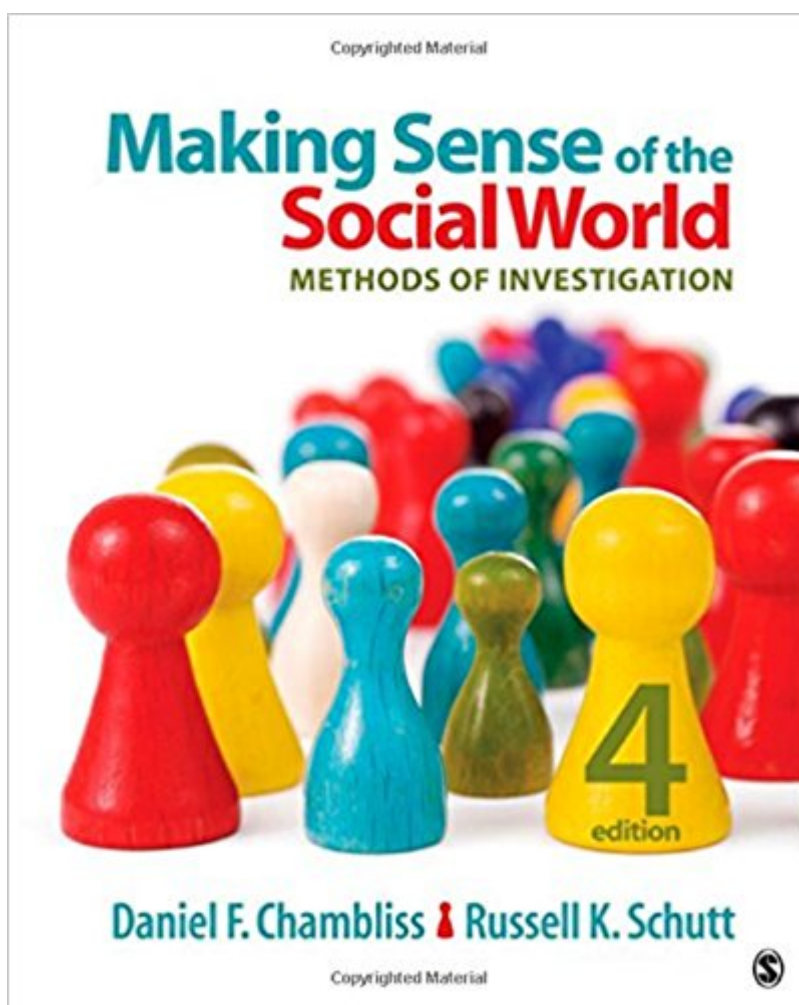


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# Making Sense Of The Social World: Methods Of Investigation



## Synopsis

Making Sense of the Social World, fourth edition is an engaging introduction to social research for students who need to understand methodologies and results, but who may never conduct research themselves. It provides a balanced treatment of qualitative and quantitative methods, integrating substantive examples and research techniques throughout. It is written in a less formal style than many comparable texts, complete with practical examples drawn from everyday experience.

## Book Information

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""The strength of this text is in its brevity. In a one semester course, it is impossible to cover all the topics in a comprehensive text in any depth. I would rather my students learn the fundamentals of doing research a few topics in depth. They can then build on this knowledge, if they need to, in order to learn new types of analysis. I also like the types and varieties of exercises included in the text." ""It is a worthy contribution." ""It is a worthy contribution." -- Diane Pike (06/01/2007) "It is a worthy contribution." -- Diane Pike

Daniel F. Chambliss, PhD, is the Eugene M. Tobin Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where he has taught since 1981. He received his PhD from Yale University in 1982; later that year, his thesis research received the American Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Dissertation Prize. In 1988, he published the book *Champions: The Making of Olympic Swimmers*, which received the Book of the Year Prize from the U.S. Olympic Committee. In 1989, he received the American Sociology

Association (ASA)'s Theory Prize for work on organizational excellence based on his swimming research. Recipient of both Fulbright and Rockefeller Foundation fellowships, he published his second book, *Beyond Caring: Hospitals, Nurses, and the Social Organization of Ethics*, in 1996; for that work, he was awarded the ASA's Elliot Freidson Prize in Medical Sociology. In 2014, Harvard University Press published his book, *How College Works*, coauthored with his former student Christopher G. Takacs. His research and teaching interests include organizational analysis, higher education, social theory, and comparative research methods.

