

# berger invitation to sociology

**berger invitation to sociology** is a foundational text in the field of sociology, authored by Peter L. Berger, which invites readers to explore the complexities of social life through a sociological lens. This influential work introduces key sociological concepts and encourages a deeper understanding of the social structures that shape human behavior and society. It provides a comprehensive overview of sociological theories, methodologies, and the importance of critical thinking when analyzing social phenomena. Throughout the book, Berger emphasizes the significance of seeing the general in the particular and the strange in the familiar, which helps readers develop a nuanced perspective on everyday social interactions. This article will delve into the major themes of Berger's invitation to sociology, its methodological approaches, and its lasting impact on the discipline. Additionally, it will outline the relevance of Berger's insights in contemporary sociological research and education.

- Overview of Berger Invitation to Sociology
- Core Themes and Concepts
- Methodological Approaches in Berger's Work
- Impact and Influence on Sociology
- Relevance in Contemporary Sociology

## Overview of Berger Invitation to Sociology

Peter L. Berger's *Invitation to Sociology* serves as an introductory yet profound exploration of what sociology entails and why it matters. First published in 1963, this book is designed to make sociology accessible to a broad audience, including students and general readers interested in understanding social life. Berger presents sociology not just as an academic discipline but as a unique way of seeing the world that reveals the hidden forces shaping human behavior. The book moves beyond abstract theory, grounding sociological inquiry in everyday experiences and social institutions. Berger's writing style is clear and engaging, providing a foundation for readers to grasp complex sociological ideas without prior background knowledge.

## Purpose and Audience

The primary purpose of Berger's invitation to sociology is to stimulate curiosity and critical thinking about society. It aims to dismantle common misconceptions about sociology and highlight its relevance in understanding social order and change. The book targets students, educators, and anyone interested in the social sciences, serving as an entry point to more advanced sociological studies. Berger's accessible approach helps

demystify sociology and encourages readers to apply sociological insights in their daily lives.

## **Historical Context**

Written during a period of significant social change in the 1960s, the book reflects the era's dynamic social movements and intellectual currents. Berger's perspectives were shaped by the broader context of post-war modernization, increasing urbanization, and shifting cultural norms. This period provided fertile ground for sociological analysis, and Berger's work captures the spirit of inquiry that sought to understand these transformations systematically.

## **Core Themes and Concepts**

Berger's invitation to sociology introduces several key themes and concepts that remain central to sociological thought. These foundational ideas help readers appreciate the complexity of social life and the discipline's analytical tools.

## **The Sociological Perspective**

At the heart of Berger's work is the sociological perspective, which involves seeing the general patterns in specific social contexts. This perspective encourages looking beyond individual actions to understand the social forces and structures influencing behavior. Berger famously describes sociology as the "passionate search for social meaning," emphasizing how social reality is constructed and maintained.

## **Social Construction of Reality**

One of Berger's most influential contributions is the concept of the social construction of reality, developed in collaboration with Thomas Luckmann. This theory posits that reality is not merely experienced but actively created through social interaction and shared meanings. People collectively shape their understanding of the world, which in turn influences their actions and institutions.

## **Role of Institutions and Social Structures**

Berger highlights the importance of social institutions—such as family, education, religion, and government—in shaping individual lives and societal patterns. These structures provide order and predictability but also impose constraints that individuals must navigate. Understanding institutions is crucial for grasping how societies function and evolve over time.

## **Alienation and Estrangement**

Another recurring theme is the experience of alienation in modern society. Berger discusses how individuals can feel disconnected from their social environment due to rapid social changes, bureaucratization, and modernization processes. This alienation challenges the sense of belonging and identity, topics that sociology seeks to investigate and address.

## **Methodological Approaches in Berger's Work**

Berger's invitation to sociology not only introduces theoretical concepts but also underscores the methodological approaches that characterize sociological research. His work advocates for a careful balance between empirical observation and theoretical interpretation.

## **Qualitative and Quantitative Methods**

Berger acknowledges the value of both qualitative and quantitative research methods in sociology. Qualitative methods, such as ethnography and in-depth interviews, allow for rich, detailed understanding of social contexts and meanings. Quantitative methods, including surveys and statistical analysis, provide data to identify patterns and test hypotheses. Berger encourages sociologists to integrate these approaches to gain comprehensive insights.

