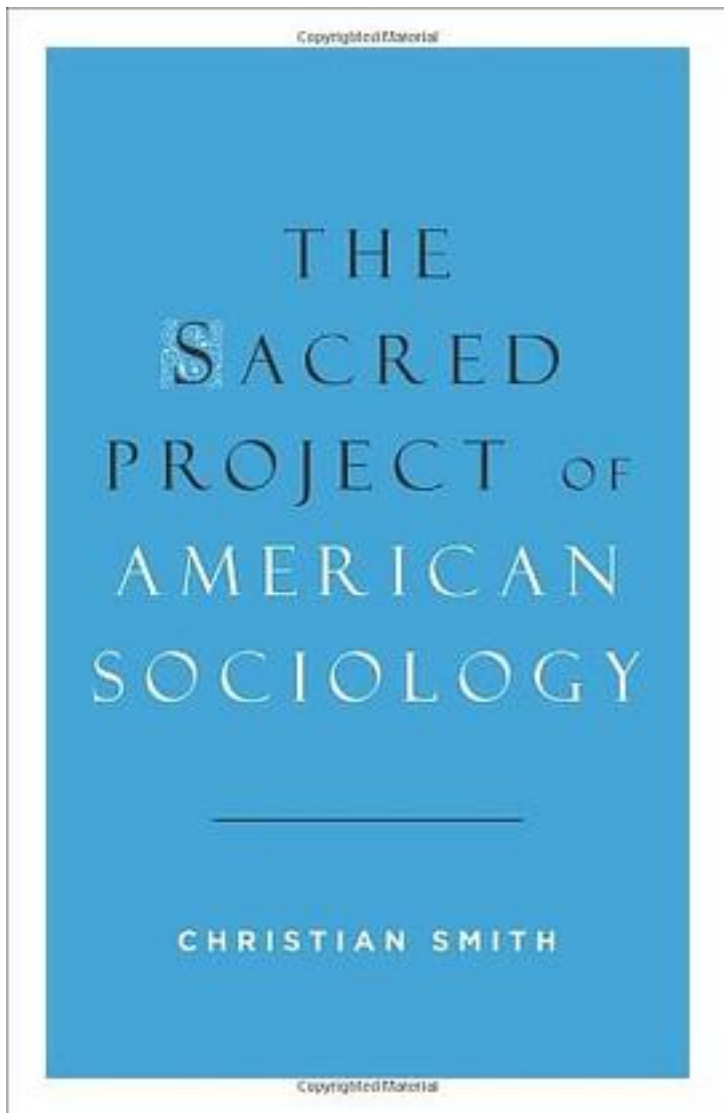


The Sacred Project of American Sociology



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出版者:Oxford University Press

出版时间:2014-8-5

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780199377138

Counter to popular perceptions, contemporary American sociology is and promotes a profoundly sacred project at heart. Sociology today is in fact animated by sacred impulses, driven by sacred commitments, and serves a sacred project.

Sociology appears on the surface to be a secular, scientific enterprise--its founding fathers were mostly atheists. Its basic operating premises are secular and naturalistic. Sociologists today are disproportionately not religious, compared to all Americans, and often irreligious.

The Sacred Project of American Sociology shows, counter-intuitively, that the secular enterprise that everyday sociology appears to be pursuing is actually not what is really going on at sociology's deepest level. Christian Smith conducts a self-reflexive, tables-turning, cultural and institutional sociology of the profession of American sociology itself, showing that this allegedly secular discipline ironically expresses Emile Durkheim's inescapable sacred, exemplifies its own versions of Marxist false consciousness, and generates a spirited reaction against Max Weber's melancholically observed disenchantment of the world.

American sociology does not escape the analytical net that it casts over the rest of the ordinary world. Sociology itself is a part of that very human, very social, often very sacred and spiritual world. And sociology's ironic mis-recognition of its own sacred project leads to a variety of arguably self-destructive and distorting tendencies. This book re-asserts a vision for what sociology is most important for, in contrast with its current commitments, and calls sociologists back to a more honest, fair, and healthy vision of its purpose.

作者介绍:

Christian Smith is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Director of the Notre Dame Center for Social Research, Principal Investigator of the National Study of Youth and Religion, and Principal Investigator of the Science of Generosity Initiative.

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标签

社会学

美国

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政治正确

学术史

sociology

评论

所谓sacred无非是指占据道德高地的很难质疑的政治正确性，如果你遵循了严谨的研究设计和调查方法，最后却得出诸如“同性恋父母教育出的孩子确实与异性恋父母的孩子有差”这样政治不正确的结论该如何收场呢？根据书里的例子，即使通过了peer review，也是不能发表的，也是要在同行的博客里被批判为political whore的呦～很有意思的一本书，而且作为一本学术书籍来说太过有趣了一些。

结尾一章叫做What is sociology good for? 这是个很严肃的反问句

今天就干了扫这本书一件事

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书评

为什么首脑和智囊更重视经济学和政治学而边缘化社会学？为什么整个社会学领域教职最多的是犯罪和越轨？为什么即使在中国社会学给人的印象也只是家长里短？答案都在本书。这是2014年底的新书，关于对美国社会学本身的批判，作者Christian Smith是就职于圣母大学的有名社会学家...

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