Russell K. Schutt, PhD, is professor and chair of sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he received the 2007 Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Service. Since 1990, he has also been a lecturer on sociology in the Department of Psychiatry (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center) at the Harvard Medical School. He completed his BA, MA, and PhD degrees at the University of Illinois at Chicago and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Sociology of Social Control Training Program at Yale University. In addition to eight editions of the text on which this brief edition is based, *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*, and four other coauthored versions for the fields of social work, criminal justice, psychology, and education his other books include *Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness* (2011), *Social Neuroscience: Brain, Mind, and Society* (coedited, 2015), and *Organization in a Changing Environment* (1986). He has authored and coauthored numerous journal articles, book chapters, and research reports on homelessness, mental health, organizations, law, and teaching research methods. His research has included a mixed-methods investigation of a public health coordinated care program, a study of community health workers and recruitment for cancer clinical trials, a mixed-methods study of a youth violence reduction program, a randomized trial of a peer support program for homeless dually diagnosed veterans, and a randomized evaluation of housing alternatives for homeless persons diagnosed with severe mental illness, with funding from the National Cancer Institute, the Veterans Health Administration, the National Institute of Mental Health, the John E. Fetzer Institute, and state agencies. His current scholarly foci are the impact of the social environment on cognitive and community functioning, the meaning of housing and service preferences, and the value of alternative organizational and occupational structures for service delivery. His prior research has also included investigation of social factors in legal decisions and admission practices and of influences on job and service satisfaction. Details are available at <http://rschutt.wikispaces.umb.edu>.

Wording in this textbook is horrible! Were they drunk or half-asleep when they wrote this? The layout

is not user friendly or intuitive at all! Found some inaccuracies and info seems highly outdated. I hated reading this book for class.

You guys, this book is so terrible. The language of the book is so vague, obscure, and confusing that I can read a definition 7 times and still have no idea what is being defined. It's so completely unhelpful. I have to google the definitions myself because the definitions provided here tell me nothing!!!!

This text left a lot out, the index was sparse and sometimes the page numbers were off.

The language is horribly stilted, unclear, and grammatically problematic. I advise any professors considering this text to heed my request: please, for the sake of your students, do not select this.

The binding of this book is badly damaged and the cover is not intact. The pages are fine and intact. I'm a bit irritated that there was no note about the binding damage, as I am renting this book and want to ensure I am not charged for pre-made damages when I return it.

This is a required text book for a course I'm taking. I would not recommend this even as a text book. The author tends to repeat himself - a lot - which makes reading tedious. Some of the concepts are difficult for me, more so than they would be for other readers, but when the author uses six different examples to attempt to clarify, it actually makes it worse! One solid, well explained example would work better for difficult areas. I also rented this as Kindle book, and there are links to journals, videos, audio, etc. Because this is likely going to be on a device that can access the Internet in some way, the publisher needs to make these links live. Couple that with graphics that if you click the links in the reading to go to them, you have to hunt for where you were beforehand, it makes this a really bad eBook design. And without being able to easily see the pages, I had to get creative with using notes and bookmarks to find the start and end pages that the course required. Now, I've had other text books in eBook format, and what I've learned so far is that half of the publishers out there put in the money to make a great eBook textbook, while others, like this one, just do the basics and seem to hope no one will notice.

This textbook was required for one of my sociology classes and I found it quite hard to read not due to difficulty level but due to the repetitive way the entire text was outlined. Every chapter repeats

everything in summaries both in the beginning and the end. The entire first chapter is devoted to what the rest of the book is about which is just silly in my opinion. There was also a discrepancy about the quantitative vs qualitative measures section of the text which didn't make sense to me in my reading and which later was addressed by my professor as being incorrect in the book. I also felt that there could have been far more helpful ways of teaching distribution tables. Although they provided plenty of examples of the tables, there wasn't enough about the actual steps taken to get your data organized properly for these tables and inputting was hardly explained at all. If it wasn't required by my professor I would have chosen something far more useful and informative than this book.

Just when I needed for the class at an excellent price

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