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Social Sciences : Sociology, general

Stets, Jan, Turner, Jonathan H. (Eds.)

Handbook of the Sociology of Emotions

- Emotion is the response a individual has in response to situations - usually of a social origin (i.e. he insulted me so now I am upset).
- In sociological terms, this includes not only the existence of social stimuli that aids in the prediction of emotion states, but also a cognitive appraisal of emotion- relevant social preconditions and states - meaning that an individual evaluates the social environment and responds accordingly.
- The first reference work to review, critique, and discuss the future research of the sociology of emotions

For almost thirty years, sociologists have increasingly theorized about and conducted research on human emotions. Surprisingly, it was not until the 1970s that the sociology of emotions emerged as a coherent field of inquiry. What makes this late date surprising is that it is now obvious that human behavior, interaction, and organization are driven by emotions. It was an immense oversight for emotions to be de-emphasized in sociological theorizing and research for most of its 175 year history. Since the 1970s, however, the study of emotions has accelerated and is now at the forefront of sociological analysis. This book is designed to bring the reader up to date on the theory and research traditions that have proliferated in the analysis of human emotions. Key figures who have carried the sociology of emotions to its current level of prominence review their own work and the work of others who have made contributions to a particular approach to the study of emotions. The outcome is a comprehensive book that serves as a primer on the cutting edge of sociological work in what is obviously a key dynamic in human affairs. The first section of the book addresses the range of emotions and how they can be classified, the neurological underpinnings of emotions, and the effect of gender on emotions. The second section reviews the prominent sociological theories of emotions, including theories emphasizing power and status, rituals, identity and self, psychoanalytic dynamics, exchange, expectation states, and evolution.

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