

Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation

By Daniel F. Chambliss, Russell K. Schutt



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Ideal for students who need to understand methodologies and results, but who may never undertake major research projects themselves, this text offers an innovative, accurate introduction to social research with balanced treatment of qualitative and quantitative methods, integration of substantive examples and research techniques, and consistent attention to the goal of validity and the standards of ethical practice. This bestseller features a new chapter on evaluation research, a new chapter on research ethics, revised coverage of qualitative methods and updates throughout the text.

Offering a brief, engaging, and sometimes humorous treatment of social research methods, it covers all essential elements of social research methods including validity, causation, experimental and quasi-experimental design, and techniques of analysis. It offers real data and updated examples that emphasize everyday experiences and current issues, new ethics exercises, and contemporary coverage of web-based research methods.

This text is intended for courses in Research Methods offered in departments of sociology, criminal justice, social work, communication, media studies, political science, and public administration.



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-- Review

Review

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"The strength of this text is in its brevity. In a one semester course, it is impossible to cover all the topics in a comprehensive text in any depth. I would rather my students learn the fundamentals of doing research – a few topics in depth. They can then build on this knowledge, if they need to, in order to learn new types of analysis. I also like the types and varieties of exercises included in the text."

(Ann Marie Kinnell)

About the Author

Daniel F. Chambliss is the Christian A. Johnson "Excellence in Teaching" Professor of Sociology, and Chair of the Sociology Department, at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where he has taught since 1981. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1982; later that year, his thesis research received the American Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Dissertation Prize. In 1988, he published the book Champions: The Making of Olympic Swimmers, which received the Book of the Year Prize of the United States Olympic Committee. In 1989, he received the ASA's Theory Prize for work on organizational excellence based on his swimming research. Recipient of both Fulbright and Rockefeller Foundation fellowships, Professor Chambliss published his second book Beyond Caring: Hospitals, Nurses and the Social Organization of Ethics, in 1996; for that work, he was awarded the ASA's Elliot Freidson Prize in Medical Sociology. His research and teaching interests include organizational analysis, higher education, social theory, and comparative research methods. He is currently Director of the Project for Assessment of Liberal Arts Education at Hamilton College, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and is a Member

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