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PHILIP SMITH is Senior Lecturer in Sociology in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Queensland. He has researched and taught widely in cultural sociology, social theory, crime and deviance, and comparative and historical research, in North America, Britain and continental Europe, as well as in Australia. He is co-author of Sociology: Themes and Perspectives and of Analyzing Visual Data, and author of Cultural Theory.
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Contributors

JEFFREY C. ALEXANDER is Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of numerous works in the area of social and cultural theory. As well as being a founder of the neofunctionalist paradigm, he is noted as an advocate of Durkheimian approaches to culture. Representative publications include Fin de Siècle Social Theory (Verso) and the edited collection Durkheimian Sociology: Cultural Studies (Cambridge).

NICOLA BEISEL is Associate Professor of Sociology at Northwestern University. Her work is concerned with the role that morals and ethics play in mediating public responses not only to the arts, but also to public policy issues like contraception and abortion. Her study of censorship was published as Imperilled Innocents (Princeton).

RICHARD HARVEY BROWN is Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland. Much of his early work concerned the role of language and rhetoric in social life and social theory. His more recent work has continued these concerns, but with an increasing postmodernist emphasis. He is author of Social Science as Civic Discourse (Chicago) and Society as Text (Chicago).

PAUL DIMAGGIO is Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. His research embraces diverse areas including organizational theory, cultural capital, the arts, and the distribution of attitudes and values in American society. Publications reflecting these interests include Nonprofit Enterprise in the Arts (Oxford) and The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis (Chicago).

GARY ALAN FINE is Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia. He is best known as an authority on, and advocate for, symbolic interactionism.
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His empirical work has covered areas as diverse as play, childhood, and food and can be found in books such as *With the Boys* (Chicago) and *Shared Fantasy* (Chicago).

**Nina Fortin** is with the Graduate Center of the City University, New York. She has researched extensively in the area of gender and society. Together with Gaye Tuchman she is responsible for the book *Edging Women Out* (Yale).

**William A. Gamson** is Professor of Sociology at Boston College. Much of his present research covers the interface between social movements, public discourses, and the media. Some of this is presented in *Talking Politics* (Cambridge).

**Wendy Griswold** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago. She is particularly interested in the interplay between literature and society. One of her more recent works, *Culture and Societies in a Changing World* (Pine Forge) provides a global view of the role of culture in contemporary society. Her work on the early theatre was published as *Renaissance Revivals* (Chicago).

**Anne Kane** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas, Austin. Her research interests lie in the area of comparative and historical sociology with a particular emphasis on agrarian politics in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is currently working on a book entitled *Culture and Social Change*, which looks at the Irish Land War of 1879–82.

**Michèle Lamont** is Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. In her research she is particularly concerned with exploring the role of cultural capital in society. Some of this work is contained in *Money, Manners and Morals* (Chicago). She is also co-editor of *Cultivating Differences* (Chicago), an influential collection of essays on the ways that culture sets up moral and political boundaries.

**Calvin Morrill** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Arizona. His research is in the area of corporate life and corporate culture. He also has an interest in qualitative methods. His research on corporate culture can be read about in more detail in *The Executive Way* (Chicago).

**Barry Schwartz** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia. His recent research has explored the question of collective memory and has resulted in a number of pathbreaking analyses of the ways that various American presidents have been remembered.
STEVEN SEIDMAN is Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York, Albany. His more recent work is markedly influenced by postmodernism and queer theory as well as mainstream sociological traditions. These interests are reflected in books such as Contested Knowledge (Oxford), Queer Theory Sociology (Blackwell), and Difference Troubles (Cambridge).

WILLIAM H. SEWELL, JR. is Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago. He is well known among historians as well as sociologists for his studies in the area of class and political culture such as Work and Revolution in France (Cambridge) and Structure and Mobility (Cambridge).

PHILIP SMITH is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Queensland. Although now based in Australia, he describes himself as an American cultural sociologist in exile. His research explores themes such as civil discourse, ritual and violence. Publications include Sociology: Themes and Perspectives (Longmans), Analyzing Visual Data (Sage), and Cultural Theory (Blackwell).

ANN SWIDLER is Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Whilst her contribution to this volume is mostly theoretical, other aspects of her work are more strongly empirical and consider areas such as education, organizations, and civic values. She is author of Organization Without Authority (Harvard) and co-author of the seminal Habits of the Heart (Harper and Row).

GAYE TUCHMAN is Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut. She has research interests in gender and the media as well as in culture more broadly. Her books include Making News (Free Press) and Edging Women Out (Yale). The latter expands upon her chapter in this volume.

ROBIN WAGNER-PACIFICI is Associate Professor of Sociology at Swarthmore College. Much of her research has concerned the links between rhetoric, narrative, and political crisis. Important publications in this area include The Moro Morality Play (Chicago) and Discourse and Destruction (Chicago).

ROBERT WUTHNOW is Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. His work is influenced by structural and poststructural theory and has been concerned with issues such as cultural innovation, public discourses, and religious belief. Representative books include Vocabularies of Public Life (Routledge) and The Restructuring of American Religion (Princeton).
Preface

This book owes much to the intellectual and moral generosity of colleagues on three continents. Cambridge Cultural Social Studies series editors Jeffrey Alexander and Steven Seidman supported the project from its inception. Thanks also to Catherine Max, Chris Doubleday, and Jo Barker at Cambridge University Press. Given the sheer volume of candidate work and the need to produce an affordable and helpful volume, difficult decisions had to be made about what should be included and what excluded. Comments from a number of people helped ease this burden. Advice-givers included: Jeffrey Alexander, Mike Emmison, Ronald Jacobs, Michèle Lamont, Tim Phillips, Steven Seidman, Lyn Spillman, Eleanor Townsley, Mark Western, and the three referees of the book proposal who remain anonymous. The introductory essay has had the generous benefit of ideas, discussion, and/or feedback from Jeffrey Alexander, Mike Emmison, Stuart Hall, Steve Sherwood, Laurent Thevenot, Ken Thompson, and Loic Wacquant. My thanks to the University of Queensland, the Pavis Centre at the Open University, and the EHESS, Paris for providing supportive environments for preparing the book.

With the exception of the introductory essay, this book contains previously published research. In an effort to include a greater variety of work and to provide thematic continuity, the material has been edited for length, with proposed cuts vetted by the authors. Titles have been slightly amended to flag the fact that the contributions here differ from the originals. Readers are asked to remember that the process of editing has inevitably entailed a loss of information. In my opinion this has been most notably the case for the contributions by Wagner-Pacifici and Schwartz, Morrill, and Sewell. In the case of the first two, rather substantial sections of ethnographic detail have had to be excised. In Sewell’s essay an important and sophisticated theoretical critique of Giddens and Bourdieu was removed on the grounds
Preface

that it dealt with complex issues and literatures that were outside the immediate scope of this book. In these and all other cases I am very grateful to the authors for their forbearance and helpful suggestions on where cuts could be sensibly made. On account of these considerations, readers are urged to consult the full text of any contribution (see details below) before judging it in a negative way. Another set of changes that it is important to note here is to be found in Anne Kane’s article. In her original paper Kane drew upon and quoted from an unpublished manuscript by Michael Mann. Because this work has now been published, quotations and references have been adjusted accordingly.

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