## **Critical Thinking and Reflexivity**

A vital methodological aspect in Berger's invitation to sociology is the emphasis on critical thinking and reflexivity. Sociologists must critically examine their assumptions and biases while studying social phenomena. Reflexivity involves being aware of how the researcher's position affects the research process and outcomes. This approach enhances the rigor and validity of sociological inquiry.

## **Empirical Observation and Theory Development**

Berger stresses the interplay between empirical observation and theory development. Sociology is not merely about collecting data but about interpreting it to develop meaningful theories that explain social behavior. This dynamic process advances the discipline and deepens understanding of societal complexities.

## **Impact and Influence on Sociology**

Since its publication, Berger's invitation to sociology has had a profound impact on the field, shaping how sociology is taught, understood, and practiced. Its influence extends across academic, educational, and popular domains.

## **Educational Significance**

The book has become a staple in sociology curricula worldwide, valued for its clarity and comprehensive coverage of sociological fundamentals. It equips students with foundational knowledge and stimulates intellectual curiosity, making sociology more approachable and engaging. Its pedagogical impact continues to influence generations of sociologists.

## **Shaping Sociological Thought**

Berger's ideas, particularly on the social construction of reality, have inspired extensive scholarly debate and research. His work fostered new theoretical directions and interdisciplinary approaches, linking sociology with philosophy, psychology, and cultural studies. The invitation to sociology remains a key reference point in sociological literature.

## **Popularizing Sociology**

Beyond academia, Berger's accessible writing helped popularize sociology among the general public. By presenting sociology as a tool for understanding everyday life and social issues, the book broadened the discipline's appeal and relevance.

## **Relevance in Contemporary Sociology**

Despite being written over half a century ago, Berger's invitation to sociology continues to hold relevance in today's sociological landscape. Its core messages resonate with current sociological challenges and debates.

## **Application to Modern Social Issues**

Contemporary social phenomena such as globalization, digital communication, identity politics, and social inequality can be examined through Berger's sociological lens. His emphasis on critical thinking and social constructionism aids in unpacking the complexities of these issues.

## **Encouraging Interdisciplinary Research**

Berger's interdisciplinary approach encourages sociologists to collaborate with other fields, enriching sociological analysis with diverse perspectives. This is increasingly important in addressing multifaceted social problems.

## **Continued Educational Value**

Educators continue to rely on Berger's invitation to sociology to introduce students to

sociological thinking. Its enduring clarity and depth make it a vital resource in an ever-evolving academic discipline.

## **Key Takeaways for Sociological Practice**

- Understanding social behavior requires seeing beyond individual actions to underlying social structures.
- Social reality is constructed through shared meanings and interactions.
- Critical thinking and reflexivity are essential for rigorous sociological research.
- Sociological insights can illuminate contemporary social challenges and foster informed citizenship.
- Integrating qualitative and quantitative methods enriches sociological understanding.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the significance of Peter L. Berger's 'Invitation to Sociology'?**

Peter L. Berger's 'Invitation to Sociology' is significant because it offers an accessible and insightful introduction to the field of sociology, emphasizing the importance of sociological imagination and the need to understand the social world from a critical perspective.

### **What are the main themes discussed in 'Invitation to Sociology'?**

The main themes in 'Invitation to Sociology' include the sociological perspective, the role of sociologists in society, the nature of social reality, and the importance of questioning common sense assumptions to uncover deeper social truths.

### **How does Berger define sociology in 'Invitation to Sociology'?**

In 'Invitation to Sociology', Berger defines sociology as the study of human behavior in its social context, focusing on the relationship between individual actions and larger social structures.

## Why is 'Invitation to Sociology' considered a classic introductory text?

'Invitation to Sociology' is considered a classic because it clearly articulates the purpose and methods of sociology in an engaging way, making complex ideas accessible to students and general readers new to the discipline.

## How does Berger address the concept of 'social construction of reality' in the book?

While 'Invitation to Sociology' predates Berger's co-authored work 'The Social Construction of Reality,' it lays the groundwork by discussing how individuals and societies create and maintain social norms, emphasizing that reality is shaped through social interaction.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *The Sociological Imagination* by C. Wright Mills

This classic work introduces the concept of the sociological imagination, encouraging readers to see the connection between personal experiences and larger social forces. Mills challenges individuals to think critically about the social structures that shape their lives. It complements Berger's invitation by deepening the understanding of how society influences individual realities.

