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978-0-521-64649-9 - A History of Sociological Research Methods in America, 1920-1960

Jennifer Platt

Frontmatter

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1920–1960**

This is the first book on the general history of US sociological research methods. It provides systematic archival, documentary and interview data which question many conventional views, and raises wider issues of method in the history of ideas. Special attention is paid to commonly neglected themes: ‘case-study’ method and the Lundberg circle, for example. Jennifer Platt discusses the production of methodological writing, showing that neither it nor theoretical work adequately describes research practice. She also investigates the dominance of scientism, and the impact of research funding. The book evaluates the significance of schools of thought and suggests that processes of social construction and memory lead to uneven emphases in the folk history of the discipline. This detailed study develops our understanding of both the history of social thought, and the settings in which social research is produced.

JENNIFER PLATT is Professor of Sociology at the University of Sussex. Her publications include *Social Research in Bethnal Green* (1971) and *Realities of Social Research* (1976), as well as many articles on research methods and the history of sociology. She was President of the British Sociological Association from 1987 to 1989.

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IDEAS IN CONTEXT

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AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science
AAPOR	American Association for Public Opinion Research
ACSS	American Catholic Sociological Society
AES	Agricultural Experiment Station
AJC	American Jewish Committee
ASA	American Sociological Association
BAE	Bureau of Agricultural Economics
BASR	Bureau of Applied Social Research
CABS	Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences
DPS	Division of Program Surveys
ISR	Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
JPA	Juvenile Protective Association
LSRM	Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial
NIMH	National Institute of Mental Health
NORC	National Opinion Research Center
NSF	National Science Foundation
ONR	Office of Naval Research
OPOR	Office of Public Opinion Research
SAA	Society for Applied Anthropology
SRA	Sociological Research Association
SSRC	Social Science Research Council
UCLA	University of California at Los Angeles
UNC	University of North Carolina
USAF	US Air Force
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
WPA	Work Projects Administration
WPOL	Washington Public Opinion Laboratory
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association