

# Case Study Sociology

Using the case study provided critically evaluate and discuss the influence of theories and concepts drawn from psychology, sociology and social policy on social work practice with a specific service user group.

This essay will examine theories and topics within Sociology, Psychology, and Social Policy relevant to the case study. The service user discussed in relevance to this essay is Julie, a forty-six-year-old unemployed female with a learning disability and clinical obesity that impedes her ability to uphold her personal care. This essay will critically evaluate and discuss the Sociology of social inequality and poverty, the Psychology of Julie's learning disability, and the Social Policy appropriate to Julie's current situation. A conclusion will be reached as to how a holistic approach to social work, alongside relevant theories, can be applied in practice concerning Julie.

## Sociology

Social inequality refers to the difference in people's share of resources (Payne, 2013). This concept delves into the idea that it is an individual's social division that structures and impacts their life chances. This is due to socially constructed categories such as age, gender, ethnicity, disability, class, and health (Payne, 2013).

To simplify, being born into a higher-class family enables an individual to have more opportunities throughout life than those born into working-class or poor families.

Marx et al. (1998) categorise two main classes as the ruling class and the subject class, arguing that the ruling class derives from ownership and control of production. They believe it has created a society within which the subject class is continuously exposed to oppression and offered fewer opportunities due to the hierarchy within a capitalist society. Marx et al's (1998) conflict theory explains the battles between the two classes as a result of the system's oppressive nature, as it acknowledges the inability for social inequality in families to change. Once you are born into poverty, individuals have a tendency to accept this status and pass it on to their children.

On the other hand, a functionalist perspective suggests that our society is like a living organism, needing differing roles and hierarchies to exist in equilibrium (Durkheim, 1972). The Functionalist perspective argues that children should be socialised into the norms and values of society to maintain necessary roles (Durkheim, 1972), such as women becoming mothering figures and men working within their class role. If you live outside these roles you are considered deviant. However, deviance in society poses a vital function as it sets an example to others of unacceptable behaviour, and therefore provides guidelines to maintain social order (Durkheim, 1972). Both Marxist and Functionalist perspectives acknowledge that social inequality leads to an inability to cross class boundaries and gain better socio-economic opportunities. However, they differ in their interpretation of whether this is unjust and oppressive, or whether it creates a balance in society to fill necessary roles.

Julie was born into poverty, has a learning disability, is obese, and is female. She has inherited a role within the subject class and therefore lacks socioeconomic prestige, meaning it is difficult to further her opportunities naturally. Julie was brought up in a single-mother household and has needed help from the state with her learning disability and to find housing. Therefore, Julie is part of the 'sick role' in society. She cannot fulfil her social duties, leading her to be part of a 'dependency culture' (Spicker, 2014). Spicker (2014) believes there is a problematic growth in dependency culture as individuals can use state intervention rather than forming their own economic independence. Julie utilised state-funded mechanisms to go to a special school and work menial jobs for low pay, however, it has now closed and she has been unable to find employment since. Marxists would disagree that Julie is

## Case Study Sociology: Unveiling the Power of In-Depth Social Research

### Introduction:

Sociology, the scientific study of society and social interactions, relies heavily on rigorous research methods to understand complex social phenomena. Among these methods, the case study stands out

as a powerful tool for in-depth analysis and rich qualitative data gathering. This blog post delves into the world of case study sociology, exploring its methodologies, applications, advantages, limitations, and crucial considerations for conducting effective research. We'll dissect the process, examine successful examples, and equip you with the knowledge to understand and even conduct your own sociological case studies. Prepare to unlock the secrets behind this invaluable research approach.

## **What is a Case Study in Sociology?**

A case study in sociology is an in-depth investigation of a single social unit – be it an individual, a group, an organization, an event, or a community. Unlike large-scale quantitative studies that focus on broad trends, case studies prioritize rich, detailed data about a specific instance. This allows sociologists to explore intricate social processes, uncover nuanced relationships, and develop insightful interpretations that broader surveys might miss. The goal is not necessarily to generalize findings to the entire population but to gain a deep understanding of the specific case under scrutiny.

