

# Great Plains Sociologist

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## Front Matter

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# The Great Plains Sociologist

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Volume 8

Number 1

1995

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Official Journal of the Great Plains Sociological Association

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### Editorial Policy Statement

The *Great Plains Sociologist* is published as a general sociology journal by the Great Plains Sociological Association, thus we publish articles of general interest to sociologists in the region and beyond. The organization primarily seeks to serve sociologists from the Great Plains. However, that does not necessarily limit the material published in the journal. Our readers are sociologists, from undergraduates to full professors, with wide ranging interests in the discipline.

The following guidelines are offered to authors who wish to submit their work to the journal for publication:

1. The topics should be of interest to a relatively wide audience of sociologists. This does not mean that a majority must agree with findings or discussions. Popularity of findings play no role in the decision to publish. Publication is always based on quality of the work.
2. We are unable to publish lengthy articles; brevity is definitely required. Manuscripts should typically be in the range of 10 to 15 journal pages, with an absolute limit of 20 journal pages.
3. Many types of manuscripts will be considered for publication. For example, we publish traditional research articles that empirically test hypotheses derived from social theory, thought pieces explicating ideas or investigating specific topics, and articles that focus on teaching techniques or experiences.
4. All articles submitted for review should include three copies of the manuscript. Upon acceptance, one copy of the manuscript on a computer disk (preferably in WordPerfect) must be submitted.
5. Manuscripts submitted for publication should be sent to the journal editor, and are then sent to at least two reviews for comment and recommendation. The journal editor also reads submissions and has responsibility for the final decision to publish or not. The editor and reviews may request that a manuscript be rewritten and resubmitted.
6. To preserve anonymity, please attach to the manuscript a cover page that contains authorship, address, and institutional affiliation. The next page should contain the title of the article only. The authorship page will be removed and retained by the editor to assure anonymity.
7. Manuscript format should follow American Sociological Review (ASR) form both for references and style. See a recent copy of the ASR as a style guide.

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#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It's difficult to believe that this is the eighth year of publication for the *Great Plains Sociologist*. It seem like it was just a few years ago that a number of us sat around the Brookings Holiday Inn attempting to organize the GPSA and Harlow Hatle asked if we wanted to have a journal. At the time I thought, "Sure, if he can create it that would be great, but I wonder how it's done." After three years as an "editor" I am beginning to understand something about what goes into creating a successful journal. A most important element is the dedicated work of large numbers of people.

I wish to especially thank everyone who submitted articles for consideration, successfully published here or not. It takes courage to submit work for professional criticism, and possible rejection. For the five articles published here I believe that they are interesting reading. Enjoy yourself. This year we are printing about twenty pages more than last year because there was so much good material that cutting the size of the journal would be difficult.

I would also like to thank all the people who contributed their time and efforts to reviewing articles. Most all the reviewers took their task seriously and gave a careful, professional, and constructive review. This journal would not be possible without the donated service of so many of you. Being under time pressures I often sent manuscripts from this office with requests for reviews almost by return mail. Your response has been wonderful. Thank you, and you know who you are out there.

After seeing the book review section I was struck by the excellent quality of the reviews and the huge amount of collective labor that went into writing them. These reviews aid us all in learning about important books of interest and their inclusion here is a strong point for the GPS. Thank you for all of your contributions. Please keep reading and sending possible titles for review to Tom Laugham, who will be soliciting next issue's reviews in a few months I'm sure.

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