The Sociology Of Organizations Classic Contemporary And Critical Readings Theory Culture Society

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the sociological study of organizations encompasses both planned and formal organizations as well as spontaneous and informal ones sociologists examine organizations with attention to structure and objectives interactions among members and among organizations

the relationship between the organization and its environment and the social significance or social meaning of the organization the ways of defining and examining organizations vary depending on the theoretical emphasis this book focuses on three things providing a wide and historically accurate portrait of the diversity of sociological theories and their application to organizational studies updating selections that reflect a variety of ways that new technology affects methods of organizing and types of organizations including readings that examine a range of both formal and informal structures and both deliberate and impromptu interactions lively and provocative this textbook is theoretically rigorous disciplinarily informed and representative of heterogeneity within organizational studies

michael handel has assembled an authoritative and wide ranging collection of key articles in the organizations field and complements these papers with a terrific critical survey of the literature his introductory essays will benefit both students and researchers alike this collection is a real service to the field walter w powell stanford university a unique reader and commentary with broad coverage of the classics combined with a healthy skepticism about received theories and an emphasis on the impact of organizations on society the lucid commentary brightens the field charles perrow yale university for the first time a single volume offers a comprehensive selection of primary readings and companion overview essays on the sociology of organizations these readings and essays provide incisive and guided coverage of the subjects normally included in a one semester sociology of organizations course the sociology of organizations covers the full range of theoretical perspectives and substantive topics through readings that are either classics in the field or widely discussed and debated new classics section introductions explain key terms and concepts provide illustrations and summarize related debates and research in clear prose the depth of these overview essays makes this book ideal for use as either as a stand alone text or a supplementary reader after reading this book students will have a thorough understanding of central concepts and an appreciation of the primary texts that are the foundation of the field scholars and students in the fields of sociology management organizational behavior and organizational psychology and those within political science and economics who are interested in how organizations function will find this work a welcome invaluable resource

with original contributions from leading experts in the field this cutting edge research handbook combines theoretical advancement with the newest empirical research to explore the sociology of organizations while including the traditional study of formal corporate business organizations the handbook also explores more transitory informal grassroots organizations such as ngos and artist communities

wharton s anthology provides an overview of contemporary theory and research in the sociology of organizations three features of this book are particularly distinctive an emphasis on sociological content although the readings reflect the multidisciplinarity and breadth of

the organizations area this anthology gives primary emphasis to selections with sociological content hence the book should have strong appeal to instructors and students seeking a sociological understanding of organizations attention to contemporary theory and research a unique feature of this anthology is its attention to contemporary theory and research on organizations at the same time wharton grounds the book in the modern classics the readings reveal how organizational sociology contributes to our understanding of key social and economic issues such as diversity globalization and the environment comprehensive research based and methodologically diverse the book is comprehensive in its coverage of topics levels of analysis and methodological approaches topics covered include conceptions of organizations organizational structure historical development of the capitalist firm nonprofits and alternative organizational forms organizational culture organizational demography and social networks environments and organizational change introductions to each section identify and explain central issues key concepts and relationships among topics

it has been claimed that organization theory is in a state of crisis this book traces the history of the orthodox systems theory paradigm in organization studies from its foundations to its recent deconstruction by postmodernists the analysis offers general support for the sociology in crisis thesis but takes issue with one of its main propositions that paradigms are incommensurable it is argued that paradigms are porous rather than hermetic phenomena a fact that has profound implications for the theory building process

the readings collected in organizational sociology are organized so as to direct attention to the six major theoretical traditions which have emerged since the 1960s to guide research and interpretation of organizational structure and performance the traditions reviewed are contingency theory resource dependence population and community ecology transactions costs economics neo marxist theory and institutional theory major statements of each theory are presented together with examples of related empirical research a concluding section provides examples of recent attempts to combine and integrate two or more of these theories as analysts attempt to account for some aspects of organization rather than pitting one perspective against another contemporary analysts are more likely to selectively combine elements from several theories in order to better understand the phenomenon of interest

examines and summarises the major modern work on the subject of organizations for students of sociological theory and industrial sociology it also offers an important and original alternative to the systems model which has dominated recent work in this field

this is part of a series that considers the theoretical methodological and research issues relevant to organizational sociology both micro and macro sociological approaches are emphasized

this text focuses on recent debates about the contribution which complex organizations have made to the transition from traditional to modern society locating these debates in the historical context provided by recurring themes concerning the relationship between the individual and society

this volume is the product of an interdisciplinary gathering of scholars convened with generous support of the canadian social science and humanities research council it presents new theoretical and empirical papers that examine aspects of the changing nature of jobs and work in organizations from multiple perspectives and methodologies

organizations are one of the characteristic elements of more modern societies the complexity of social life and the difficulty of intended social objetives require that individuals should join their fellow men to try to achieve them it is not easy to understand ordinary life without making continuous references to organizations which act as extensions of man to reach certain difficult goals the study of organizations has been a significant part of the effort exerted by social sciences to rationallize social life in the twentieth century it can be predicted that it will be increasingly important factories companies and organizations have often been successive ways of organizing work from the beginning of industrialization up to our days we are ever more aware of the importance of organizations in our lives sociology which paid attention to the phenomenon of factories from the very beginning has continued to be concerned about the study of organizations we will see here some aspects of that study

social network analysis has transformed the study of organizations over the past 30 years

considers how diverse types of communities influence organizations as well as the associated benefit of developing an accounting for community processes in organizational theory this title focuses on social proximity and networks that has characterized the work on communities

based upon classical and contemporary theory and empirical research this text forms a sociological analysis of organizations focusing on the impacts that organizations have upon individuals and society

in today s organizational sociology organizations are usually regarded as late achievements of modernity in the history of mankind max weber is repeatedly cited as the supposed guarantor of this thesis but neither his type of bureaucratic rule nor his concept of rational work organization although both are tailored to modern conditions contain on closer inspection compelling arguments for a principled limitation of organizations as such to modernity both actually reach their depth of focus only in contrast to pre modern forms of organization a sociology of organization that wants to refer to max weber s work while avoiding the numerous common misunderstandings of its reception must broaden its historical view and consider the possibility of pre modern organizations the author philipp jakobs is a research assistant at the chair of cultural sociology at the university of bonn where he is doing his doctorate on economic organizations from a historical sociological perspective this book is a translation of an original german edition the translation was done with the help of artificial intelligence machine translation by the service deepl com a subsequent human revision was done primarily in terms of content so that the book will read stylistically differently from a conventional translation

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