### 2. *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective* by Peter L. Berger

Berger's seminal text invites readers to explore sociology not just as a science but as a way to understand the complexities of human social life. It emphasizes the importance of seeing the familiar in unfamiliar ways and challenges taken-for-granted assumptions. The book is foundational for anyone beginning their study of sociology.

### 3. *Society in Focus: An Introduction to Sociology* by William E. Thompson and Joseph V. Hickey

This introductory textbook provides a broad overview of sociological concepts and theories with clear examples and applications. It offers insight into how social institutions and structures operate and affect individuals. The text is accessible for newcomers and complements Berger's humanistic approach.

### 4. *The Structure of Social Theory* by Anthony Giddens

Giddens explores the foundational theories that underpin sociological thought, including discussions on agency and structure. The book offers a critical examination of how social life is organized and maintained, enriching the perspective introduced by Berger. It is useful for readers interested in the theoretical frameworks of sociology.

### 5. *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots: The Basics* by George Ritzer

Ritzer's book bridges classical sociological theories with contemporary developments, making it easier to understand the evolution of sociological ideas. It situates Berger's work within the broader context of sociological theory and offers a comprehensive introduction to key thinkers. This text is ideal for students who want to trace the

development of sociological thought.

6. *Social Theory: Roots and Branches* by Peter Kivisto

This book provides an accessible overview of major social theories and their historical backgrounds. Kivisto covers a range of perspectives that complement Berger's approach to understanding society. The text encourages critical thinking about the social world through diverse theoretical lenses.

7. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* by Erving Goffman

Goffman's influential book examines the ways individuals perform roles in daily social interactions. It aligns with Berger's idea of seeing the familiar in new ways by focusing on the subtle dynamics of social life. This work is essential for understanding microsociology and the construction of social reality.

8. *Sociology: A Global Perspective* by Joan Ferrante

Ferrante offers a comprehensive introduction to sociology with an emphasis on global and multicultural perspectives. Her approach complements Berger's by broadening the scope to include diverse societies and social issues. The book is suitable for readers interested in understanding sociology from an international viewpoint.

9. *Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge* by Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann

Co-authored by Berger, this foundational text explores how reality is socially constructed through everyday interactions and institutional processes. It deepens the themes introduced in *Invitation to Sociology* by focusing on knowledge and perception. The book is pivotal for understanding the relationship between society and individual consciousness.

## **Berger Invitation To Sociology**

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**berger invitation to sociology: Invitation to Sociology [sound Recording] : a Humanistic Perspective** Berger, Peter L, 1982

**berger invitation to sociology: Profiles in Contemporary Social Theory** Anthony Elliott, Bryan S Turner, 2001-07-23 This comprehensive book provides an indispensable introduction to the most significant figures in contemporary social theory. Grounded strongly in the European tradition, the profiles include Michel Foucault, Jürgen Habermas, Roland Barthes, Jean Baudrillard, Pierre Bourdieu, Zygmunt Bauman, Martin Heidegger, Frederic Jameson, Richard Rorty, Nancy Chodorow, Anthony Giddens, Stuart Hall, Luce Irigaray and Donna Haraway. In guiding students through the key figures in an accessible and authoritative fashion, the book provides detailed accounts of the development of the work of major social theorists and charts the relationship between different

traditions of social, cultural and political thought.

**berger invitation to sociology: Thoreau and the Sociological Imagination** Shawn Chandler Bingham, 2008 Disciplinary disobedience -- The seeds and fruit of thoreauvian thought -- Social structure and the American individual -- Progress, social development, and social change -- Thoreau's social inquiry -- Thoreau as a model for reimagining sociology.

