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The current fascination with urban life has encouraged a growing interest in the Chicago School of sociology by students of sociological history. It is generally accepted that the field research practised by the Chicago sociologists during the 1920s – the ‘Golden Age of Chicago sociology’ – used methods borrowed from anthropology. However, Rolf Lindner also argues convincingly that the orientation of urban research advocated by Robert Park, the key figure in the Chicago School and himself a former reporter, is ultimately indebted to the tradition of urban reportage. *The Reportage of Urban Culture* goes beyond a thorough reconstruction of the relationship between journalism and sociology. It shows how the figure of the city reporter at the turn of the century represents a new way of looking at life, and reflects a transformation in American culture, from rejecting variety to embracing it.

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IDEAS IN CONTEXT

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# THE REPORTAGE OF URBAN CULTURE

*Robert Park and the Chicago School*

ROLF LINDNER

*Professor of European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

translated by

ADRIAN MORRIS

*Fellow of the Institute of Linguists*

with Jeremy Gaines and

Martin Chalmers



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*To Gudrun and Sarah*

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His favorite professor at the University of Chicago, Robert Park, had told Allan that he was an intelligent young man with closed eyes. Allan was working at getting them open, but it was hard to satisfy Mr. Park. Around the seminar table, whenever Allan or some of the other graduate students ventured an opinion, they risked having Mr. Park look at them owl-eyed and inquire, 'Vas you dere, Cholly?'

Nicholas von Hoffman, *Organized Crimes*

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## *Abbreviations*

EWB	Ernest W. Burgess Papers
JTC	James T. Carey Interviews
REP	Robert E. Park Papers
REPA	Robert E. Park Addenda
SNF	Samuel N. Fuller Papers
SNH	Samuel N. Harper Papers
UCP	University of Chicago Press Collections

All are in the Joseph Regenstein Library, Special Collections Department, University of Chicago; the first number after the abbreviation refers to the box, the second to the folder.