

# CONTENTS

FOREWORD	vii
PART ONE AN ANALYSIS OF TRADITIONAL SOCIOLOGY	
<b>1 Introductory Comments David Silverman</b>	<b>1</b>
Notes the purpose of the book, the analysis of traditional sociology in which the authors share and the alternative views that they offer. Silverman outlines some basic features of phenomenological sociology especially its focus on the availability of the world.	
<b>2 Sociology and the Social World David Walsh</b>	<b>15</b>
Deals with the differences between the character and tasks of the natural and social sciences. Walsh distinguishes natural from social phenomena, compares the methodologies appropriate for each and the manner in which theories are constructed about them.	
<b>3 Varieties of Positivism David Walsh</b>	<b>37</b>
Discusses the links between contemporary sociology and the "scientific method" as understood in social science research. Behaviourism and variable analysis are used as examples of the latter to highlight the internal problems of a positivistic sociology.	
<b>4 Functionalism and Systems Theory David Walsh</b>	<b>57</b>
Continues the analysis of traditional sociology in terms of a discussion of the nature and limitations of Parsonian functionalism and evolutionary theories. The chapter concludes with an examination of Marx's sociology.	
<b>5 Theory, Methodology and Conceptualization Michael Phillipson</b>	<b>77</b>
Focuses on the problem of meaning and on how conventional methodologies have failed to come to terms with it. Phillipson stresses the inadequacy of conceptualization in sociology and the gap between theory construction and research.	

## PART TWO PHENOMENOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES

## 6 Phenomenological Philosophy and Sociology 119

### Michael Phillipson

Examines the main themes of phenomenology and their implications for a sociology concerned with both form and content.

Ethnomethodology is introduced and the chapter concludes with a discussion of the problem of validity and of the limitations of sociology.

## 7 Some Neglected Questions about Social Reality 165

### David Silverman

Characterizes "folk sociology" in terms of a reliance on commonsense views of social order and examines an alternative view which sees man as a practical theoretician and examines order as the outcome of everyday interpretive work. The second part of the chapter illustrates this theme with examples from conversational analysis and the study of organizations.

## 8 Methodology and Meaning 183

### David Silverman

Restates the previous analysis in more specifically methodological terms by means of a distinction between the social world as a topic for study and as a resource for explanations. Ethnomethodology is discussed as a method of explanation focusing on the process of interpretation.

## 9 On Harold Garfinkel's Ethnomethodology 203

### Paul Filmer

Presents some major aspects of the ethnomethodological perspective implied in the previous chapters. By reference to the work of Garfinkel, the problematic and potentialities of ethnomethodology are outlined and its points of contact with Lévi-Strauss's structuralism and Chomskyan linguistics are discussed.

## INDEX 243