**berger invitation to sociology: Little Dictionary for Peter L. Berger's Invitation to Sociology**, 1992

**berger invitation to sociology: Living Economics** Peter J. Boettke, 2012-06-01 Economics is not merely a game to be played by clever professionals, but a discipline that touches upon the most pressing practical issues at any historical juncture. The wealth and poverty of nations is at stake; the length and quality of life turns on the economic conditions individuals find themselves living within. Touching upon a variety of subjects—including market socialism, political economy, and economics education—this reference contains the wisdom of an expert in the field, Peter J. Boettke. The passion of the teacher is often the inspiration for a student. Living Economics illuminates how economics affects all walks of life, whether in the marketplace, voting booth, church, family, or any human activity. Boettke believes that economics is not merely a game to be played by clever professionals, but a discipline that touches on the most pressing practical issues at any historical juncture. The wealth and poverty of nations are at stake; the length and quality of life turns on the economic conditions individuals find themselves living with. So teaching and learning economics are high stakes ventures. Along the way he introduces us to major thinkers: from the Late Scholastics in 16th- and 17th-century Spain to Smith, Say, and Bastiat of the Classical School, to Austrian School scholars (Menger, Mises, Hayek, Kirzner, and Rothbard) on to New Institutional economists (Alchian, Coase, Demsetz, North, Ostrom and Williamson) and Public Choice theorists (Buchanan, Tullock, and others). This engaging and reasoned book is a must-read for economists, students, and everyone else who wishes to better understand economics. A great supplemental text for the teaching of economics, this book offers a clear perspective and a passion for a deeper understanding of the subject.

**berger invitation to sociology: Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory** Scott Appelrouth, Laura Desfor Edles, 2008 A unique hybrid of text and readings, this book combines the major writings of sociology's core classical and contemporary theorists with an historical as well as theoretical framework for understanding them. Laura Desfor Edles and Scott A Appelrouth provide not just a biographical and theoretical summary of each theorist/reading, but an overarching scaffolding which students can use to examine, compare and contrast each theorists' major themes and concepts. No other theory text combines such student-friendly explanation and analysis with original theoretical works. Key features include: \* Pedagogical devices and visual aids - charts, figures and photographs - to help summarize key concepts, illuminate complex ideas and provoke student interest \* Chapters on well-known figures, such as Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Parsons and Foucault as well as an in-depth discussion of lesser known voices, such as Charlotte Perkins-Gilman, WEB Du Bois, and Leslie Sklair \* Photos of not only the theorists, but of the historical milieu from which the theories arose as well as a glossary at the back

**berger invitation to sociology: The Unmasking Style in Social Theory** Peter Baehr, 2019-05-01 This book examines the nature of unmasking in social theory, in revolutionary movements and in popular culture. Unmasking is not the same as scientific refutation or principled disagreement. When people unmask, they claim to rip off a disguise, revealing the true beneath the feigned. The author distinguishes two basic types of unmasking. The first, aimed at persons or groups, exposes hypocrisy and enmity, and is a staple of revolutionary movements. The second, aimed at ideas, exposes illusions and ideologies, and is characteristic of radical social theory since the eighteenth-century Enlightenment. The Unmasking Style in Social Theory charts the intellectual origins of unmasking, its shifting priorities, and its specific techniques in social theory. It also explores sociology's relationship to the concept of unmasking through an analysis of writers who embrace, adapt or reshape its meaning. Such sociologists include Vilfredo Pareto, Karl Mannheim,



Raymond Aron, Peter Berger, Pierre Bourdieu, Luc Boltanski and Christian Smith. Finally, taking conspiracy theories, accusations of social phobia and new concepts such as micro-aggression as examples of unmasking techniques, the author shows how unmasking contributes to the polarization and bitterness of much public discussion. Demonstrating how unmasking is baked into modern culture, yet arguing that alternatives to it are still possible, this book is, in sum, a compelling study of unmasking and its impact upon modern political life and social theory.

**berger invitation to sociology: Passport to Heaven** Kathleen S. Lowney, 2014-10-03 This book focuses on the gender roles within the Unification Church, and on particularly the gender roles as expressed through the vows of marriage. It examines the more widely shared patriarchal assumptions about women in a circumscribed socio-religious environment, with the Church's gender role system being investigated largely on the level of its theological explanations for gender roles. The Church's ethos, its lived reality, is also examined, and for this many interviews have been conducted with the 'blessed', the married couples. First published in 1992.

**berger invitation to sociology: Routledge Library Editions: Women and Religion** Various, 2022-07-30 RLE Women and Religion gathers in one place a collection of previously out-of-print titles from a variety of historic imprints. Encompassing a range of experiences, the set provides an essential reference source on some of the key points in the field of women and religion.

