

Acknowledgments

This volume seeks to convey a sense of the development of social science in the twentieth century through its interaction with a major new instrument for gathering data about society—survey research. The story is largely told by social scientists affiliated with the Survey Research Center (SRC) and Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan and is largely about work done there. But we have also sought to place the work at Michigan in the broader context of developments in survey-based social science in our nation and the world, to which many individuals and institutions beyond SRC, ISR, and Michigan have also greatly contributed. The Michigan case is probably the best single exemplar of these developments, but it is only one exemplar.

Thus, we hope the volume will speak and be useful to a wide audience of social science and survey research professionals and students interested in learning more about the broad content and history of survey-based social science and about its contributions to understanding scientific and social issues in the areas of politics, economics, organizations, health, human development and aging, and racial/ethnic diversity and relations. We also wish to convey how institutional and public support have been and will continue to be crucial to the development of social science and survey research, in the same way that this support has been crucial to developments in the natural, biomedical, and life sciences. In both regards the volume may be of special interest and use to those interested in the Michigan experience.

Creating this volume has been a collective labor of love, reflecting our joint delight in doing social science through survey research and in doing it within the very special and supportive institutional contexts of SRC, ISR, and the University of Michigan. From its inception at the end of the twentieth century and through the fiftieth anniversaries of the SRC and ISR, to its final completion, the volume has been a truly collective effort not only of the five editors and twenty-six contributors but of all of our colleagues, past and present, whose potential contributions could not be fully incorporated into a single volume of publishable size but whose

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work constitutes the substance of much of what is here and much more of what is not. This volume would also not have been possible without the financial support and efforts of multiple staff of SRC and ISR, only some of whom can be recognized by name. For all of this we are grateful.

It is only possible to do a volume like this because we stand, in the words of Newton, “on the shoulder of giants”—the founding quintet of SRC and ISR (Rensis Likert, Angus Campbell, George Katona, Leslie Kish, and Charles Cannell, now all deceased and to whom we dedicate this volume) and their contemporaries elsewhere such as George Gallup, Paul Lazarsfeld, Samuel Stouffer, and Herbert Hyman. Their foundational contributions to developing the science and institutional infrastructures for survey-based social science are evident throughout the volume. We have been made poignantly aware of these contributions over the course of this volume’s writing by the deaths of Kish and Cannell, as well as of Elizabeth Douvan, the one female member of the founding ISR generation, and of another senior female colleague, A. Regula Herzog, who was the principal author of chapter 12 of this volume before her death.

The book and its content also would not have been possible without the forward-looking and sustained support of the University of Michigan and the major external sponsors of social science research at SRC, ISR, and beyond, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, major private foundations, and some private sector companies. This support underlies all of the lines of research described in the chapters that follow.

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