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*Sociological Studies 3*

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PROFESSIONS AND PROFESSIONALIZATION

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SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES 3

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# Professions and Professionalization

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

The concept of profession and the grounds on which certain occupations claim to enjoy professional status is a highly appropriate example of the kind of conceptual area which this series aims to explore. As in the first two numbers on *Social Stratification* and *Migration* the purpose of this volume is to raise a number of questions about the adequacy of theoretical concepts used by sociologists and others to describe social phenomena. In particular the adequacy of concepts that have 'passed into the literature' needs constantly to be reassessed in terms of new research findings and varying empirical examples. The editorial aim of the series is not, however, to provide a new 'final' statement in the form of a 'reader' or a set of papers which tidy up the theoretical garden.

In the best sense it is hoped that Sociological Studies will provide *working papers* on a theme of general and continuing interest to social scientists rather than final statements. The international range covered by the contributors together with the intention that they should speculate freely on the problem produces inevitable discrepancies of viewpoint and highlights further problems yet to be resolved. Equally it is hoped that the series will continue to provide, as it has in its initial volumes, a forum for the development and furthering of contemporary theory in the social sciences as these develop from varying traditions and with differing national tendencies and interests.

Each of the papers in this volume is published for the first time. My wife has continued to provide valuable editorial assistance in preparing the volume for publication on a tight schedule which aims to bring out each annual number less than a year from the completion of the authors' manuscripts. Sociological Studies 4 will be devoted to 'Role' and will appear in 1971 and the theme of Sociological Studies 5 in 1972 will be 'Social Change'.

*Belfast*  
*April 1970*

J.A.J.

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