

Investigating Social Problems

ritzer's handbook of social problems offers a comprehensive treatment of today's major societal issues. The articles are authored by some of the top scholars in the field and address problem areas that will capture the interests of students and professors alike. The international coverage is most welcome in this time of intensifying global inequalities. Nancy Jurik, Arizona State University, The Handbook of Social Problems: A Comparative International Perspective provides a unique, broadly comparative perspective on the current state of social problems and deviance in a variety of societies around the world. Editor George Ritzer, along with leading U.S. and international sociologists, examines the relationship between social problems and a society's level of development and affluence. The essays in this volume focus on four interrelated issues involved in the relationship between social problems and the level of development and affluence: less developed and less affluent societies are more likely to experience a range of social problems than developed and affluent societies; affluence causes or at least brings with it a series of social problems that do not exist in less affluent societies; it is only with affluence that certain things can come to be imagined as social problems such as excessive consumption; the very affluence of a society makes it vulnerable to problems that would not be social problems in poorer societies. The handbook explores the theory of the "weakness of the strong" in other words, strong or wealthy nations may have greater vulnerability to some social problems than less developed or affluent societies. This theory is clearly illustrated in this volume by the aftermath of September 11, 2001, depicting the vulnerability of the U.S. to social problems in far removed corners of the world. In addition, the international and comparative essays in this volume cover other important issues such as the impact of modern technologies.

on social problems ecological problems global inequality health as a social problem and much more the handbook of social problems is a vital resource for sociologists and graduate students as well as an excellent addition to any academic library

introduction to global social problems introduces undergraduate students to national and international social problems from a critical sociological perspective isaac zvi christiansen presents clear descriptions of each social problem explains key concepts and provides students with the relevant theoretical tools needed to grasp the interconnected nature of these phenomena this volume covers significant and interconnected issues the book begins with an explanation of how corporate interests distort the depiction of social problems chapters 2 and 3 provide empirical explorations of poverty and inequality on national and global scales together with clear and accessible expositions of relevant sociological theories chapter 4 examines health and educational inequalities exacerbated by the economic inequalities discussed in chapters 2 and 3 chapter 5 introduces students to issues of racial inequalities in the united states and abroad while chapter 6 takes a comparative approach to examining crime and criminal justice chapter 7 examines modern day imperialism and war with special attention given to the military industrial complex and a brief review of us interventions around the world in the twentieth and twenty first centuries chapter 8 examines politics and human rights including a critical historical and sociological analysis of israeli settler colonialism and successive us israeli assaults on gaza the book closes with an examination of population and the environment with special attention given to climate change and the pressing contradictions between capitalism and the environment this textbook will be a vital resource for introductory students across the social sciences especially in sociology political science and global studies it provides critical wraparound coverage of the momentous embedded social problems that interconnect across social national and regional boundaries

this collection of focused essays is directed at several levels of students of social problems it is accessible to the uninitiated who are not familiar with the constructionist literature and aimed at those who are not particularly interested in subtle theoretical and empirical issues of concern to academics studying social problems from constructionist perspectives some readings focus on the construction of problems by scientists and other professionals others examine the work of social activists mass media and social service personnel among the topics included are studies of social inequalities and individual deviance a comparison of the images of social problems in the united states with those in other countries and an examination of the importance of politics and power in constructing public images of social problems constructionist perspectives have become the leading theoretical approach for sociology and allied fields in studying social problems yet constructionists impact on the teaching of social problems has been far less dramatic undergraduate courses on social problems are often subject to a theoretical barrage of eclectic perspectives just as the first social problems textbooks did almost a century ago textbooks continue to present a series of unrelated chapters each devoted to a particular social problem social problems is an effort at systematic analysis rather than random thought on the subject social problems presents detailed case studies demonstrating how constructionist perspectives can actually be applied to understand particular social problems while these articles can be read alone the editors have organized these selections to correspond with the chapter topics in the second edition of donileen loseke's thinking about social problems an accessible introduction to constructionist approaches at the same time some instructors who use this edited collection might wish to provide their own mix to the selection process many of

the contributions make multiple points and so reasonably could be used to illustrate other basic texts or classic studies in the field of social problems donileen r loseke is professor of sociology at the university of south florida joel best is professor and chair department of sociology and criminal justice university of delaware he has also served as an advisory editor for aldine in the area of social problems

companion reader to anna leon guerrero s social problems 2nd edition

this book covers a wide range of contemporary methods for researching social problems and connects these approaches to the broader substance and theories of social problems expository and discursive in approach chapters follow a uniform structure with each offering research examples and a broad description of the related method and its theoretical context together with a how to guide for applying that method using substantive examples from the field of social problems for every method explored there is a research example that fully reviews and illustrates the application of the particular method before giving a full assessment of the method s strengths and weaknesses and latest developments with chapters exploring survey interviews in depth interviews narrative inquiry institutional ethnography participatory action research auto ethnography actor network theory experimental research visual research methods and research ethics researching social problems will appeal to scholars and students of sociology and politics working in the fields of research methods and social problems

