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BOOK REVIEWS

Bearman, Peter, S. 1993. *Relations into Rhetorics: Local Elite Social Structure in Norfolk, England, 1540-1640*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

"In this study of social change in the century leading to the English Civil War (1540-1640), Peter Bearman provides us with that rare work combining theoretical insight with methodological rigor. [...] Bearman's most important innovations result from his demonstration of the connection between elite social networks and the increasing political salience of Puritanism [...] Although historians have long noted the part played by Puritanism in the English Civil War, it is novel to link this role to evolving social networks."

Reviewed by Christopher K. Ansell, in *American Journal of Sociology* 100(2):533-535. 1995.

Bergmann, Jorg R. 1993. *The Social Organization of Gossip* (Translated by John Bednarz, Jr.) New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

"Jorg Bergman identifies the rules and strategies of gossip creation, the networks of

its production and reception, and the situational contexts in which gossip is likely to arise. The result is a carefully written primer on how to uncover the social organization of the everyday world."

Reviewed by Stephen Ellingson, in *American Journal of Sociology* 100(2):561-562. 1994.

Bian, Yanjie. 1994. *Work and Inequality in Urban China*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

"Bian's book deals with the structural inequalities produced by a distinctive institutional feature of socialist China — work organizations that provide not only salaries and employment but also a wide range of goods and services for employees and their families, and most significantly, political rewards in the form of party membership and cadre positions."

Reviewed by Tak Chuen Luk, in *American Journal of Sociology* 100(3):828-29. 1994.

Canary, Daniel J. and Laura Stafford. eds. 1994. *Communication and Relational Maintenance*. Academic.

"The book addresses maintenance of friendships as well as romantic relationships. The five chapters in the Communication Action Approaches section address relational maintenance and repair strategies as well as social skills and shared meaning. These chapters provide comprehensive reviews of the work conducted on relational maintenance strategies."

Reviewed by J. K. Alberts, in *ISSPR Bulletin* 11(1):10-11. 1994.

Danigelis, Nicholas L. 1991. *No Place Like Home: Intergenerational Home Sharing through Social Exchange*. New York: Columbia University Press.

"There is more than enough excellence here to justify the attention sociologists interested in

ethnicity and immigration, and despite being a venture on unfamiliar terrain, the book offers a model for comparative studies of immigration that deserves to be emulated."

Reviewed by Thomas C. Wilson, in *Contemporary Sociology* 22(5): 697-698. 1993.

Erber, Ralph and Robin Gilmour. eds. 1994. *Theoretical Frameworks for Personal Relationships*. Lawrence Erlbaum.

"Reis [and Kenny]'s chapter is excellent in demonstrating how the self-report, behavioral, and diary methods of data collection complement each other in the findings they yield on particular relationship issues (e.g., loneliness)"

Reviewed by Keelan, Patrick. in *ISSPR Bulletin* 11(1):12-14. 1994.

Fliegel, Frederick, C. 1993. *Diffusion Research in Rural Sociology: The Record and Prospects for the Future*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

"The implication of technological development and diffusion within broader power relations remains a lacuna in diffusion research. Even so, *Diffusion of Research in Rural Sociology* is a most valuable book that will be of use to both the agnostic and the converted."

Reviewed by Buttell, Frederick H. in *Contemporary Sociology* 22(5): 694-695. 1993.

Gambetta, Diego. 1993. *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

"In making his case Gambetta relies on a number of sources of data: transcripts of confessions, records of trials, interviews he conducted with businessmen in Palermo, and field observations of a number of different markets.

Reviewed by Kollock, Peter. in *American Journal of Sociology* 100(3):831-32. 1994.

"[...] the reliance on particularistic confessions and trials leads to an extraordinarily anecdotal presentation of the empirical evidence. By my rough count, the reader is asked to juggle tediously the roles, relationships, activities, and life histories of more than 350 individuals and families in order to follow the empirical narrative."

Reviewed by Shapiro, Susan P. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(5):663-4. 1994.

Grabher, Gernot. ed. 1993. *The embedded firm: on the Socioeconomics of Industrial Networks*. London:Routledge.

"The overall merit of the book is that it problematizes the nature of industrial networks and accordingly, presents the reader with a more complex, critical and complete picture than other volumes which have been published on the theme. It neither descends into a reductionist localism nor subscribes to the idea of an overpowering and determinant global economic hegemony. For this, it deserves to receive attention from academics researching into industrial networks."

Reviewed by Imrie, R. F. in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 18(3):541-542. 1994.

Granovetter, Mark and Richard Swedberg. eds. 1993. *The Sociology of Economic Life* Boulder: Westview Press.

