American Journal of Sociology

an extended dimension. Many of the photos focus on use of the body (especially the hands) in the conduct of work. Viewing photos of Willie at work contributes to a fuller understanding of how design, materials, and tools bear on the operating environment of physical things. This book is a valuable asset, with potential applications that extend beyond adoption for the courses suggested by the title (e.g., sociology of work and occupations) or by the manifest contents (e.g., visual sociology). The details about the process of research make it particularly informative about what sociologists do and how they conduct their work, and undergraduate students could benefit from such an introduction. Another message of the book is that society can be studied photographically, and the example set here establishes guidelines for the use of photography in other research contexts.

In another vein, Working Knowledge also seems germane to classroom instruction, about how to convey abstract concepts in their concrete particulars and how to demonstrate the relationships between theory and practice. Abstract discussions about alienation, deskilling, and the rationalization of work are given substance through the connections Harper makes between what goes on in Willie’s backwoods garage and the nature of work in industrial society. This monograph also has considerable potential for encouraging the development of classroom problem-solving, analytic, and communication skills by alternative means. The use of illustrations should be helpful in devising instructional strategies that respond to differences in student learning styles. Working Knowledge is a substantial analytic work that successfully uses pictures to augment understanding of the workings of the social world.


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Structural analysis has been around now for some time, and, as those who work with social networks know, the field is characterized by a lot of methodological sophistication. Unfortunately, the substantive payoffs from the methodological advances have been less visible. As Barry Wellman and S. D. Berkowitz, the editors of Social Structures, note, the new structuralists need to show not only that they can do things technically but also that there is a point in doing them. The goal of this book is to demonstrate that the structuralist approach can yield the necessary substantive payoffs to justify the claims advanced in its favor. In some of the papers here, real progress on this front is evident.

Structural analysis as a distinct approach in social science seems to
make two basic claims. First, relations among actors—institutions, individuals, and roles—are to be viewed as the primary units of analysis. It follows that the structure of relations among actors should be used to induce the categories of analysis with which we work. The extreme position here is that women are women, sociologically, because they have different social relations than others, called men. A basic insight that follows is that the cultural representations of pattern in social network data—our common categories—are not likely to be reliable. The second claim of the new structuralists is that the behaviors we observe are to be viewed as the product of tangible, and thus measurable, constraints experienced by actors rather than as the product of mysterious inner dispositions shaped by personality, socialization, or norms. Adding one and two yields the primary motivation for this work: by stripping open and measuring the social structure in which actors are embedded, one can provide a sociological explanation of observed behavior without imputation of agency to hidden and unmeasurable phenomena.

The papers in Social Structures are divided into five main sections: “Thinking Structurally,” “Markets,” “Social Mobility,” “Communities,” and “Social Change.” This substantive organization, although useful for suggesting the range of work in each area, makes it difficult for readers to see how distinct research strategies and theoretical concerns across substantive topics yield results. Thus, while the editors do a good job of integrating the papers in each section, it is harder to understand how the papers in different sections relate to one another. Despite this, one gets the sense that the choice of papers was purposeful, motivated by a guiding intelligence rare in edited collections. Moreover, most of these papers can be read and understood by people without much mathematical training. The editors deserve praise for making this literature more accessible to lay readers.


Most of the other papers are elaborations of previously published work in areas where the authors have already made substantial intellectual contributions. In some, new thoughts and insights are offered. Harrison White’s contribution, “Varieties of Markets,” builds on his earlier market theory and work on modern production markets (“Where Do Markets Come From,” in the American Journal of Sociology 87:517–47 [1981]) and discusses the relationship between blockmodeling, mainline economic theory, and the \( W(y) \) market theory. Insight into static and pro-
American Journal of Sociology

cessual models of social structure emerges from these comparisons. Different, but also insightful, is Bonnie Erikson's paper, "The Relational Basis of Attitudes," which explores clustering, spatial, and structural equivalence models of attitude homophily.

Other contributions provide introductory overviews of whole research traditions. I found "Networks as Personal Communities," by Barry Wellman, Peter Carrington, and Alan Hall, useful because it integrated from diverse sources much of Wellman's earlier work on the social networks of East Yorkers (Toronto) and the structure of individual support and health networks. In the same vein, John Delaney's paper, "Social Networks and Efficient Resource Allocation," clarifies earlier models of the job search process motivated by Mark Granovetter's work on weak ties and initially modeled by Scott Boorman. Also providing some introduction to the large literature on anthropological social network analysis is Nancy Howell's "Understanding Simple Social Structure: Kinship Units and ties," which shows through simulation how simple demographic processes play an enormous role in determining the structure of elementary kinship structures. Derived from her earlier work in The Demography of the !Kung (Academic Press, 1979), Howell's paper is useful for our thinking about how macro-level demographic processes can be linked with social network data over time.

Among other topics in social network analysis explored in this volume are patron-client relations (Y. Michal Bodemann), relational models of occupational mobility (Joel Levine and John Spadaro), and the structure of the world economic system (Harriet Friedmann).

Good papers by smart authors on intrinsically interesting topics make a good book. Frustration with knowing that the most powerful treatments of the same issues by the same authors are published elsewhere is mitigated by the satisfaction of having these articles together in one volume. I can imagine using it as a resource for a graduate seminar on social networks. Check it out.


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Rediscovering the Social Group is written by psychologists who are concerned with the collective phase of human life. It is presented as a unified theoretical monograph that builds on and attempts to extend the late Henri Tajfel's research on identity and social categorization processes. These attempts, grounded in hypothetico-deductive logic and labora-

1514