



Sociology of Personal Life

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What can Sociology tell us about our personal lives, families and intimate relationships? This book explains how key theoretical perspectives and relevant contemporary research in the discipline can shed new light on even the most familiar areas of our everyday worlds.

From friendships and pets, to political engagement and social legislation, the text shows how distinctions and connections can be drawn between our public and private lives. Each chapter explores a familiar topic that illustrates how individual relationships and lives can be shaped by social contexts, and how personal choices shape the wider social world. Using vivid case examples drawn from topical areas of debate, such as marriage rights and the role of social networking, the book is clearly laid out and easy to read. It gives useful explanations of theory and invaluable advice on how to carry out research on personal lives and relationships. This is essential reading for students of Sociology interested in family, relationships and beyond.

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Sociology of Personal Life From Palgrave Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4861623 in Books
- Published on: 2011-09-15
- Released on: 2011-09-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.33" h x .49" w x 6.09" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 216 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Sociology of Personal Life is an exciting text which, in ranging from private to public, partners to pets, unsettles distinctions and offers new insights. The authors combine theory and research not only with skill but with exemplary grace. It will rejuvenate the field."- Kerreen Reiger, La Trobe University, Australia

"Sociology of Personal Life provides important new insights into a core sociological theme – the social construction of personal life. In doing so, it extends the breadth of our thinking into new realms of inquiry, as well as encouraging the reader to revisit old themes in a new light. The book will appeal to students and researchers interested in understanding how the personal is social."-Janeen Baxter, The University of Queensland, Australia

Review

'Accessible, wide-ranging, and engaging; this is an excellent text. The chapters present fascinating discussions including key debates and previously neglected topics, reflecting current thinking and presented in an easily understandable way.'

- Esther Dermott, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Bristol, UK

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- Kerreen Reiger, Associate Professor, Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Australia

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-Janeen Baxter, Professor of Sociology, The University of Queensland, Australia

'A creatively conceptualized and thought-provoking work. Personal life, as this compelling book demonstrates, cuts across and connects varied institutional sites and configurations of relationship.'

- Barrie Thorne, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, USA

From the Back Cover

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