**berger invitation to sociology: The Collective Memory Reader** Jeffrey K. Olick, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, Daniel Levy, 2011-01-21 In the last few decades, there are few concepts that have rivaled collective memory for attention in the humanities and social sciences. Indeed, use of the term has extended far beyond scholarship to the realm of politics and journalism, where it has appeared in speeches at the centers of power and on the front pages of the world's leading newspapers. Seen by scholars in numerous fields as a hallmark characteristic of our age, an idea crucial for understanding our present social, political, and cultural conditions, collective memory now guides inquiries into diverse, though connected, phenomena. Nevertheless, there remains a great deal of confusion about the meaning, origin, and implication of the term and the field of inquiry it underwrites. The Collective Memory Reader presents, organizes, and evaluates past work and contemporary contributions on collective memory. Combining seminal texts, hard-to-find classics, previously untranslated references, and contemporary landmarks, it will serve as a key reference in the field. In addition to a thorough introduction, which outlines a useful past for contemporary memory studies, The Collective Memory Reader includes five sections-Precursors and Classics; History, Memory, and Identity; Power, Politics, and Contestation; Media and Modes of Transmission; Memory, Justice, and the Contemporary Epoch-comprising ninety-one texts. A short editorial essay introduces each of the sections, while brief capsules frame each of the selected texts. An indispensable guide, The Collective Memory Reader is at once a definitive entry point into the field for students and an essential resource for scholars.

**berger invitation to sociology: Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era** Scott Appelrouth, Laura Desfor Edles, 2010-11-29 Uses a proven text/reader hybrid format to introduce contemporary theorists, their original works, and a theoretical framework for understanding them Praise for Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era Current users of most other theory texts should take notice of Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era, as it rivals existing volumes with its accessibility and its selections. --Dustin Kidd, Temple University, TEACHING SOCIOLOGY, Vol. 36, 2008 (April: 161-184) Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era, Second Edition, combines well-edited, important original writings from sociology's core contemporary theorists with introductory text that provides a historical and theoretical framework for understanding them. Authors Scott Appelrouth and Laura Desfor Edles use this unique text/reader approach to introduce students to contemporary sociological theory in a lively and engaging fashion. The text/reader provides not only a biographical and theoretical summary of each theorist's works but also an overarching scaffolding that students can use to examine, compare, and contrast each theorist's major themes and concepts. The book also offers discussions of past social and intellectual milieus to provide a holistic picture of the development of the theories discussed. Contributor to the SAGE

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**berger invitation to sociology: *Margins of the Mind*** Frank Musgrove, 2019-03-04

'Psychologists have mapped out developmental stages for the first fifteen to twenty years; but thereafter life is a blank. Half a century of adult life remains, psychologically speaking, an uncharted waste.' Frank Musgrove focuses on the question 'Can adults change?' and challenges the still widely-held view that adult life is static. Originally published in 1977, the author examines change principally in terms of a modification of consciousness through the experience of marginality. With the help of interviews, he discusses seven groups in contemporary Britain at the time, found in the 'margins' of society. Three of the selected groups are involuntary and stigmatized: men and women who have gone blind as adults; handicapped people in a home for the incurably disabled; and homosexuals. The other four groups enjoy high-status and voluntary marginality: late-entrants to the Anglican ministry; self-employed artists; a Sufi commune of Islamic mystics; and a Hare Krishna commune. Frank Musgrove's lively study of adult resocialization will be of interest to sociologists, anthropologists and anyone concerned with the general problem of adjustment to rapid social change. It also relates marginality to the issue of life-long learning and points to some of the creative possibilities of the marginal situation.

**berger invitation to sociology: *Fragments of Solidarity*** Maria Giannoula, 2023-06-02 How is solidarity understood by the people who practice it actively and daily? What is the role of solidarity in reconciling the relationship of individuals with the collective demands of communities that fight for the rights of others? Based on a variety of anthropological, sociological, and philosophical writings as well as ethnographic research, Maria Giannoula takes an elaborated look at the emotional and spiritual aspects of political participation within an activist group in Greece in the 2010s. This study is a valuable resource for those researching social movements and alternative communities, focusing on the ways in which individuals organise their own forms of activism.

**berger invitation to sociology: *Tribes of Yahweh*** Norman Gottwald, 1999-10-01 A twentieth-anniversary reprint of the landmark book that launched the current explosion of social-scientific studies in the biblical field. It sets forth a cultural-material methodology for reconstructing the origins of ancient Israel and offers the hypothesis that Israel emerged as an indigenous social revolutionary peasant movement. In a new preface, written for this edition, Gottwald takes account of the 'sea change' in biblical studies since 1979 as he reviews the impact of his work on church and academy, assesses its merits and limitations, indicates his present thinking on the subject, and points toward future directions in the social-critical study of ancient Israel and the Hebrew Bible.

