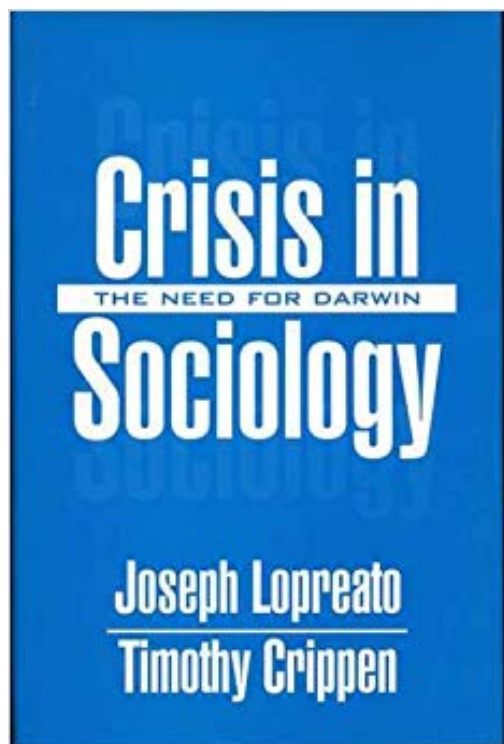


Crisis in Sociology: The Need for Darwin *by* Timothy Alan Crippen, Joseph Lopreato



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Crisis in Sociology presents a compelling portrait of sociology's current troubles and proposes a controversial remedy. In the authors' view, sociology's crisis has deep roots, traceable to the over-ambitious sweep of the discipline's founders. Generations of sociologists have failed to focus effectively on the tasks necessary to build a social science. The authors see sociology's most disabling flaw in the failure to discover even a single general law or principle. This makes it impossible to systematically organize empirical observations, guide inquiry by suggesting falsifiable hypotheses, or form the core of a genuinely cumulative body of knowledge.

Absent such a theoretical tool, sociology can aspire to little more than an amorphous mass of hunches and disconnected facts. The condition engenders confusion and unproductive debate. It invites fragmentation and predation by applied social disciplines, such as business administration, criminal justice, social work, and urban studies. Even more dangerous are incursions by prestigious social sciences and by branches of evolutionary biology that constitute the frontier of the current revolution in behavioral science. Lopreato and Crippen argue that unless sociology takes into account central developments in evolutionary science, it will not survive as an academic discipline.

Crisis in Sociology argues that participation in the "new social science," exemplified by thriving new fields such as evolutionary psychology, will help to build a vigorous, scientific sociology. The authors analyze research on such subjects as sex roles, social stratification, and ethnic conflict, showing how otherwise disconnected features of the sociological landscape can in fact contribute to a theoretically coherent and cumulative body of knowledge.



Reviews of the **Crisis in Sociology: The Need for Darwin** by Timothy Alan Crippen, Joseph Lopreato

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This is a wonderful work of scholarship. Crippen and Lopreato, concerned about the lack of intellectual rigor in sociology build a persuasive argument to apply methodologies from the natural sciences. (As opposed to the "unnatural" or "social" sciences.) They adopt the intriguing viewpoint that conclusions must be based on factual observation, hypothesis and honest intellectual analysis. Their argument will not be well received by those for whom facts and data must be molded to fit pre-conceived conclusions. The application of the work done in sociobiology and evolutionary science is first rate. This is a must read for anyone concerned about the current state of the discipline of sociology.

Cala

There are two monumental books in Sociology from 1940 to now, both by Josph Lopreato. He knows culture, biology, science reason and big mess in sociology. Main point: To do science must have at least one general law. Without it: sociology CRISIS big time. Sciences borrow with each other. Sociology must borrow from sister Biology, learn science reason, then add own laws. Lopreato and Crippen show how. So easy. But question: can sociologists learn science? I do not believe. They learn ideology-very easy.

Kitaxe

I came to this book with doubts of the authors and context of book, but by the time I finished, I was amazed at the ideas and the perception noted by these men. I would recommend it to anyone.

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