## **The Importance of Context in Case Study Sociology**

One key strength of the case study approach is its emphasis on context. Sociologists recognize that social phenomena are rarely isolated events. They are embedded within specific historical, cultural, and structural circumstances that profoundly shape their development and outcome. A case study allows researchers to examine these contextual factors in detail, building a comprehensive picture of the social reality under investigation.

## **Types of Case Study Designs in Sociology**

There are several different types of case studies employed in sociological research:

### **1. Intrinsic Case Studies:**

These focus on a particular case because it is inherently interesting or unique. The researcher isn't seeking to generalize findings, but rather to deeply understand the specific characteristics of that one case. For example, a study focusing on a specific community's response to a natural disaster.

## **2. Instrumental Case Studies:**

These use a specific case to illuminate a broader theoretical issue or to illustrate a particular social process. The chosen case serves as a vehicle to understand a larger phenomenon. For instance, studying a single company's implementation of a new diversity program to understand broader organizational change.

## **3. Collective Case Studies:**

These involve examining multiple cases to compare and contrast their characteristics and identify patterns. This approach can lead to more generalizable findings compared to single case studies, while still retaining the in-depth qualitative analysis.

# **Conducting a Case Study in Sociology: A Step-by-Step Guide**

Conducting a successful case study requires careful planning and execution. The process typically involves these stages:

## **1. Defining the Research Question:**

Clearly articulate the central research question guiding the study. This question should be focused and manageable within the scope of a single case study.

## **2. Selecting the Case:**

Choosing the right case is crucial. Consider the accessibility of data, the relevance to the research question, and the potential for rich insights.

## **3. Data Collection:**

Utilize a range of methods, including interviews, observations, document analysis, and archival research. Triangulation (using multiple data sources) is recommended to ensure the validity and

reliability of findings.

## **4. Data Analysis:**

Analyze the collected data systematically, identifying patterns, themes, and relationships. Qualitative data analysis software can be helpful in managing large datasets.

## **5. Reporting the Findings:**

Present the findings in a clear, concise, and well-organized manner, ensuring that the contextual factors are adequately described.

# **Advantages and Limitations of Case Study Sociology**

Advantages:

In-depth understanding: Provides detailed insights into complex social phenomena.

Contextual richness: Captures the nuances of specific social settings.

Generates hypotheses: Can inform the development of future research.

Flexibility: Adaptable to various research questions and settings.

Limitations:

Generalizability: Findings may not be easily generalizable to other populations.

Researcher bias: Potential for subjective interpretations.

Time-consuming: Requires significant time and resources.

Data management: Can be challenging to manage and analyze large datasets.

## **Conclusion:**

Case study sociology offers a valuable approach for gaining deep, contextualized understanding of social phenomena. While limitations exist regarding generalizability, its strength lies in its ability to uncover rich detail and nuanced insights often missed by broader quantitative studies. By carefully planning and executing the research process, sociologists can leverage the power of case studies to contribute significantly to our understanding of the social world.

## FAQs:

1. What are some examples of successful sociological case studies? Studies on the impact of social media on political mobilization, the effects of gentrification on specific communities, or analyses of organizational cultures within specific companies are all examples.
2. How do I ensure the objectivity of my case study research? Employing rigorous data collection methods, using triangulation, reflexivity (acknowledging your own biases), and peer review can help enhance objectivity.
3. What ethical considerations should I address when conducting a case study? Informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, and minimizing potential harm to participants are crucial ethical considerations.
4. Can quantitative data be incorporated into a case study? Absolutely. Quantitative data can complement qualitative data, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the case.
5. What software can assist in case study data analysis? NVivo, Atlas.ti, and MAXQDA are popular qualitative data analysis software packages that can aid in coding, organizing, and analyzing qualitative data from interviews, observations, and documents.

**case study sociology: *Case Study Methods*** Jacques Hamel, Stephane Dufour, Dominic Fortin, 1993-09-15 In this introduction to understanding, researching and doing case studies in the social sciences, Hamel outlines several differing traditions of case study research including the Chicago School of Sociology, the anthropological case studies of Malinowski, and the French La Play school tradition. He shows how each developed, changed and has been practiced over time. Suggestions for the practice of case studies are made for the novice reader and an additional feature is the extensive bibliography on case study methods in social science to allow for further exploration of the topic.

