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agenda and will be essential reading for anyone interested in the topic.

Gary Alan Fine (Ed.), *A Second Chicago School: The Development of a Postwar American Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995. \$70.00 hardcover, \$22.50 papercover.

The Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago has long been recognized as one of the premier centers for sociological inquiry in the United States. Its reputation emerged in early decades of this century when the contribution of scholars such as Robert Park, Ernest Burgess, George Herbert Mead, W. I. Thomas and others dominated the field. Their contribution was so widely recognized that these scholars came to be known as the Chicago School. However, it is widely believed that Chicago's contribution was eclipsed in the years after the Second World War. While Harvard, and to a lesser extent Columbia emerged as the new centers of excellence in sociology, Chicago appeared to be in decline.

This book has been specifically compiled to refute the impression that sociology at Chicago during the years after the Second World War had descended into academic mediocrity. The editor and contributors assert that sociology at Chicago was in fact flourishing and that it deserves the appellation of a 'second' Chicago School equal to that of its illustrious predecessor. To support this claim, the book contains articles on different facets of sociological inquiry at the University of Chicago in the postwar years. These articles cover topics as wide ranging as the department's contribution to research methodology, research into race and ethnicity, studies of deviance and the development of symbolic interactionism under Becker and Goffman. Two chapters deal with social relations in the department at this time. One focuses on faculty relations while the other is concerned with the position of women. Both make for interesting reading and transcend the book's partiality for nostalgia.

While the book will be useful to sociologists concerned with the meta-theory of their discipline, its wider interest is questionable. This is not to deny that it is well written and readable. But it could have been enriched by an attempt to ensure broader relevance through, for example, using the Chicago material to ask

wider questions about the discipline and its academic acceptance. In a field riddled with faddishness, an inquiry of this kind would have been valuable.

James H. Schultz, *The Economics of Aging*. Westport, CT: Auburn House, 1995. \$69.50 hardcover, \$19.95 papercover.

James Schultz is a world renowned expert on social security and other economic aspects of retirement. A professor at Brandeis University, he has served as an expert advisor to governments and international associations on social security questions. His knowledge of the field is prodigious and he has published widely on income retirement issues.

The Economics of Aging is now in its 6th edition and it continues to be the definitive book on the economics aspects of retirement in the United States. It covers topics as diverse as employment in old age, retirement planning, social security and medicare and occupational pensions. One of the book's strengths is that it effectively combines descriptive, theoretical and policy content. Its descriptive content is useful not only to students and researchers but to elderly people who need to know the basic facts about retirement income. At the same time, it tackles complex policy and theoretical issues making a useful analytical contribution to the literature.

The book is well written and readily comprehensible. Topics that confound even the most intelligent lay person will be easily understood. One example of Schultz's ability to simplify a complex field is admirably revealed in the chapter dealing with occupational pensions. The subject is a maze of intricate rules, regulations and different provisions. However, Schultz not only simplifies the subject but makes it interesting. In addition, the book covers a range of policy and theoretical issues. It discusses the question of social security's long term fiscal viability, and reviews the arguments which have been made for modifying the system. The chapter on social security and inter-generational conflict is particularly stimulating. The book is essential reading for all who work in the field of gerontology and will undoubtedly continue to be an important reference source for many years to come.