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### Review of *Sociology in America: A History*. Craig Calhoun, Editor. Reviewed by Richard Caputo.

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Roosevelt. Shifting political alliances and World War I brought much of progressivism to a standstill.

Recchiuti has crafted a careful and lively account of the work of the New York social scientists in the New York Charity Organization Society and the founding of the New York School of Philanthropy, a pioneering School of Social Work. His story of the New York City social settlements, which have been studied elsewhere, illustrates a central paradox of Progressive reform, the gap between privileged experts and their reformist ideals and those they meant to serve. Settlement leaders, such as Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch, a founder of Greenwich House on the Lower West Side, fostered participation by settlement neighbors in efforts to improve their well-being and were sometimes met with resistance, a dilemma often experienced by social welfare reformers.

This book is particularly timely. The experiences of this small band of New York City reformers, women and men, African Americans and whites who used social science to engage the problems of their day is worth retelling. Their stories could encourage and invigorate progressive social scientists, particularly those working in academic settings which may discourage applied research and community service that could contribute to beneficial social reform. The successes of the New York City reformers illustrate how careful research and effective collaboration can influence policymaking.

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Craig Calhoun (Ed.). *Sociology in America: A History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. \$85.00 hardcover, \$30.00 papercover.

This fascinating, informative, and at times frustrating book of 913 pages is a centennial publication of the American Sociological Association. It provides a *sociological* history of sociology in the United States. The contributing authors of this twenty-one chapter edited volume focus firstly on an understanding the development of the discipline more than its implications for broader national or intellectual history and

secondly, on institutional patterns shaping the field such as developments in departmental powerhouses at Columbia, Chicago, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as well as publications such as the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *American Sociological Review*. The first twelve chapters interweave several themes, including tensions between reformers' impulses for social activism and universities' demands for value-neutral theoretical advancement, and between advocates for qualitative or for quantitative methodologies, and they are roughly chronological through the 1960s. The remaining nine chapters are thematic, suggesting that in the 1970s sociology abandoned its often strained, if not invented, quest for theoretical and methodological coherency (vis-à-vis that achieved by economics) and that the discipline has been in intellectual and institutional disarray since then, as it seeks relevance in light of contemporary debates regarding its influence or lack thereof on public policy. This structure necessitates redundancy that may frustrate some readers, as it did me.

For purposes of this review, I focus on three chapters that most intrigued me and that I believe will be of most interest to *JSSW* readers. In Chapter three Patricia Lengermann and Gillian Niebrugge provide three narratives of sociology's relation to social work: the natural history narrative which posits the separate development of each; the social history narrative which delineates a shared beginning, eventual separation into disparate professions respectively located or anchored primarily in universities (sociology) and in social service agencies (social work), and the on-going relation between the two; and the critical history narrative, that initially locates the professional bases of both the academy and relief agencies in settlement houses. As is well known, their mission was to reform society by using knowledge derived from an understanding of social science whose theories and methods were to inform public opinion to effect legislative change. They were eventually marginalized and turned on a particularized politics of gender informed by feminist scholarship. Since this book is not a historian's history, there is no attempt to sort out or adjudicate the relative merits of the truth claims asserted in the three accounts of the relation between sociology and social work. This is an inevitable shortcoming of the book, reflecting the

conscientious decision by the editors to compile a *sociological* history of the discipline.

Another chapter that intrigued me was Chapter five in which Marjorie DeVault provides "a story" about fieldwork traditions in sociology and the growth of qualitative methods in the second half of the twentieth century. The University of Chicago occupies a prominent place in this development, most notably in the 1920s when social welfare definitively moved out of the sociology department into the separate School of Social Service Administration and when sociological fieldworkers aligned themselves more closely with anthropology, then housed in the sociology department, where governing impulses were more theoretical than reformist. W. I. Thomas, Robert Part, and Ernest Burgess and several of their students are given their due. The bulk of the chapter, however, is devoted to the post-WWII period and covers the development of participation observation during the 1950s, alternative approaches to qualitative research, such as ethnomethodology in the 1960s and 1970s, and postmodern influences during the 1980s through 2005, the centennial year of ASA. This chapter provides a useful counterbalance to the emphasis placed on the development of quantitative methodology in sociology, as well as to the quantitative basis of much contemporary theoretical work, such as that by Gary Becker.

The other chapter that intrigues me was Chapter eleven in which Doug McAdam examines the impact of the 1960s and shows how public sociology moved in a non-chronological manner from relevance to irrelevance. Between 1970 and 2002 the status and visibility of applied work declined sharply, indicated in part by the increased marginalization of subfields such as criminology and demography, and by declining percentages of ASA membership in applied sections such as medical sociology, crime, law and deviance, sociology of education, family, population, mental health, aging and the life course, and alcohol, drugs and tobacco among others. This chapter is important in light of contemporary efforts to reestablish the relevancy of sociology to public policy.

The book would have been better served by a more thorough examination of the split from the American Sociological Association by members who formed the Society for the Study

of Social Problems in 1951, a topic mentioned intermittently in several chapters. Also, although due deference is given to issues of race, gender, and class in several of the thematic chapters, the volume neglects the sustained work of William Jules Wilson and Frances Fox Piven, both past presidents of ASA and both committed to social justice. The present volume, however, serves as a long-awaited and necessary first step toward a historians' history of the discipline. It concludes with an invaluable 117-page appendix of readings and resources, brief biographical sketches of contributors, and a detailed index.

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Amanda Moore McBride & Michael W. Sherraden, (Eds.). *Civic Service Worldwide: Impacts and Inquiry*. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 2007. \$49.95 hardcover.

This book covers an array of research agendas, providing us with a much needed reference volume on Western approaches to Civic Service. The volume also provides readers with a cogent argument for more theorizing and empirical evaluation of existing civic service movements. Because it seeks to inform us about the current civic service movements worldwide as well as calling us to use more social science methods in assessing these movements, it raises expectations concerning future global research agendas. The need for more research and wider dissemination of public knowledge of civic service movements is without a doubt urgent. This book is an excellent starting point but leaves those of us interested in non-Western civic service approaches wanting a second volume that addresses the various forms such civic service takes as well as a comprehensive blueprint for working with communities using non-imported organizational structures and culturally relevant approaches.

The book is divided into five main sections that cover the most salient aspects of civic service: the rise of civic service, the policy and domestic effects of civic service, the implications of civic service for life-cycle outcomes, the international bridging