

The Women Founders

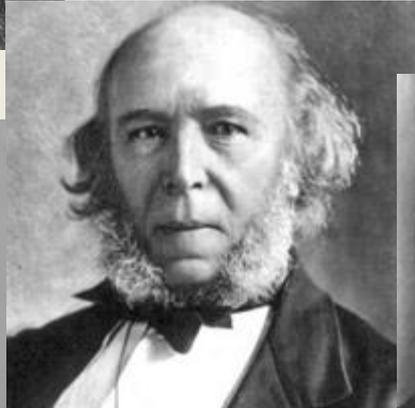
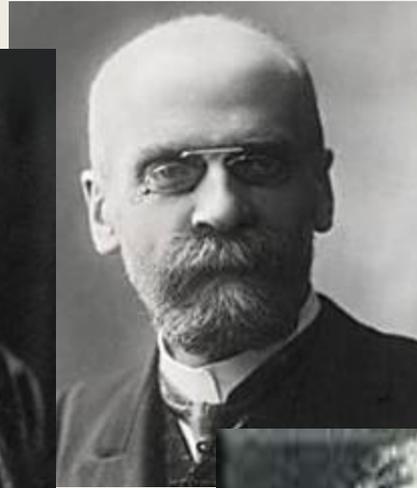
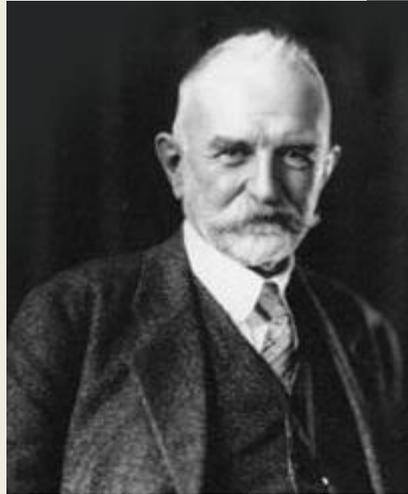
Sociology and Social Theory

1830-1930

Patricia Madoo Lengermann

Jill Niebrugge-Brantley

The history of sociology's theories is conventionally told as a history of white male agency...

