

Pioneers of Sociological Science

Goldthorpe reveals the genealogy of present-day sociological science through studies of the key contributions made by seventeen pioneers in the field, ranging from John Graunt and Edmond Halley in the mid-seventeenth century to Otis Dudley Duncan, James Coleman and Raymond Boudon in the late twentieth. Goldthorpe's biographies of these figures and analyses of their work reveal clear lines of intellectual descent, building towards the author's model of sociology as the study of human populations across time and place, previously outlined in his book *Sociology as a Population Science* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). The extent to which recent developments such as computational sociology and analytical sociology are in continuation with the efforts of these influential thinkers is also critically examined. *Pioneers of Sociological Science* will appeal to students and scholars of sociology and to anyone engaged in social science research, from statisticians to social historians.

John H. Goldthorpe is an Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford; a Fellow of the British Academy; a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

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*Statistical Foundations and the Theory
of Action*

John H. Goldthorpe

Nuffield College, Oxford



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For Bess

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As I explain in the Introduction, this book can be thought of as a ‘prequel’ to my *Sociology as a Population Science* (2016), and first of all, I have to acknowledge the intellectual stimulus that was provided by all those who have commented on this earlier work, whether appreciatively or critically, in print or in conversation.

In the Introduction, I also note that I initially raised the idea of this book with my colleague Erzsébet Bukodi. She was enthusiastic and encouraging, and her support continued throughout the writing of the book, despite this at times threatening to impede progress on our concurrent research projects. Erzsébet has readily helped me in all aspects of the work involved, from discussions about difficult substantive issues to the resolving of word-processing problems – often ones of my own making. I am indeed fortunate, and deeply grateful, to have someone close by who can be so surely relied upon to meet any situation, however disturbing it may seem, at least to me, with a positive and constructive response.

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