



Sociology ⁷th edition

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Preface

The seventh Australian edition of *Sociology* follows the first six (1996, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014 and 2016) revisions and adaptations of the UK textbook, *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*. With the fourth edition, the book was made completely distinct from the UK edition, to become a stand-alone Australian guide to sociological thought and research, which has been further improved over the subsequent three editions. All of the earlier editions have remained invaluable texts and source books, and included clear presentation and expression, breadth and depth of coverage, and up-to-date discussions of both theoretical debates and empirical research. This seventh edition builds on all those strengths.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

In revising this seventh edition, the team of authors have drawn on the scholarship of hundreds of international and Australian sociologists, as well as many working in related fields such as criminology, cultural studies, gender studies and political science from throughout the world. It covers the landscape of intellectual inquiry in the Australian social sciences today, drawing on findings from both established and early-career scholars, and research projects ranging from low-budget observational studies to big-budget surveys. Each chapter has been thoroughly revised to keep abreast of current developments in international as well as Australian sociology, including updated and improved figures and tables. All the authors have also made an effort to give each chapter a global perspective, locating the Australian experience in the context of other parts of the world. This edition also responds to current political and social changes and newsworthy public events in Australia and analyses them in the light of existing scholarship.

There are two new chapters. The first, 'Social selves' (Chapter 4), examines how identity

and individual experience can be understood sociologically. The second, 'Work and the economy' (Chapter 7), significantly expands the section that was previously part of the Leisure and Tourism chapter to reflect the centrality of work and economic action to social structure and dynamics. The 'Globalisation' chapter (Chapter 2) also has a completely new section on the sociology of the environment, reflecting the increasing importance of the development of a sociological perspective on global warming and the relationships between humans and the natural environment generally.

Throughout the book, the authors have developed a broader range of 'Reflect and Apply' questions to help consolidate the ideas being discussed. Each chapter has a number of 'Sociological Spotlight' features that highlight particular concepts, as well as a 'Sociological Global Perspective' that puts one of the issues being examined in that chapter in a global context. This makes it possible to discuss what is specifically Australian about the issue being examined, and how it is related to similar or different tendencies in other parts of the world. In addition, each chapter features a case study examining a particular example of one of the ideas discussed, with an accompanying question to reflect on how that idea can be applied.

Each chapter identifies additional web and media resources, as well as a Facebook page related to the book that shares current events, images, data, ideas and much more, linking them with the sociological issues and themes in the book and pairing them with engaging, up-to-date illustrations: www.facebook.com/Sociology.Pearson. In addition, an author-curated YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/c/IntroductiontoSociologyChannel) offers useful short lectures and discussions of core topics in sociology. We invite you to draw on these examples inside or outside of class as a basis for further discussion and exploration.

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**Robert van Krieken, Daphne Habibis, Philip Smith,
Karl Maton, Greg Martin, Brendan Churchill,
Brad West and Emily Hansen**