

The Field of American Media Sociology: Origins, Resurrection, and Consolidation

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Abstract

This contribution is written against the backdrop of the historic dispersal of early American media sociology out from the core concerns of the discipline and into various importer academic disciplines (including communication, journalism, and media studies) and an ever-growing pervasiveness of media in everyday life which is reflected by a resurgence of sociological scholarship in the United States since the early 2000s. The article divides the field in works that study media inwards – along the threefold dimensions of production and technologies, communication and discourse, reception and effects – and works that study media outwards. We argue that this latter perspective, examining broader theoretical, methodological, and substantive social implications of mass-mediated communication, is the most promising one for a mature field of American media sociology. On this basis, we conclude with some suggestions regarding possible new, and as of yet understudied, lines of inquiry for future media sociologists.

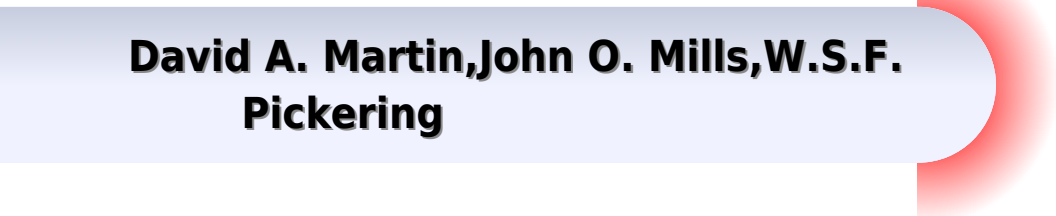
There is hardly any research subfield in American sociology that requires as much self-justification as media sociology. One of us, for instance, recalls responding to the question of a faculty member at orientation in graduate school about research interests with the word “media” and being the only one not receiving a perfunctory “interesting” or “uh-huh” but instead and incredulous “Media?!” And both of the authors of this article, despite being active in the discipline in the United States, have only ever been offered postdoctoral employment in sociology departments in other countries. Although these are but anecdotes, it would not be an overstatement to say that American sociology, narrowly construed – that is, knowledge emerging from sociology departments in the United States – has not been particularly interested in media from the 1980s up until recently. In fact, the occasional interventions in recent years calling for a renewed media sociology would suggest that lack of interest would be an understatement; inevitably, they reflect upon why “sociology abandoned communication” (Katz 2009) around that time (see also: Benson 2009; Jacobs 2009; Pooley and Katz 2008).¹

This is in spite of the fact that the decades before *could* have easily inspired the emergence of media sociology as an institutionalized specialization: The public opinion formation studies (Katz and Lazarsfeld 1955; Lazarsfeld and Merton 1957; Lazarsfeld and Berelson 1944) at Columbia University of the mid 20th century not only laid the groundwork for empirical social research in general but also communication as a social science discipline. They were preceded and paralleled by the Chicago School’s work on mass media (Park 1922; Park 1923; Park 1938; Park 1940; Park 1941; Lang and Lang 1953; Wirth 1948) that are mostly forgotten in the larger discipline and followed by the newsroom ethnographies of the 1970s (Altheide 1976; Fishman 1980; Gans 1979; Schlesinger 1978; Tuchman 1978; Tunstall 1971), which are still hugely influential in communication and media studies.

Strictly speaking, the history of the phrase “media sociology” is mostly associated with the study of *news* media. Key programmatic statements (Benson 2004; Gidin 1978; Gans 1972;