"*The Sociology of Economic Life* is an edited anthology of published works. It includes classic and often-cited essays that were clear forerunners of the currently emerging 'New Economic Sociology,' such as Polanyi [...], Stinchcombe [...], Randall Collins [...], Geertz [...], Chandler [...], Dore [...], Hamilton and Biggart [...]. Even for those familiar with these works, their collection into one volume brings into sharper focus certain issues and themes."

Reviewed by Podolny, Joel. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23:868-871. 1994

Harvey, David L. 1993. *Potter Addition: Poverty, Family and Kinship in a Heartland Community* New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

"*Potter Addition* joins the small but growing collection of community case studies exploring cultural dimensions of poverty and social marginality. [...] The result is Harvey's identification of a culture of poverty consisting of both the concrete reality of material deprivation and the structures and mechanisms constructed by the poor to respond to economic uncertainty."

Reviewed by Tickamyer, Ann R. in *American Journal of Sociology* 99(6):1625-6. 1994

Heinz, John P., Edward O. Laumann, Robert L. Nelson, and Robert H. Salisbury. 1993. *The Hollow Core: Private Interests in National Policy Making*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

"[Authors] have put together a very impressive piece of empirical research [...] as the definitive study to date of interest group representatives in the nation's capital. [...] Probably the most important set of findings is that a core policy elite did not dominate policy-making, either across domains or within specific domains, in the early 1980s. [...] *The Hollow Core* represents a monumental piece of empirical research that will be required reading for anyone concerned with interest group representation in the United States."

Reviewed by Sabatier, Paul A. in *American Journal of Sociology* 100(1):287-89. 1994.

Iannello, Kathleen P. 1992. *Decisions without Hierarchy: Feminist Interventions in Organization Theory and Practice*. New York: Routledge.

"If Iannello speaks as she writes, she is a woman of few, but, important, words. For the

reader, this is both welcome and a source of disappointment. In part 1, Iannello brings together organization literature and feminist literature in an informative theoretical discussion of organizational decision making and hierarchy. In part 2, she documents instances of organizational decision making without hierarchy by presenting three case studies of feminist organizations in a small New England city: the Feminist Peace Group, the Women's Health Collective, and the Business Women's Group."

Reviewed by Bordt, Rebecca L. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(2):307. 1994.

Lawler, Edward J., Barry Markovsky, Karen Heimer and Jodi O'Brien. eds. 1993. *Advances in Group Processes* Volumn 10. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

"In summary, experimentally oriented sociological social psychology is alive and well. Social networks, prominent in these chapters, holds the promise of uniting the interests of micro and macro sociologists. As practiced by Macy, Willer, Szmataka, and others, it is both structural and founded on a social psychological base."

Reviewed by Bonacich, Phillip. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23: 877-879. 1994

Light, Ivan and Bhachu, Parminder. eds. 1993. *Immigration and Entrepreneurship: Culture, Capital, and Ethnic Networks*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

"This volume is the result of a 1990 conference at the University of California, Los Angeles. The authors are scholars from several countries and diverse disciplines. According to the editors, the book has three objectives: (1) to illuminate California's recent migration experience, (2) to compare immigrant groups and immigration-related issues in California and in other world centers, and (3) to study immigrant entrepreneurship. [...] This volume is a significant contribution to the literature on immigration and ethnic

enterprise. Light and Bhachu are to be commended for guiding this effort."

Reviewed by Cobas, José A. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(5):651-2. 1993

Lyman, Karen A. 1993. *Day In, Day Out with Alzheimer's: Stress in Caregiving Relationships*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

"Caring for elderly Alzheimer's patients presents managed-care professionals with stressful and frustrating day-to-day encounters. [...] Lyman's goal is to present a model of 'what works' (and what does not) in Alzheimer's care, with an eye toward meeting the needs of both care providers and care recipients. Grounded in the medical sociology, disability, and care-giving literature, Lyman's text examines how the organization of Alzheimer's day-care work and the design of the facility contribute more to care-giver 'burnout' than the stress of Alzheimer's care itself. [...] The book is strengthened by appendices that address [...] the patterns of similarity and variance among the eight day-care centers."

Reviewed by Guinn, James N. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(5):663-4. 1994.

Mann, Michael. 1993. *The Sources of Social Power. Volume 2: The Rise of Classes and Nation- States, 1760-1914*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

"[The book] is the second part of Mann's analysis of the social construction of power. Its goal is to locate the dynamic sources of power in the developing nation states from the 18th to the 20th century. [...] In the making of his case, Mann pinpoints five significant historical events in which, he argues, the sources of dominant power were revealed either in the successful defense of the sociopolitical status quo or in its effective defeat by challenging sociopolitical groups."

Reviewed by Sparks, Chris. in *American*

Journal of Sociology 100(3):819-20. 1994.

