

## Contents

Acknowledgements	<i>page viii</i>
Introduction	1
1 Sociology as a population science: the central idea	7
2 Individual variability in human social life	17
3 The individualistic paradigm	32
4 Population regularities as basic explananda	44
5 Statistics, concepts and the objects of sociological study	58
6 Statistics and methods of data collection	70
7 Statistics and methods of data analysis	85
8 The limits of statistics: causal explanation	99
9 Causal explanation through social mechanisms	112
Conclusion	126
References	141
Index	162