

AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEERS OF SOCIOLOGY: A CRITICAL HISTORY

In *African American Pioneers of Sociology*, Pierre Saint-Arnaud examines the lasting contributions that African Americans have made to the field of sociology. Arguing that social science is anything but a neutral construct, he defends the radical stances taken by early African American sociologists from unfair criticism by considering the racist historical context of the time in which these influential works were produced.

Examining key figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Edward Franklin Frazier, Charles Spurgeon Johnson, Horace Roscoe Cayton, J.G. St Clair Drake, and Oliver Cromwell Cox, Saint-Arnaud reveals the ways in which these authors' radical views on race, gender, religion, and class shaped the emerging academic discipline of sociology. Faithfully and elegantly translated from the original French, *African American Pioneers of Sociology* is an extraordinary study of the influence of African American intellectuals and an essential work for understanding the origins and development of modern sociology.

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PIERRE SAINT-ARNAUD

African American Pioneers of Sociology

A Critical History

Translated by Peter Feldstein

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This book is dedicated to three people whom I had the good fortune to meet during my stay in Chicago – Bradley, a clerk at the University of Chicago’s Joseph Regenstein Library; Jacob, a vendor of the alternative weekly StreetWise, and Sally, a housekeeper at the establishment on East Delaware Street where I stayed – as well as to the millions of other African Americans whose individual and collective struggle for equality throughout modern history will remain an inspiration to me.

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[O]ne can and must acknowledge that science is a thoroughly historical social fact without concluding that its productions are relative to the historical and social conditions of their emergence ...

Pierre Bourdieu, *Science of Science and Reflexivity*

Your country? How came it yours? Before the Pilgrims landed we were here. Our song, our toil, our cheer, and warning have been given to this nation in blood-brotherhood. Are not these gifts worth the giving? Is not this work and striving? Would America have been America without her Negro People?

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

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