Marin, Bernd and Renate Mayntz. eds. 1991. *Policy Networks: Empirical Evidence and Theoretical Considerations*. Frankfurt: Campus Verlag; Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

"The various papers in this edited volume bring together the empirical network approach to policy analysis, the pluralist tradition of interest-representation political science, and the European work in neocorporatist policy. The contributions represent a methodological spectrum ranging from formal network models to historically based comparative case studies and cover agricultural, labor, monetary, energy, telecommunications, superconductivity, and health policy, as well as industrial restructuring policies in Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the United States. In addition, the research covers the formation of the policy networks themselves, the structure and capacity for mobilization of the networks for collective action, and the consequence or policy outcomes of different organizational networks and their institutional histories."

Reviewed by Guilarte, Miguel. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(3):425-426. 1994

Meyerson, Eva M. 1992. *The Impact of Ownership Structure and Executive Team Composition on Firm Performance: The Resolution of a Leadership Paradox*. Stockholm: Industrial Institute for Economic and Social Research.

"This volume is an attempt to develop and test a theory of firm performance drawn from economic and sociological theory. Focusing on 29 publicly held Swedish companies, Meyerson develops a series of hypotheses on the relations among firm ownership, leadership recruitment, and firm performance. Her primary goal is to explain how the social capital of a firm's executive team, operationalized as the team's external social network, is determined by the firm's owner-

ship structure and how this capital affects the firm's performance. [... The] leadership paradox, she argues, is rooted in the social networks of the team members. A team composed of homogeneous, densely tied actors will be effective in maintaining internal consensus but, because their members tend to have similar external ties, such groups will be ineffective at securing a wide variety of information. Conversely, a team with heterogeneous, sparsely tied actors will tend to have different sets of external ties and will therefore be effective at the accumulation of information but less effective at reaching consensus. The solution to this paradox, Meyerson believes, is for the firm to be closely monitored by an entrepreneur with a large share holding. [...] The author's most important contribution is her analysis based on interviews with 159 executives of her 29 firms. This exploration supports Meyerson's theory that the more integrated the executive team, the fewer the external ties to whom the team has access and thus the less the social capital on which it can draw. In addition, nonredundant external ties are shown to be seldom strong, which supports Granovetter's view that bridging ties between social networks are more likely to be weak and nonredundant."

Reviewed by Allison, David W. in *American Journal of Sociology* 99(6):1668-1670. 1994.

Moaddel, Mansoor. 1993. *Class Politics, and Ideology in the Iranian Revolution*. New York: Columbia University Press.

"Mansoor Moaddel has raised an important and forward-looking set of issues. At the heart of his argument lies an emphasis on the indispensable role played by ideology in the origins and outcome of the Iranian revolution. [...] The first part of the book explores the nature of the post-1953 Iranian state, the dependent development of agriculture, industry, and finance, and class alliances and conflicts across Iranian history. The argument culminates in chapter 5 on the rise of revolutionary Islam in the 1960s and 1970s.

[...]Moaddel argues that revolutionary Islam was free to present itself as the only credible opposition. Once Khomeini succeeded in radicalizing a significant number of the *ulama*, this discourse also provided the movement with peculiarly effective means of communication and a calendar for revolutionary mobilization through its mourning rituals and holy months. [...] This book is a valiant attempt at interpreting the Iranian revolution in theoretical terms. Mansoor Moaddel deserves credit for his effort. His book, despite its flaws, is a serious, well-researched, and provocative account of an event of world-historical importance."

Reviewed by Foran, John. in *American Journal of Sociology* 99(6):1679-80. 1994.

Nishiguchi, Toshihiro. 1994. *Strategic Industrial Sourcing: The Japanese Advantage*. New York: Oxford University Press.

"Based on eight years of research and over 1,000 interviews, Nishiguchi's book provides a detailed and well-balanced account of why subcontracting persists in Japan more than in other countries and how it has contributed to Japan's economic success story. [...] This book is quite ambitious and comes off well. Rather than narrowly focusing on subcontracting, Nishiguchi puts it in a historical and comparative context backed by detailed cases, primarily of the automobile and electronics industries. Its interdisciplinary approach, drawing on variables and literature from sociology, history, management, politics and economics, will appeal to a broad audience."

Reviewed by Anchoroguy, Marie. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23: 877-879. 1994

Nohria, Nitin and Robert G. Eccles. eds. 1992. *Networks and Organizations: Structure, Form, and Action* Boston: Harvard Business School Press.

"This book belies two apparent truisms: books reporting a conference are uneven, boring, and

contain out-of-date material; the social network field is mainly concerned with methods and algorithms, with few substantive propositions. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nohria and Eccles persuaded leading figures in networks and organizations to contribute their latest work, which is chock full of theories, propositions, and findings. [...] The book is a major gambit. It will define the field of networks and organizations in the coming years. We will have to bite the bullet and pay the \$50.00 price. I did so before I was sent a reviewer's copy."

