sociology. The book is essential reading not only for sociologists but for anyone interested in urban issues. These issues can only be properly grasped if the conceptual ideas underlying urban phenomena are properly understood. Flannagan's helpful book will facilitate comprehension of these ideas.

Gordon Marshall (Ed.), *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. \$11.95 paperback.

OUP's well-deserved reputation for publishing high quality dictionaries is maintained in this publication which manages to cover a huge subject matter in just one manageable and reasonably priced volume. Although many dictionaries of sociology are now available, this one will be an invaluable aid not only to students but to academic and professional sociologists, and indeed the public at large. Compiled by a team of sociologists at the University of Essex in England, the dictionary not only contains entries on key sociological terms and concepts but happily strays into ancillary fields such as economics, politics, social policy and the other social sciences as well. Its coverage is huge but the entries are both inclusive and concise. The inclusion of biographic entries is particularly helpful. Indeed, it is remarkable that these entries not only list sociologists but economists, anthropologists

and philosophers as well. Although living personalities are excluded, the biographic entries provide excellent summaries of the lives and contributions of key thinkers who have helped shape the modern social sciences. The dictionary is an invaluable resource and should be on everyone's shelf.

Warren Schmaus, *Durkheim's Philosophy of Science and the Sociology of Knowledge: Creating an Intellectual Niche*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994. \$50 hardcover, \$24.95 papercover.

This book offers one of the most detailed analyses of Durkheim's contribution to scientific methodology which has yet been published. Schmaus shows how, in the wider context of social thought at the end of the 19th century, Durkheim's insistence on sociologism identified an intellectual niche which was to insure a permanent place for his ideas not only in the history of sociology but in the philosophy of science as well. Durkheim was the first to articulate a truly sociological perspective which located social phenomena in a realm quite distinct from the physical and psychological worlds. He was not only able to argue persuasively for a non-reductionist sociological approach, but by illustrating his methodology through the analysis of the division of labor, suicide, and religious forms, he convincingly supported his methodological arguments with case material.

The book has three parts which flow nicely in logical sequence, building on each preceding section. The first part begins by offering a perspective on Durkheim's ideas which emphasizes his contribution to the philosophy of science and the sociology of knowledge. Part II provides a detailed discussion of his methodological approach focusing on his conception of social facts, his philosophical perspective and his approach to explanation. The third part examines Durkheim's three major empirical works which elucidate his methodology. As noted earlier, these include his studies of the division of labor, suicide and the elementary forms of religious life. The final part concludes with an assessment of Durkheim's contribution to the sociology of knowledge.

This book makes a major contribution to understanding Durkheim's work. Although it would have benefited from more biographic detail, the book will be an essential resource for sociol-