**case study sociology: Contemporary Social Issues: Sociology Through Case Studies** Michael Gibbons, 2016-06-30 Contemporary Social Issues: Sociology through Case Studies

**case study sociology: Doing Sociology** Jammie Price, Roger Straus, Jeff Breese, 2009-08-16 This successor to the well-known Using Sociology covers standard topics found in any sociology textbook. Doing Sociology walks lay readers through the steps of doing real-life sociological practices as conducted by experts in the field. The contributors to this volume range from university and college faculty, government sociologists, and practitioners from the private sector. Each of the chapters is by intention and design a personal statement, a case study illustrating how the authors practice sociology in their own words and style, giving readers a clearer understanding of what sociologists do outside of teaching in universities. And most importantly, an understanding of what they could do with sociology. Readable, relevant, and accessible, Doing Sociology is an invaluable resource as a stand-alone course reader or as a supplement to a traditional textbook.

**case study sociology: What Is a Case?** Charles C. Ragin, Howard Saul Becker, 1992-07-31 The concept of the case is a basic feature of social science research and yet many questions about how a case should be defined, selected, and judged are far from settled. The contributors to this volume probe the nature of the case and the ways in which different understandings of the concept affect the conduct and the results of research. The contributions demonstrate that the work of any given researcher is often characterised by some hybrid of these basic approaches, and it is important to understand that most research involves multiple definitions and uses of cases, as both specific empirical phenomena and as general theoretical categories.

**case study sociology:** *A Case for the Case Study* Joe R. Feagin, Anthony M. Orum, Gideon Sjoberg, 2016-08-01 Since the end of World War II, social science research has become increasingly quantitative in nature. *A Case for the Case Study* provides a rationale for an alternative to quantitative research: the close investigation of single instances of social phenomena. The first section of the book contains an overview of the central methodological issues involved in the use of the case study method. Then, well-known scholars describe how they undertook case study research in order to understand changes in church involvement, city life, gender roles, white-collar crimes, family structure, homelessness, and other types of social experience. Each contributor confronts several key questions: What does the case study tell us that other approaches cannot? To what extent can one generalize from the study of a single case or of a highly limited set of cases? Does case study work provide the basis for postulating broad principles of social structure and behavior? The answers vary, but the consensus is that the opportunity to examine certain kinds of social phenomena in depth enables social scientists to advance greatly our empirical understanding of social life. The contributors are Leon Anderson, Howard M. Bahr, Theodore Caplow, Joe R. Feagin, Gilbert Geis, Gerald Handel, Anthony M. Orum, Andree F. Sjoberg, Gideon Sjoberg, David A. Snow, Ted R. Vaughan, R. Stephen Warner, Christine L. Williams, and Norma Williams.

**case study sociology:** *The Sociology of Shari'a: Case Studies from around the World* Adam Possamai, James T Richardson, Bryan S. Turner, 2014-12-04 This edited volume offers a collection of papers that present a comparative analysis of the development of Shari'a in countries with Muslim minorities, such as America, Australia, Germany, and Italy, as well as countries with Muslim majorities, such as Malaysia, Bangladesh, Turkey, and Tunisia. *The Sociology of Shari'a* provides a global analysis of these important legal transformations and analyzes the topic from a sociological perspective. It explores examples of non-Western countries that have a Muslim minority in their populations, including South Africa, China, Singapore, and the Philippines. In addition, the third part of the book includes case studies that explore some ground-breaking theories on the sociology of Shari'a, such as the application of Black, Chambliss, and Eisenstein's sociological perspectives.

**case study sociology:** *The Case Study in Social Research* Barbara Sena, 2023-10-23 *The Case Study in Social Research* proposes and develops an innovative, rigorous, and up to date methodological clarification of the case study approach in the social sciences to consistently and consciously apply it to different fields of social research. It aspires to provide the reader not with a set of prescriptive rules, but rather with a 'methodological awareness' of the complexity and peculiarity of applying a case study, so that they may carefully evaluate the limits and potential of conducting this type of investigation. What is case study research in the sociological field really? How do we carry out a social inquiry of this type? How does it differ from other social research approaches? In answering these questions, this book leads the reader on a historical, epistemological, technical, and applicative path in the methodology of social research, by examining all aspects of the case study approach. The aim is to respond to as-yet still equivocal and misunderstood methodological issues, and provide a systematic illustration and exemplification of the case study approach, beginning from its sociological and methodological roots, its research design, and on through to its preparation and administration. Space is also dedicated to specifically and practically understanding the differences between the case study and the other social research approaches, with which it is often confused in literature, such as ethnographic research, grounded theory, or qualitative research. This book is suitable for upper level undergraduate and postgraduate students in the social sciences, and as a supplementary textbook to primary methods texts, as well as for social researchers, and other practitioners and academics with a firm grounding in social research methodologies.