Sociology Of The Resurrection

**David A. Martin, John O. Mills, W.S.F.
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The Sociology of the Resurrection William J. Lunny, 1989 *Sociology of Crisis* Myrto Tsilimpounidi, 2016-11-03 The global financial crisis has demonstrated the impact and implications of late capitalism and its bedfellow globalisation In the European context crisis is seen as a threat to the stability of the region rather than a local or national concern Post 2008 crisis is social and political rather than merely financial as Western countries witness the consequences of consumption growth and profit In this book Tsilimpounidi demonstrates how sociologists must develop new approaches to examining rapid shifts in the social landscape since crisis is not merely reflected in balance sheets but is mediated through spectacular imagery of loss deprivation and increased vectors of marginalisation Providing focused and valuable insight into the pressing problems of those living in Greece in relation to the wider spheres of the nation and at the level of the European Union *Sociology of Crisis* takes an approach that is firmly located within a critical sociological appeal to reflexivity A timely engagement with the problem of crisis at a macro level and in dialogue with the everyday experiences of crisis on a micro level this interdisciplinary title will appeal to both undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in sociology social policy geography urban studies and research methods social science **After the Y2K Fireworks** Bhuvan Unhelkar, 1999-05-24 *After the Y2K Fireworks* focuses on the business and technical aspects of surviving the year 2000 problem from an author conversant with both business particularly financial and computer professionals More companies than not will fail to prevent the problems arising from this potential programming disaster *After the Y2K Fireworks* addresses this part of the market putting the problem in perspective and examining all the various organizational and technical issues required to rebuild Luke 18:35-24:53, Volume 35C John Nolland, 2018-04-24 *The Word Biblical Commentary* delivers the best in biblical scholarship from the leading scholars of our day who share a commitment to Scripture as divine revelation This series emphasizes a thorough analysis of textual linguistic structural and theological evidence The result is judicious and balanced insight into the meanings of the text in the framework of biblical theology These widely acclaimed commentaries serve as exceptional resources for the professional theologian and instructor the seminary or university student the working minister and everyone concerned with building theological understanding from a solid base of biblical scholarship Overview of Commentary Organization Introduction covers issues pertaining to the whole book including context date authorship composition interpretive issues purpose and theology Each section of the commentary includes Pericope Bibliography a helpful resource containing the most important works that pertain to each particular pericope Translation the author's own translation of the biblical text reflecting the end result of exegesis and attending to Hebrew and Greek idiomatic usage of words phrases and tenses yet in reasonably good English Notes the author's notes to the translation that address any textual variants grammatical forms syntactical constructions basic meanings of words and problems of translation Form Structure Setting a discussion of redaction genre sources and tradition as they concern the origin of the pericope its canonical form

and its relation to the biblical and extra biblical contexts in order to illuminate the structure and character of the pericope Rhetorical or compositional features important to understanding the passage are also introduced here Comment verse by verse interpretation of the text and dialogue with other interpreters engaging with current opinion and scholarly research Explanation brings together all the results of the discussion in previous sections to expose the meaning and intention of the text at several levels 1 within the context of the book itself 2 its meaning in the OT or NT 3 its place in the entire canon 4 theological relevance to broader OT or NT issues General Bibliography occurring at the end of each volume this extensive bibliography contains all sources used anywhere in the commentary

Gospel Women Richard Buckham, 2002-05-15 There have been many studies of the women in the Gospels but this is a new kind of book on the subject Rather than offering a general overview of the Gospel women or focusing on a single theme Richard Bauckham studies in great depth both the individual women who appear in the Gospels and the specific passages in which they appear This unique approach reveals that there is much more to be known about such women than previous studies have assumed Employing historical and literary readings of the biblical texts Bauckham successfully captures the particularity of each woman he studies An opening look at the Old Testament book of Ruth introduces the possibilities of reading Scripture from a woman's perspective Other studies examine the women found in Matthew's genealogies the prophet Anna Mary of Clopas Joanna Salome and the women featured in the Gospel resurrection narrative A number of these women have never been the subject of deep theological enquiry Unlike most recent books Bauckham's work is not dominated by a feminist agenda It does not presume in advance that the Gospel texts support patriarchal oppression but it does venture some of the new and surprising possibilities that arise when the texts are read from the perspective of their female characters Astute sensitive to issues of gender and written by one of today's leading theologians *Gospel Women* will be of interest to a wide range of readers

A History of Heaven Jeffrey Burton Russell, 1999-01-03 Well known for his historical accounts of Satan and hell Jeffrey Burton Russell explores the brighter side of eternity heaven He not only examines concepts found among Jews Greeks and Romans but asks how time passes in eternity

Memories of Jesus Robert B. Stewart, Gary R. Habermas, 2010 A gathering of scholarly essays in response and tribute to James D G Dunn's influential book *Jesus Remembered* followed by a response from Dunn himself

Sociology and Theology David A. Martin, John O. Mills, W.S.F. Pickering, 2003-12-01 This study brings together two disciplines now more and more considered being conjuncted Both sociology and theology give an account of the human condition but the majority of sociologists and theologians have dismissed each other's views as irrelevant Updated reprint of the book with the same title published in 1980 by The Harvester Press Contributors John Orme Mills Eileen Barker Christopher Harris David Martin William Pickering W Donald Hudson Robin Gill Gregory Baum Timothy Radcliffe Antoine Lion Robert Towler

Sociology, Phenomenology and Marxian Analysis Barry Smart, 2013-10-15 Sociology is an established academic discipline but there has been continuing debate over its status as a science and the nature of its subject

matter This led to the emergence of a phenomenological sociology and to critiques of positivist sociology This critical reappraisal of the relevance of Marxian analysis for a science of society shows how these developments within sociology have had their counterpart in Marxism The author analyses the status of Marx s work and the Marxist tradition in sociology He focuses upon those concerns which are common to both Marxian analysis and sociology the question of subjectivity the nature of social reality and the dialectical relationship of the doing or practice of a science of society to the social world within which such social analyses are situated Originally published in 1976 **Ebook: Sociology: A Brief Introduction**
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