Reviewed by Kadushin, Charles in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(3):423-425. 1994.

Oliver, Pamela and Gerald Marwell. 1993. *The Critical Mass in Collective Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

"Marwell and Oliver's [book] synthesizes and extends the series of analytic studies the authors have published on the start-up problem in collective action. This rigorous, yet highly accessible, book is a noteworthy addition to the literature on public goods and a welcome methodological contribution to mathematical modeling."

Reviewed by Macy, Michael W. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(5):663-4. 1994.

Schwartz, Mildred A. 1990. *The Party Network: The Robust Organization of Illinois Republicans*. Madison University of Wisconsin Press.

"This book examines exactly what the title says: all the political actors, from governor to part-time volunteer, who work to make the Illinois Republican party attractive to voters and campaign contributors. This detailed analysis of party networks in Illinois around 1980 is refreshingly up-to-date as a guide to the ideological and organizational conflicts facing many of the fifty state Republican parties in the 1990s. [...] *The Party Network* illustrates how purist Republicans such as the Christian Right can gain influence in today's

Republican party. It also indicates why major corporate donors oppose a morality agenda that interfered with the corporate PACs' pragmatic relationship to incumbent Republican officeholders."

Reviewed by Luebke, Paul. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(3):377-378. 1994

Sceccombe, Wally. 1992. *A Millennium of Family Change:feudalism to Capitalism in Northwestern Europe*. New York: Verso.

"Many historians will no doubt bridle at yet another attempt to generalize from the diversity of family forms that the European past encompasses. But a careful reading of this book shoes that Seccombe has treated his material sensitively and produced a valuable synthesis.

Reviewed by Phillips, Roderick in *Contemporary Sociology* 22(5): 684-686. 1993.

Sørensen, Aage B. and Seymour Spilerman. 1993. eds. *Social Theory and Social Policy: Essays in Honor of James S. Coleman* Westport, CT: Praeger.

Reviewed by Raub, Werner. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(5):760-62.

Sproull, Lee and Kiesler, Sara. 1992. *Connections: New Ways of Working in the Networked Organization*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

"Sproull and Kiesler are among the pioneers in the study of computer-based communication, achieving some of the first major insights into the differences between electronic and traditional communication."

Reviewed by George, Joey F. in *Contemporary Sociology* 22(5): 723-724.

Swedberg, Richard. ed. 1993. *Explorations in Economic Sociology*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

"*Explorations in Economic Sociology* is the product of a Russell Sage Foundation seminar on economic sociology that met regularly between October 1990 and June 1991. [...] Although this work does not aspire to any clear overarching themes, a careful reading of *Explorations*, [...] yields some important foci for research."

Reviewed by Podolny, Joel. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23:868-871.1994.

Useem, Michael. 1993. *Executive Defense: Shareholder Power and Corporate Reorganization*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

"I wish every organizational sociologist would read this book, because it might help cure organizational theory of its detachment from the corporate sector. [...] Useem argues that the familiar model of 'managerial capitalism,' in which a firm's managers faced minimal constraints from the firm's owners and thus were able to trade profitability for greater size and reduced environmental uncertainty, was challenged during the 1980s by a model of 'investor capitalism,' in which the demands of corporate owners became a tighter control over managerial action. [...] *Executive Defense* is a welcome contribution, because it lucidly explains the origins of the aggregate shift toward investor capitalism [...] and then investigates in detail the implications of this shift for the organizational structures and day-to-day activities of the managers and directors of seven large corporations operating in diverse manufacturing and service industries."

Reviewed by Davis, Gerald F. in *Contemporary Sociology* 23(2):303-5. 1994.

Useem, Michael. 1993. *Executive Defense: Shareholder Power and Corporate Reorganization*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

"Scholars have been struggling to understand the motivation for the 1980s merger movement [...] if managers did not pay attention to

the forces motivating the market for corporate control, they were likely to be targets of that market [...] Michael Useem's book fills an important gap in our knowledge about this process by studying how top managers in seven firms decided to deal with these issues. The core of this book is the observational studies of those managers, and this material is the most interesting and important. Useem's basic thesis is that in the 1980s managers were forced to pay closer attention to the interests of stockholders. [...] Useem has produced a provocative, well-written book that opens up these debates in an important way. This book will be of great interest to students of corporations and organizations and anyone interested in how the 1980s changed the labor

process of managers."

Reviewed by Fligstein, Neil. in *American Journal of Sociology* 99(6):1666-68. 1994.

Weber, Ann L. and John H. Harvey. eds. 1994. *Perspectives on Close Relationships* Allyn & Bacon.

"I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. Overall, it was a very good text on personal relationships and I recommend it to anyone teaching a course on the topic."

Reviewed by Barbee, Anita P. in *ISSPR Bulletin* 11(1):11-12. 1994