**berger invitation to sociology: *Irenaeus, Joseph Smith, and God-Making Heresy*** Adam J. Powell, 2015-10-30 *Irenaeus, Joseph Smith, and God-Making Heresy* seeks both to demonstrate the salience of "heresy" as a tool for analyzing instances of religious conflict far beyond the borders of traditional historical theology and to illuminate the apparent affinity for deification exhibited by some persecuted religious movements. To these ends, the book argues for a sociologically-informed redefinition of heresy as religiously-motivated opposition and applies the resulting concept to the historical cases of second-century Christians and nineteenth-century Mormons. Ultimately, *Irenaeus, Joseph Smith, and God-Making Heresy* is a careful application of the comparative method to two new religious movements, highlighting the social processes at work in their early doctrinal developments.

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constructionist vein.

**berger invitation to sociology: Global Agenda for Social Justice 2** Glenn W. Muschert, Kristen M. Budd, Heather Dillaway, David C. Lane, Manjusha Nair, Jason A. Smith, 2022-09-06 The Global Agenda for Social Justice provides accessible insights into some of the world's most pressing social problems and proposes practicable international public policy responses to those problems. Written by a highly respected team of authors brought together by the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), chapters examine topics such as education, violence, discrimination, substance abuse, public health, and environment. The volume provides recommendations for action by governing officials, policy makers, and the public around key issues of social justice. The book will be of interest to scholars, practitioners, advocates, journalists, and students interested in public sociology, the study of social problems, and the pursuit of social justice.

**berger invitation to sociology: A Disease of One's Own** John Steadman Rice, 2017-11-30 In the present decade, co-dependency has sprung up on the landscape of American popular culture. Portrayed as an addiction-like disease responsible for a wide range of personal and social problems, co-dependency spawned a veritable social movement nationwide. 'A Disease of One's Own' examines the phenomenon of co-dependency from a sociological perspective, viewing it not as something a person has, but as something a person believes; not as a psychological disease, but as a belief system that offers its adherents a particular way of talking about the self and social relationships. The central question addressed by the book is: Why did co-dependency--one among a plethora of already-existing discourses on self-help--meet with such widespread public appeal? Grounded in theories of cultural and social change, John Steadman Rice argues that this question can only be adequately addressed by examining the social, cultural, and historical context in which co-dependency was created and found a receptive public; the content of the ideas it espoused; and the practical uses to which co-dependency's adherents could apply those ideas in their everyday lives. In terms of the larger American context, his analysis links the emergence of co-dependency with the permeation of psychological concepts and explanations throughout Western culture over the past thirty years, focusing particularly on the cultural and social impact of the popular acceptance of what the author calls liberation psychotherapy. Liberation psychotherapy portrays the relationship between self and society as one of intrinsic antagonism, and argues that psychological health is inversely related to the self's accommodation to social expectations. Rice argues that a principal source of co-dependency's appeal is that it affirms core premises of liberation psychotherapy, thereby espousing an increasingly conventional and familiar wisdom. It simultaneously fuses those premises with addiction-related discourse, providing people with a means of making sense of the problems of relationship and identity that have accompanied what Rice terms the psychologization of American life. This brilliant analysis of the phenomenon of co-dependency will be of interest to psychologists, sociologists, psychotherapists, and those interested in American popular culture.

**berger invitation to sociology: The New Sociology of Knowledge** Michaela Pfadenhauer, 2017-07-28 A classical sociologist can be defined as someone whose works occupied a central position among the sociological ideas and notions of an era. Following this criterion, Michaela Pfadenhauer demonstrates the relevance of Peter L. Berger's work to the sociology of knowledge. Pfadenhauer shows that Berger is not only a sociologist of religion, but one whose works are characterized by a sociology-of-knowledge perspective. Berger stands out among his fellow social scientists both quantitatively and qualitatively. He has written numerous books, which have been translated into many languages, and a multitude of essays in scholarly journals and popular magazines. For decades, he has played a role in shaping both public debate and social scientific discourse in America and far beyond. As a sociologist of knowledge, Berger has played three roles: he has been a theoretician of modern life, an analyst of modern religiosity, and an empiricist of global economic culture. In all areas, the focus on processes rather than status quo is characteristic of Berger's thinking. This book provides an in-depth view on the critical thinking of one of the most important sociologists that present times has to offer. It includes four written essays by Berger.

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