

Evaluating Social Programs

Theory, Practice, and Politics

edited by PETER H. ROSSI and WALTER WILLIAMS

A Volume in the

QUANTITATIVE STUDIES IN SOCIAL RELATIONS Series

How effective is it? would seem to be an obvious question to ask about any social program, but, as this book illustrates, many large-scale social programs make little provisions for testing and evaluating their results. This collection of essays addresses itself to three basic questions crucial to effective social action and, consequently, to the lives of those who are supposed to benefit from them: Why has so little high quality evaluative research been done? What problems are involved in developing more evaluative research and using its results in policy making? and, What should government and social scientists do to foster soundly conceived and executed evaluative research?

The essays in this book — all of them written by leading social scientists — throw new light on each of these questions, but special attention is devoted to the first: i.e., the conceptual, methodological, bureaucratic, political, and organizational factors that hinder sound evaluation. The essays, of course, deal not only with the complexities associated with each factor, but also with the many ways in which the factors become intertwined in practice. Contents include: An Overview. Evaluative Research: Theory. Evaluative Research: Practice. Organizing for Large-Scale Evaluative Research.

1972, 334 pp., \$10.95

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edited by DONALD J. BLACK and MAUREEN MILESKI

Based on the premise that the behavior of law as a system of social control is directly dependent on social organization, this volume establishes a framework for the comparative study of legal processes in both past and present societies throughout the world. The editors have systematically selected 21 representative readings that deal with the prescription, mobilization, and disposition of Law — and have organized these readings under the following categories: theoretical strategy; law and other forms of social control; social stratification; social morphology; collective action; culture; legal organization. The editors begin with an introduction describing their approach to the sociology of law, and highlighting the empirical interest of the readings which follow. They then present selected readings from the literature of legal scholarship, anthropology, history, political science, and sociology. These readings cover a vast array of legal patterns ranging historically and geographically from the legal and political organization of ancient Rome to the legal relations of American businessmen and include information on such unusual topics as the European witch trials, communal courts in a West African tribe, and revolutionary law in Soviet Asia.

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