
About the Authors

Richard A. Berk is a member of the University of California, Los Angeles, Departments of Sociology and Statistics and is also the Director of the UCLA Center for the Study of the Environment and Society. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, former Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Social Science Research Council, and former Chair of the Methodology Section of the American Sociological Association. His research and teaching interests include applied statistics, criminal justice, and the environment.

Dwight B. Billings, a professor of sociology at the University of Kentucky, is interested in the social history of American regional development. He has co-authored a number of articles and a forthcoming book with Kathleen Blee on the social origins of Appalachian poverty and political violence. He is currently exploring regional variations in American public life.

Kathleen M. Blee, a professor of sociology and director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, studies issues of gender, race, and social class. She and Dwight Billings have written extensively on Appalachian poverty and violence. Their book, tentatively titled *Uncivil Society: Political Violence and the Appalachian Road to Poverty*, is forthcoming.

Elizabeth Boyd is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is focusing on interaction in institutional contexts, including legal and medical settings. She is currently completing a study of professional interaction during medical peer review.

Mia Cahill is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin–Madison, and the Hewlett Fellow at the Institute for Legal Studies. She received her law degree from the University of Denver and studied psychology and political science at the University of Delaware. Her current research compares the role of organizations in the construction of law in the United States and Austria.

Cary Coglianese is Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Affiliated Scholar at the Harvard Law School. His research focuses on administrative and environmental law, interest groups, and regulatory politics. He received the Edward S. Corwin Award of the American

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Charles R. Epp is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the University of Kansas. He has published articles on the legal profession and the economy, on civil rights litigation, and on the forces propelling the Canadian Supreme Court's growing agenda on civil rights and liberties. He is currently writing a book based on his comparative research on the growth of judicial attention to civil rights and liberties in common law countries.

Howard S. Erlanger is Professor of Sociology and Voss-Bascom Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His current sociological work deals with lawyers' careers and with the implementation of law in the organizational context, which has been published in a series of papers with Lauren Edelman and others. Since 1982 he has been Review Editor of *Law and Social Inquiry*.

Kathleen M. Haines received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1987 and has worked for the Michigan Department of Community Health in Lansing, Michigan, since 1987. She is the co-author of *Minority Health in Michigan* and has conducted a three-year longitudinal study to demonstrate the efficacy of home care programs to the underserved in Michigan. She is currently assisting the State Registrar to develop statistical materials and interactive applications on the office's web site. She is also involved in an ongoing project to geocode Michigan's vital records for use in environment and health research.

Karl M. Hamner is a Research Associate with the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. His research interests include evaluating mental health services outcomes and examining the treatment of traumatized children in mental health systems. He is currently studying the transition to adulthood of adolescents with serious emotional disorders.

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Gary LaFree is Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico, where he also directs the Institute for Social Research. In addition to his research on mediation, he is currently writing a book that examines the impact of social institutions on the rapid growth of U.S. crime rates in the 1960s and early 1970s.

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George Pavlich is a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Auckland. Author of *Justice Fragmented: Mediating Community Disputes under Postmodern Conditions* (Routledge, 1996), his research interests include social theory, criminological theory, the sociology of censure, and popular justice. He is currently working on a book that aims to develop forms of critical criminology appropriate to contemporary modes of governance,

Christine Rack is completing a doctoral dissertation in Sociology at the University of New Mexico. She was data collection coordinator and chief analyst of the MetroCourt Project, a Ford-funded study of ethnicity and gender in small claims mediation. Previous publications include a study of U.S. influence on medical research in developing countries and a theoretical treatment of figure-ground relationships in perception, cognition, and art making. Her current interests include the relationship between formal and informal social control, the social ethics of health care, and the application of principles derived from complex adaptive system behavior to social theory and analysis.