the fourth edition of this popular text covers an even greater number of contemporary social problems including welfare and health care reform types of sexual harassment immigration problems and physician assisted suicide unlike other social problems texts a major focus of this book is to present proposals and programs that have been advanced to attempt to alleviate each of the social problems reviewed this text is organized to cover material in this sequence first deviances and social variations experienced by individuals then inequality problems experienced by certain groups next problems of troubled institutions and finally problems of the changing world this progression from individual problems to more complex problems assists the reader in grasping and understanding increasingly complex material

each chapter in this innovative social problems text is written by a specialist or pair of specialists from appropriate subfields within sociology the typical single author approach is limiting given the complexity of the contemporary issues surrounding each social problem discussed involving many content experts ensures that the theories research and examples used in each chapter will be as current and relevant as possible chapters open with personal statements from the contributing authors discussing how they got involved with studying the problem they are writing about javier Trevino serves as the general editor making sure that each author follows the chapter template and maintains a consistency in level and style

a series of debates discussing social problems in the united states

from terrorism to social inequality and from health care to environmental issues social problems affect us all the encyclopedia will offer an interdisciplinary perspective into these and many other social problems that are a continuing concern in our lives whether we confront them on a personal local regional national or global level

this text encourages undergraduates to think about social problems in a critical scientific way chapters are presented in sections on institutions inequality conformity and deviance and problems of a changing world learning features include boxed readings on positive developments personal ins

for the past thirty years i have been teaching studying and researching social problems in the us the topics have always been challenging and fascinating while at the same time they have been frustrating and often disappointing i always found examples of social programs that were effective at targeting a specific aspect of a complex problem but too often these extraordinary ideas were applied beyond their capacity then once the program failed to be a panacea policymakers discounted the actual value of the program in its original design i felt a similar frustration when enormous resources were dedicated to programs that while politically popular had little chance at succeeding because they were based on inaccurate assessments of the problem it is easy to see why students might feel that a social problems course offers little encouragement to find solutions when i had the opportunity to write a comprehensive social problems textbook for oxford university press i was presented with a moment to frame the issues in an objective way to explain clearly and effectively not only the nature and complexity of specific social problems but how sociological theory is a useful lens through which these problems can be understood i also had the chance to point out that there are in fact solutions that work as i tell my students the question is not really what caused the problem we know these are social problems and that means they have social causes the interesting question is what we are willing as a society to do about them

social problems in the uk an introduction contextualises the most pressing social problems of our times drawing upon the disciplines of sociology social policy education studies and health studies this much needed textbook brings together a comprehensive range of expertise in the applied social sciences to discuss the social myths and moral panics that surround many popular debates this is an accessible text that carefully guides students through the methodology of social construction and related theories to introduce key topics in the areas of race and ethnicity the future of work poverty and homelessness inequalities in education health public health and mental health ageing and the third age this completely revised and up to date second edition covers the most urgent social issues facing the uk today including an analysis of the black lives matter movement the covid 19 health crisis and the new gig economy the second edition maintains the accessible style and easy to read format of the first edition integrated with key points and further reading elements to further aid student learning situated firmly in the new post pandemic post brexit world this text contains new chapters on all the most pressing questions raised in the media and in public debates it will help readers understand the background and broader context of the uk s key social problems

empower your students to become part of the solution with a clear and upbeat voice author anna leon guerrero s thought provoking overview of social problems challenges readers to understand and recognize social problems in their communities and inspires them to become part of the solution the fifth edition of social problems community policy and social action goes beyond the typical presentation of contemporary social problems and their consequences by emphasizing the importance and effectiveness of community involvement to achieve real solutions with an overarching focus on social inequalities and policy this proven text provides a platform for discussion that encourages critical thinking and inspires hope the extra emphasis on social action

and movements is a real strength i like that the three major perspectives are used in each chapter as i feel many texts just put that in the first chapter and then forget about it todd michael callais university of cincinnati blue ash

budding with new insight this top selling proactive book probes the nature and causes of each major social problem confronting citizens today and with historical and multicultural sensitivity delves into the social control and social action issues inherent to each particular problem balancing viewpoints and supporting material with research and policy each chapter covers topics in a micro to macro format pointing out the interrelationships among today s social problems and the possibility of approaching them from several perspectives chapter topics include sociological perspectives on social problems problems of physical health mental illness sex related social problems alcohol and other drugs crime and criminals violence poverty amid affluence racism prejudice and discrimination sex roles and inequality an aging society the changing family problems of education problems of work and the economy urban problems population and immigration technology and the environment and war and terrorism for individuals looking to understand today s social problems and help solve them

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Introduction

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