**case study sociology:** *Case Study Method* Roger Gomm, Martyn Hammersley, Peter Foster, 2000-10-17 This is the most comprehensive guide to the current uses and importance of case study methods in social research. The editors bring together key contributions from the field which reflect different interpretations of the purpose and capacity of case study research. The address issues such as: the problem of generalizing from study of a small number of cases; and the role of case study in

developing and testing theories. The editors offer in-depth assessments of the main arguments. An annotated bibliography of the literature dealing with case study research makes this an exhaustive and indispensable guide.

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**case study sociology: Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences** Alexander L. George, Andrew Bennett, 2005-04-15 The use of case studies to build and test theories in political science and the other social sciences has increased in recent years. Many scholars have argued that the social sciences rely too heavily on quantitative research and formal models and have attempted to develop and refine rigorous methods for using case studies. This text presents a comprehensive analysis of research methods using case studies and examines the place of case studies in social science methodology. It argues that case studies, statistical methods, and formal models are complementary rather than competitive. The book explains how to design case study research that will produce results useful to policymakers and emphasizes the importance of developing policy-relevant theories. It offers three major contributions to case study methodology: an emphasis on the importance of within-case analysis, a detailed discussion of process tracing, and development of the concept of typological theories. Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences will be particularly useful to graduate students and scholars in social science methodology and the philosophy of science, as well as to those designing new research projects, and will contribute greatly to the broader debate about scientific methods.

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**case study sociology: Reforming Education and Changing Schools** Richard Bowe, Stephen J. Ball, Anne Gold, 2017-04-28 The Education Reform Act introduced in England and Wales in 1988 brought about enormous changes in schools, both as management units and as educational institutions. This book, first published in 1992, was the first to look at the effects of the Act in all its aspects on the basis of empirical evidence gathered from schools over the first three years of the Act's implementation. It looks at how change is being achieved in the Local Management of Schools, the influence of the market on schools, the introduction of the National Curriculum and the place of Special Needs provision in the new education scene. This book will be of interest to all who want to know about educational reform in Britain. It will also be of interest to those in the fields of education policy, educational management and sociology of education.

**case study sociology:** The SAGE Handbook of Case-Based Methods David Byrne, Charles C Ragin, 2009-07-01 This handbook provides a clear examination of case-oriented research. It defines case-based social research as a subfield of methodology.

**case study sociology: Case Study Research** John Gerring, 2007 Aims to provide a general understanding of the case study method as well as specific tools for its successful implementation. It breaks down traditional boundaries between qualitative and quantitative, experimental and nonexperimental, positivist and interpretivist.

**case study sociology:** The Extended Case Method Michael Burawoy, 2009-05-27 In this remarkable collection of essays, Michael Burawoy develops the extended case method by connecting his own experiences among workers of the world to the great transformations of the twentieth century—the rise and fall of the Soviet Union and its satellites, the reconstruction of U.S. capitalism, and the African transition to post-colonialism in Zambia. Burawoy's odyssey began in 1968 in the Zambian copper mines and proceeded to Chicago's South Side, where he worked as a machine operator and enjoyed a unique perspective on the stability of advanced capitalism. In the 1980s, this perspective was deepened by contrast with his work in diverse Hungarian factories. Surprised by the collapse of socialism in Hungary in 1989, he journeyed in 1991 to the Soviet Union, which by the

end of the year had unexpectedly dissolved. He then spent the next decade studying how the working class survived the catastrophic collapse of the Soviet economy. These essays, presented with a perspective that has benefited from time and rich experience, offer ethnographers a theory and a method for developing novel understandings of epochal change.

