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About the Authors

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Jerry Jacobs, "In the Best Interests of the Child: Official Court Reports as an Artifact of Negotiated Reality in Children's Assessment Centers," is Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University, and is currently Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is the author of numerous books and articles on deviant behavior, retirement settings, qualitative sociology, mental retardation and suicide. In addition to Syracuse, he has been on the faculty of the University of California, Riverside, and the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco.

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Abraham D. Lavender, "Societal Influence on Sexual Dysfunctions: The Clinical Sociologist as Sex Educator," studied psychology at the University of South Carolina and sociology at the University of Maryland. He is the author of a book and over 25 articles, largely in the areas of ethnic relations and sexuality-sex roles. He has 12 years experience in teaching and has been honored as Outstanding Professor. His course on human sexuality includes an emphasis on societal influences on sexual function and dysfunction. He is currently involved in research, writing and consulting in the areas of sexuality-sex roles and ethnic relations.

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Ronald Lippitt, "Six Problem-Solving Contexts for Intervention Decision Making," is Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Psychology at the University of Michigan. He studied group work at Springfield College, and sociology and psychology with Kurt Lewin at the University of Iowa. His work with Lewin and R. White on experimental leadership in small groups is one of the classic studies in social psychology. After World War II he was one of the founders of the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and started the t-group as part of the National Training Laboratories at Bethel. He moved with the R.C.G.D. to the University of Michigan, where he remained for 30 years as professor of sociology and psychology and program director in the Research Center for Group Dynamics. In 1960, he and Floyd Mann formed the Center for Research on the Utilization of Social Knowledge within the Institute for Social Research. For the past 10 years he has been involved in private practice.

John S. Miller, "Sociologists as Mediators: Clinical Sociology in Action," is Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. He is an Associate Professor of Sociology, Project Director of the Land Stewardship Project of Arkansas, and directs the college's Mediation Project. His articles have appeared in journals such as The Journal of Environmental Systems, Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology, Issues in Higher Education, and the ASA Teaching Newsletter. Recently completed research has focused on the case method for teaching applied sociology and the applied side of the liberal arts. He is currently at work on several articles focusing on land ethics.

Carol A. B. Warren, "Clinical and Research Interviewing in Sociology," is Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Senior Research Associate in the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Southern California. Her most recent work is a historical study of women diagnosed as schizophrenic and institutionalized in a California state hospital during 1957–1961, and of their marital and family relationships. Her monograph, Madwives: Schizophrenic Women at Midcentury, will be published by the University of Chicago Press. Her other recent work is on various aspects of psychiatric social control, such as the commitment of adolescents to psychiatric hospitals, and the resurgence of electroconvulsive therapy. She is the author of The Court of Last Resort: Mental Illness and the Law (University of Chicago Press, 1982 and 1984), a study of involuntary civil commitment in California.