Back to Middletown

Three Generations of Sociological Reflections

Rita Caccamo

Andrew Jewett

Back to Middletown Rita Caccamo De Luca, 2000 Back to Middletown differs from the numerous other investigations and analyses of one of the most famous community studies in the history of sociology The book addresses from a fresh perspective major issues that have confronted sociology and social anthropology relative levels of analysis the relationship of empirical observation to theory building and conceptual frameworks of interpretation and controversies focusing on the structure of power in America In addition to its value and import as a theoretical work the book takes up questions that reflect the contemporary contradictions and dissonances in the American social fabric Back to Middletown Rita Caccamo, 2002-09-01 Published in 1929 Robert Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd's Middletown A Study in Modern American Culture was destined to become a sociological point of reference for the quality of life in an average American town in the 1920s Their Middletown in Transition a 1937 restudy of the same community now known to be Muncie Indiana provided a second point of reference on community values in the midst of the great American depression Achieving the status of cultural benchmarks these two books have generated an enormous secondary literature on Muncie Middletown including a two volume restudy by Theodore Caplow published in the 1980s and a series of six documentary films Back to Middletown differs from the numerous other investigations and analyses of one of the most famous community studies in the history of sociology The author an Italian sociologist examines the complete Middletown saga through the distinctive lens of an outsider tracing the character and evolution of middle America from the Lynds time down to the present She has been resourceful and meticulous in her discovery of previously unknown sources data documents and correspondence that shed new light on the formation and elaboration of the Lynds Middletown project and on the changing evaluation of the project by generations of scholars In the process the book addresses from a fresh perspective major issues that have confronted sociology and social anthropology relative levels of analysis the relationship of empirical observation to theory building and conceptual frameworks of interpretation and controversies focusing on the structure of power in America In addition to its value and import as a theoretical work the book takes up questions that reflect the contemporary contradictions and dissonances in the American social fabric As the author demonstrates the story of Middletown is a continuing narrative whose end is yet to be written encapsulating the pain of social and economic alienation political war religious messianism and personal demoralization The SAGE Handbook of Social Research Methods Pertti Alasuutari, Leonard Bickman, Julia Brannen, 2008-02-25 The SAGE Handbook of Social Research Methods is a must for every social science researcher It charts the new and evolving terrain of social research methodology covering qualitative quantitative and mixed methods in one volume The Handbook includes chapters on each phase of the research process research design methods of data collection and the processes of analyzing and interpreting data The volume maintains that there is much more to research than learning skills and techniques methodology involves the fit between theory research questions research design and analysis