**case study sociology:** Key Concepts in Social Research Geoff Payne, Judy Payne, 2004-03-18  
`This clearly written and user-friendly book is ideal for students or researchers who wish to get a basic, but solid grasp of a topic and see how it fits with other topics. By following the links a student can easily and efficiently build up a clear conceptual map of social research' - Malcolm Williams, Reader in Sociology, Cardiff University  
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At last, an authoritative, crystal-clear introduction to research methods which really takes account of the needs of students for accessible, focused information to help with undergraduate essays and exams. The key concepts discussed here are based on a review of teaching syllabi and the authors' experience of many years of teaching. Topics range over qualitative and quantitative approaches and combine practical considerations with philosophical issues. They include several new topics, like internet and phone polling, internet searches, and visual methods. Each section is free-standing, can be tackled in order, but with links to other sections to enable students to cross-reference and build up a wider understanding of central research methods. To facilitate comprehension and aid study, each section begins with a definition. It is followed by a summary of key points with key words and guides to further reading and up-to-date examples. The book is a major addition to undergraduate reading lists. It is reliable, allows for easy transference to essays and exams and easy to use, and exceptionally clearly written for student consumption. The book answers the needs of all those who find research methods daunting, and for those who have dreamt of an ideal introduction to the subject.

**case study sociology:** The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life Erving Goffman, 2021-09-29 A notable contribution to our understanding of ourselves. This book explores the realm of human behavior in social situations and the way that we appear to others. Dr. Goffman uses the metaphor of theatrical performance as a framework. Each person in everyday social intercourse presents himself and his activity to others, attempts to guide and control the impressions they form of him, and employs certain techniques in order to sustain his performance, just as an actor presents a character to an audience. The discussions of these social techniques offered here are based upon detailed research and observation of social customs in many regions.

**case study sociology: Psychologism** Martin Kusch, 2005-06-23 First published in 1995. When did psychology become a distinct discipline? What links the continental and analytic traditions in philosophy? Answers to both questions are found in this extraordinary account of the debate surrounding psychologism in Germany at the turn of the century. The trajectory of twentieth century philosophy has been largely determined by this anti-naturalist view which holds that empirical research is in principle different from philosophical inquiry, and can never make significant contributions to the latter's central issues. Martin Kusch explores the origins of psychologism through the work of two major figures in the history of twentieth century philosophy, Gottlob Frege and Edmund Husserl. His sociological and historical reconstruction shows how the power struggle between the experimental psychologists and pure philosophers influenced the thought of these two philosophers, shaping their agendas and determining the success of their arguments for a sharp separation of logic from psychology. A move that was crucial in the creation of the distinct discipline of psychology and was responsible for the anti-naturalism found in both the analytic and the phenomenological traditions in philosophy. Students and lecturers in philosophy, psychology, linguistics, cognitive science and history will find this study invaluable for understanding a key moment in the intellectual history of the twentieth century.

**case study sociology:** Leisure, Lifestyle and the New Middle Class Derek Wynne, 2002-01-22 In



this valuable study, conducted within the theoretical context associated with the work of Pierre Bourdieu, Derek Wynne looks at how the 'new middle class' of the late twentieth century goes about constructing and defending its social identity.

**case study sociology:** Multimethod Research, Causal Mechanisms, and Case Studies Gary Goertz, 2017-08-15 An innovative and accessible textbook on multimethod and case-study research Multimethod research has become indispensable to doing social science, and is essential to anyone who conducts large-scale research projects in political science, sociology, education, comparative law, or business. This authoritative and accessible book offers the first truly comprehensive approach to multimethod and case-study research, and is particularly aimed at students of qualitative methods in the social sciences. Walking step-by-step through these cutting-edge tools and techniques, Gary Goertz introduces a new integrated approach that unites three corners of a powerful research triad—causal mechanisms, cross-case causal inference, and within-case causal inference. He explains how the investigation of causal mechanisms and the making of within-case causal inference are the central goals of multimethod and case study research, and provides a logic for connecting case studies and causal mechanism analysis with cross-case analysis, whether they are statistical analyses, experiments, or QCA. In addition, Goertz analyzes how one can generalize using case studies, as well as systematically test game-theoretic and other models using multiple case studies. Provides a fully integrated approach to multimethod and case-study research An essential resource for students and researchers in political science, sociology, education, law, and business Covers constraint causal mechanism, game theory and case studies, QCA, and the use of case studies to systematically test and generalize theories An ideal textbook for a first-year graduate course in methods or research design