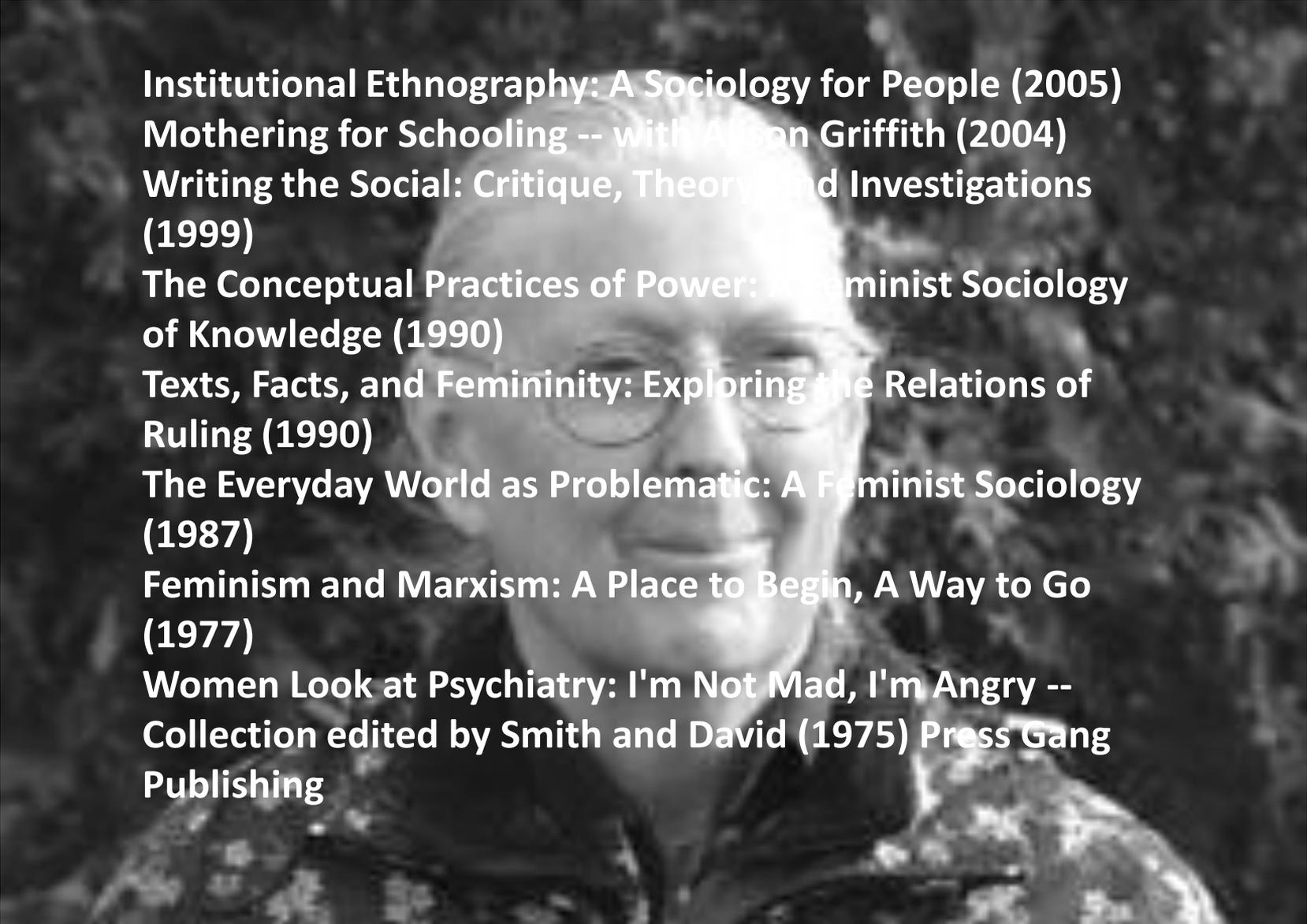


History of Sociology's Theories

This history is presented as an account of the natural way things occurred, a chronicle beyond the powers of human tellers to change.

A sociology is a systematically
developed consciousness of society
and social relations.
--Dorothy E. Smith





Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People (2005)

Mothering for Schooling -- with Alison Griffith (2004)

**Writing the Social: Critique, Theory, and Investigations
(1999)**

**The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology
of Knowledge (1990)**

**Texts, Facts, and Femininity: Exploring the Relations of
Ruling (1990)**

**The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology
(1987)**

**Feminism and Marxism: A Place to Begin, A Way to Go
(1977)**

**Women Look at Psychiatry: I'm Not Mad, I'm Angry --
Collection edited by Smith and David (1975) Press Gang
Publishing**

Three Claims

- #1: Women have always been significantly involved in creating sociology.
- #2 Women have always made distinctive and important contributions to social theory.
- #3 Women's contributions to sociology and social theory have been written out of the record of the discipline's history.

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Politics

of

Gender

Politics

of

Knowledge

Focus on the lives and work of
15 classical female theorists.

Harriet Martineau

1802-1876



Jane Addams

1860-1935



Charlotte Perkins Gilman

1860-1935



Anna Julia Cooper

1858-1964



Ida B. Wells-Barnett



Marianne Weber

1870-1954



Beatrice Potter Webb

1858-1943



The Chicago Women's School of Sociology



The Chicago Women's School

Edith Abbott 1876-1957

Grace Abbott 1878-1939



The Chicago Women's School

Sophonisba Breckinridge 1866-1948



The Chicago Women's School

Florence Kelley 1859-1932



The Chicago Women's School

Frances Kellor 1873-1952



The Chicago Women's School

Julia Lathrop 1858-1932



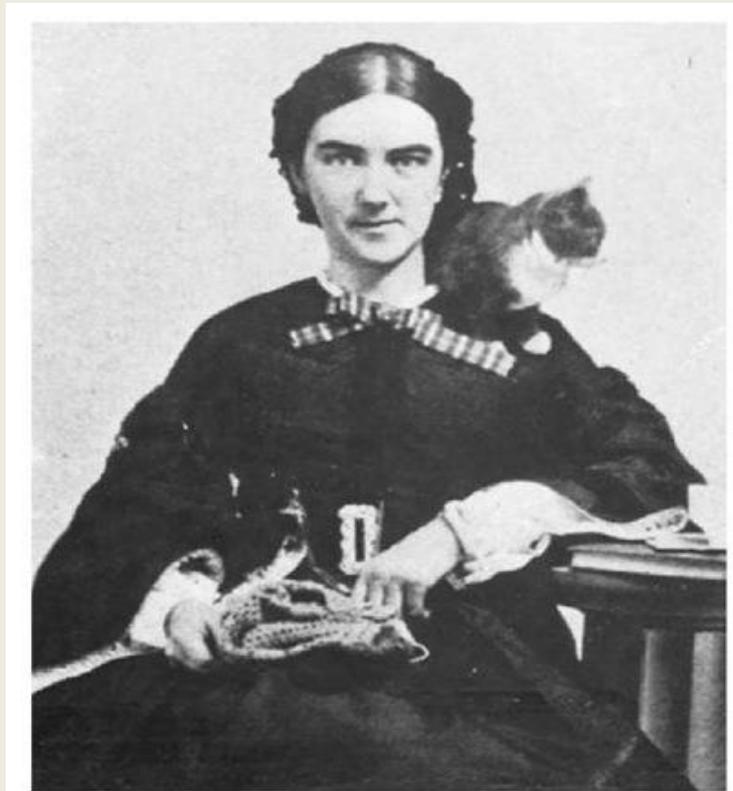
The Chicago Women's School

Annie Marion MacLean 1870-1934



The Chicago Women's School

Marion Talbot 1858-1947



Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley

Invisibility vs Erasure

Invisibility

- Not being seen
- Never having one's presence acknowledged as significant

Erasure

- Having once been a presence and then having been written out

Argument for Erasure

#1

Almost all these women were well-known public figures in their lifetime.