The book also includes several chapters that describe historical and current directions in social research debating crucial subjects such as qualitative versus quantitative paradigms how to judge the credibility of types of research and the increasingly topical issue of research ethics. The Handbook serves as an invaluable resource for approaching research with an open mind This volume maps the field of social research methods using an approach that will prove valuable for both students and researchers The Myth of Research-Based Policy and Practice Martyn Hammersley, 2013-03-13 Martyn Hammersley's provocative new text interrogates the complex relationship between research policymaking and practice against the background of the evidence based practice movement Addressing a series of probing guestions this book reflects on the challenge posed by the idea that social research can directly serve policymaking and practice Key questions explored include Is scientific research evidence based What counts as evidence for evidence based practice Is social measurement possible and is it necessary What are the criteria by which qualitative research should be judged The book also discusses the case for action research the nature of systematic reviews proposals for interpretive reviews and the process of qualitative synthesis Highly readable and undeniably relevant this book is a valuable resource for both academics and professionals involved with research Rooting for the Home Team Daniel A. Nathan, 2013-05-01 Rooting for the Home Team examines how various American communities create and maintain a sense of collective identity through sports Looking at large cities such as Chicago Baltimore and Los Angeles as well as small rural towns suburbs and college towns the contributors consider the idea that rooting for local athletes and home teams often symbolizes a community s preferred understanding of itself and that doing so is an expression of connectedness public pride and pleasure and personal identity Some of the wide ranging essays point out that financial interests also play a significant role in encouraging fan bases and modern media have made every seasonal sport into yearlong obsessions Celebrities show up for big games politicians throw out first pitches and taxpayers pay plenty for new stadiums and arenas The essays in Rooting for the Home Team cover a range of professional and amateur athletics including teams in basketball football baseball and even the phenomenon of no glove softball Contributors are Amy Bass Susan Cahn Mark Dyreson Michael Ezra Elliott J Gorn Christopher Lamberti Allison Lauterbach Catherine M Lewis Shelley Lucas Daniel A Nathan Michael Oriard Carlo Rotella Jaime Schultz Mike Tanier David K Wiggins Encyclopedia of American Urban History David Goldfield, 2007 Publisher description and David W Zang New <u>Directions in Rural Studies</u> Sam Hillyard, 2025-04-21 Using theory and method this book seeks to critique and illuminate rural matters Rural issues are tenacious and contested as we continue to value the green and pleasant land but in a rose tinted way The opening chapter provides a contextualising discussion of the new ways rurality has been conceptualised Critical debates by leading scholars in recent years have expressed concern about the direction of travel inside rural areas and also with associated academic disciplines These are overviewed and evaluated as are the general trends in rural scholarship This chapter then frames subsequent chapters on substantive areas of rural studies both benign and contested

The subsequent chapters unpack specific issues through original case studies illuminating the contemporary rural They are the green wellbeing zeitgeist narrowed to focus upon gardening and at the other extreme the more emotive issue of country sports and live quarry game shooting A third and final substantive chapter offers new empirical evidence of a rural coastal community experiencing acute healthcare needs Offering original case studies that illuminate and inform new theoretical ideas around the rural this book is essential reading for academics and students across disciplines interested in rural matters

Science, Democracy, and the American University Andrew Jewett, 2014-05-01 This book reinterprets the rise of the natural and social sciences as sources of political authority in modern America Andrew Jewett demonstrates the remarkable persistence of a belief that the scientific enterprise carried with it a set of ethical values capable of grounding a democratic culture a political function widely assigned to religion The book traces the shifting formulations of this belief from the creation of the research universities in the Civil War era to the early Cold War years It examines hundreds of leading scholars who viewed science not merely as a source of technical knowledge but also as a resource for fostering cultural change This vision generated surprisingly nuanced portraits of science in the years before the military industrial complex and has much to teach us today about the relationship between science and democracy The Other Side of Middletown Luke E. Lassiter, 2004 Prompted by the overt omission of Muncie's black community from the famous community study by Robert S Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd Middletown A Study in Modern American Culture the authors initiated this project to reveal the unrecorded historical and contemporary life of Middletown a well known pseudonym for the Midwestern city of Muncie Indiana As a collaboration of community and campus this book recounts the early efforts of Hurley Goodall to develop a community history and archive that told the story of the African American community and rectify the representation of small town America as exclusively white The authors designed and implemented a collaborative ethnographic field project that involved intensive interviews research and writing between community organizations local experts ethnographers and teams of college students This book is a unique model for collaborative research easily accessible to students It will be a valuable resource for instructors in anthropology creative writing sociology community research and African American studies Ethnic Studies Research Timothy P. Fong, 2008-05-02 Study of ethnic groups and race relations have always existed in the academy primarily in the areas of sociology and anthropology However grassroots movements for ethnic studies programs and departments came about with very different agendas for the study of these groups It is surprising then that relatively few books devoted to these methods exist to document and promote this innovation among succeeding generations of graduate students as well as current academics and professional practitioners Ethnic Studies Research synthesizes and benchmarks ethnic studies methodologies as interdisciplinary modes of inquiry providing state of the art summary chapters on key methods and issues extensive bibliographies and promising new directions for the future

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