**case study sociology:** Social Science Research Anol Bhattacharjee, 2012-04-01 This book is designed to introduce doctoral and graduate students to the process of conducting scientific research in the social sciences, business, education, public health, and related disciplines. It is a one-stop, comprehensive, and compact source for foundational concepts in behavioral research, and can serve as a stand-alone text or as a supplement to research readings in any doctoral seminar or research methods class. This book is currently used as a research text at universities on six continents and will shortly be available in nine different languages.

**case study sociology:** *The Anatomy of the Case Study* Gary Thomas, Kevin Myers, 2015-05-20 This sharp, stimulating title provides a structure for thinking about, analysing and designing case study. It explores the historical, theoretical and practical bones of modern case study research, offering to social scientists a framework for understanding and working with this form of inquiry. Using detailed analysis of examples taken from across the social sciences Thomas and Myers set out, and then work through, an intricate typology of case study design to answer questions such as: How is a case study constructed? What are the required, inherent components of case study? Can a coherent structure be applied to this form of inquiry? The book grounds complex theoretical insights in real world research and includes an extended example that has been annotated line by line to take the reader through each step of understanding and conducting research using case study.

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**case study sociology:** Public Sociology Philip Nyden, Leslie Hossfeld, Gwendolyn Nyden, 2011-05-04 This book highlights the variety of ways in which sociology brings about social change in community settings, assists nonprofit and social service organizations in their work, and influences policy at the local, regional, and national levels. It also spotlights sociology that informs the general public on key policy issues through media and creates research centers that develop and carry out

collaborative research. The book details a broad range of sociology projects. The 33 case studies are divided into 8 sections. Each section also includes sidebars of include non-sociologists writing about the impact of selected research projects. In some cases these are interdisciplinary projects since solutions to social problems are often multifaceted and do not fit into the disciplines as defined by universities. Further, it emphasizes actions and connections. This is not armchair sociology where self-proclaimed public sociologists just write articles suggesting what government, corporations, communities, or others ought to do. The authors are interested in the active connections to publics and users of the research, not the passive research process.

**case study sociology: Sociology in Action** David S. Hachen, 2001 Part 1 Doing Sociology Seeing Society Using Theory Decoding Culture Uncovering Inequalities and Power Imagining Futures Part 2 Decision Cases The Worth of a Sparrow Conflict at Riverside Tossin' and Turnin' Lucy Allman In the Eye of the Beholder The Case of the Minnetonka Kawn Ordinance Off to College What's So Scary about the Truth? People Like You Lisa's Hidden Identity.

**case study sociology: Multiple Case Study Analysis** Robert E. Stake, 2013-04-29 Examining situational complexity is a vital part of social and behavioral science research. This engaging text provides an effective process for studying multiple cases--such as sets of teachers, staff development sessions, or clinics operating in different locations--within one complex program. The process also can be used to investigate broadly occurring phenomena without programmatic links, such as leadership or sibling rivalry. Readers learn to design, analyze, and report studies that balance common issues across the group of cases with the unique features and context of each case. Three actual case reports from a transnational early childhood program illustrate the author's approach, and helpful reproducible worksheets facilitate multicase recording and analysis.

**case study sociology: Case Study Research in Practice** Helen Simons, 2009-03-18 Case Study Research in Practice explores the theory and practice of case study research. Helen Simons draws on her extensive experience of teaching and conducting case study to provide a comprehensive and practical account of how to design, conduct and communicate case study research. It addresses questions often raised by students and common misconceptions about case research. In four sections the book covers - Rationale, concept and design of case study research - Methods, ethics and reflexivity in case study - Interpreting, analyzing and reporting the case - Generalizing and theorizing in case study research Rich with 'tales from the field' and summary memos as an aide-memoire to future action, the book provides fresh insights and challenges for researchers to guide their practice of case study research. This is an ideal text for those studying and conducting case study research in education, health and social care, and related social science disciplines. Helen Simons is Professor Emeritus of Education University of Southampton

**case study sociology: Stigma** Erving Goffman, 2009-11-24 From the author of The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, Stigma is analyzes a person's feelings about himself and his relationship to people whom society calls "normal." Stigma is an illuminating excursion into the situation of persons who are unable to conform to standards that society calls normal. Disqualified from full social acceptance, they are stigmatized individuals. Physically deformed people, ex-mental patients, drug addicts, prostitutes, or those ostracized for other reasons must constantly strive to adjust to their precarious social identities. Their image of themselves must daily confront and be affronted by the image which others reflect back to them. Drawing extensively on autobiographies and case studies, sociologist Erving Goffman analyzes the stigmatized person's feelings about himself and his relationship to "normals" He explores the variety of strategies stigmatized individuals employ to deal with the rejection of others, and the complex sorts of information about themselves they project. In Stigma the interplay of alternatives the stigmatized individual must face every day is brilliantly examined by one of America's leading social analysts.

**case study sociology: Research Training for Social Scientists** Dawn Burton, 2000-03-15 With indispensable advice for students from all social science backgrounds, this handbook provides the core conceptual and practical skills to embark on succesful research. The organization of the book reflects the knowledge that is required in order to become a competent and effective researcher. It

follows the life-cycle of the research project: it begins with a discussion of ethical and philosophical issues; presents guides to both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis; provides help on using computers in research; and includes advice on how to write up and present a research project. Based on the UK Economic and Social Research Council advice on the training which students should undertake in preparation for postgraduate research, this book will be invaluable for all beginning researchers.

**case study sociology: The Study of Sociology** Herbert Spencer, 1874

**case study sociology: Visual Sociology** Dennis Zuev, Gary Bratchford, 2021-01-04 This book provides a user-friendly guide to the expanding scope of visual sociology, through a discussion of a broad range of visual material, and reflections on how such material can be studied sociologically. The chapters draw on specific case-study examples that examine the complexity of the hyper-visual social world we live in, exploring three domains of the 'relational image': the urban, social media, and the aerial. Zuev and Bratchford tackle issues such as visual politics and surveillance, practices of visual production and visibility, analysing the changing nature of the visual. They review a range of methods which can be used by researchers in the social sciences, utilising new media and their visual interfaces, while also assessing the changing nature of visibility. This concise overview will be of use to students and researchers aiming to adopt visual methods and theories in their own subject areas such as sociology, visual culture and related courses in photography, new-media and visual studies.

**case study sociology: Qualitative Research in Sociology** Amir Marvasti, 2004 Qualitative Research in Sociology offers a hands-on guide to doing qualitative research in sociology. It provides an introductory survey of the methodological and theoretical dimensions of qualitative research as practiced by those interested in the study of social life. Through a detailed yet concise explanation, the reader is shown how these methods work and how their outcomes may be interpreted. Practically focused throughout, the book also offers constructive advice for students analyzing and writing their research projects. The book has a flowing narrative and student-friendly structure which makes it accessible to and popular with students. It will be an invaluable resource for students and researchers, helping them to undertake effective qualitative research in both sociology and courses in social research across the social sciences.

**case study sociology: Case Study Method** Roger Gomm, Martyn Hammersley, Peter Foster, 2000-10-17 This is the most comprehensive guide to the current uses and importance of case study methods in social research. The editors bring together key contributions from the field which reflect different interpretations of the purpose and capacity of case study research. The address issues such as: the problem of generalizing from study of a small number of cases; and the role of case study in developing and testing theories. The editors offer in-depth assessments of the main arguments. An annotated bibliography of the literature dealing with case study research makes this an exhaustive and indispensable guide.

**case study sociology: Who Plays? who Pays? who Cares?** Sylvia Kenig, 1992 This work provides a detailed look at the concept of community in the literature of the community mental health centers (CMHC) movement from the 1960s to the 1990s. The author takes the analysis well beyond a history of the movement into the realm of applied theory. The purpose of the book is to explore the interwoven dynamics of state policy, market trends and applied theory. Who Plays? Who Pays? Who Cares? breaks new ground in its systematic examination of structural functional and conflict sociology underlying American social psychiatry. The work also provides support for the argument that state policy and market conditions significantly limit and direct the applications of theory.

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