Argument for Erasure

#2

...They created social theory and did sociology in the same times and places as the male founders.

Argument for Erasure

#3

They were widely recognized by their contemporaries, including male sociologists, as significant social analysts.

Argument for Erasure

#4

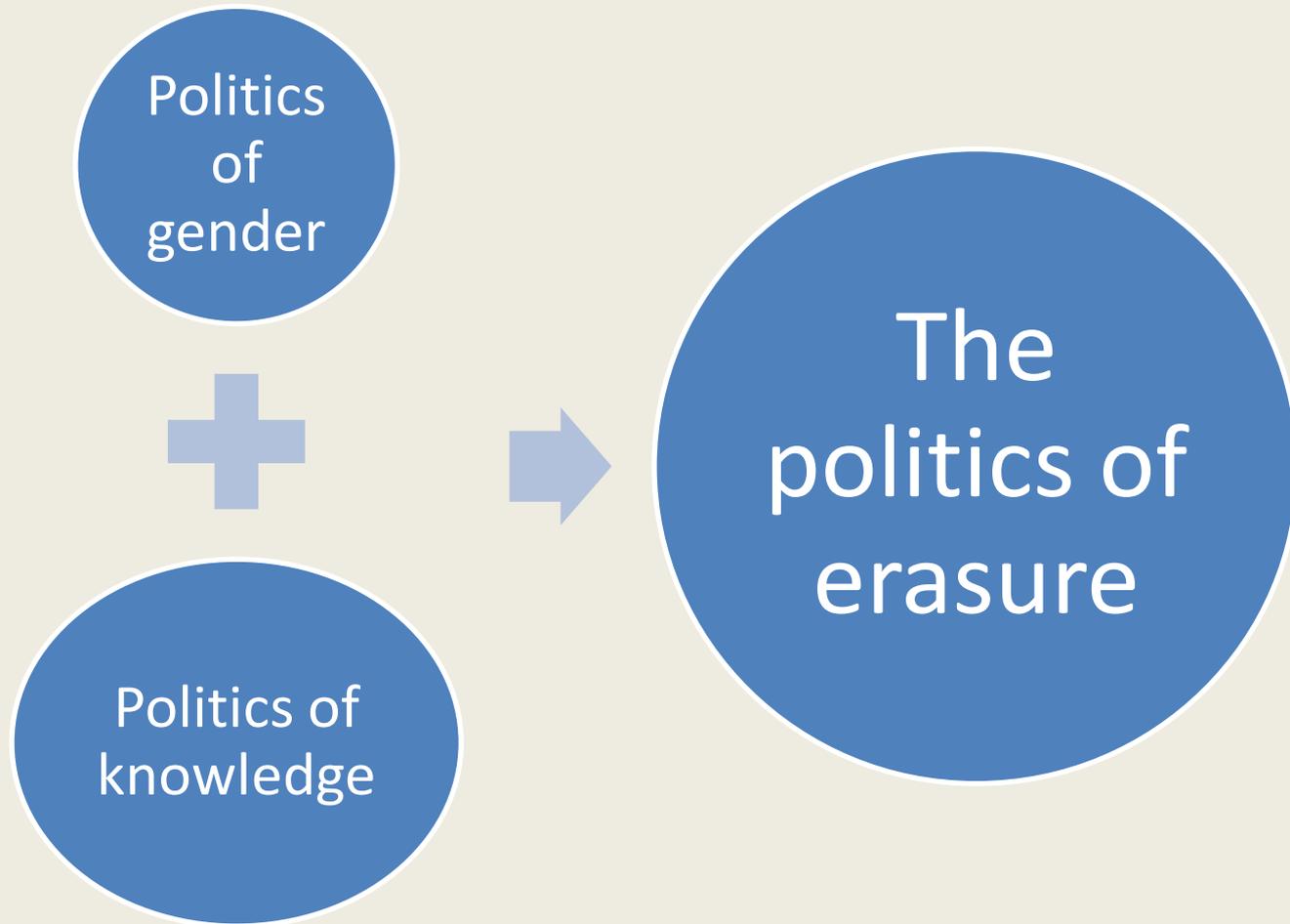
They all acted as members of a sociological community.

Erasure

[This] erasure can be understood in terms of a series of power processes involving the conferral or denial of authority, understood as 'a form of power that is a distinctive capacity to get things done in words.'

(D. Smith, 1987:29 cited in Lengermann & Niebrugge-Brantley 1998:10)

The Politics of Erasure



Politics of Gender

...women's tenuous hold on authority in a man-made culture.

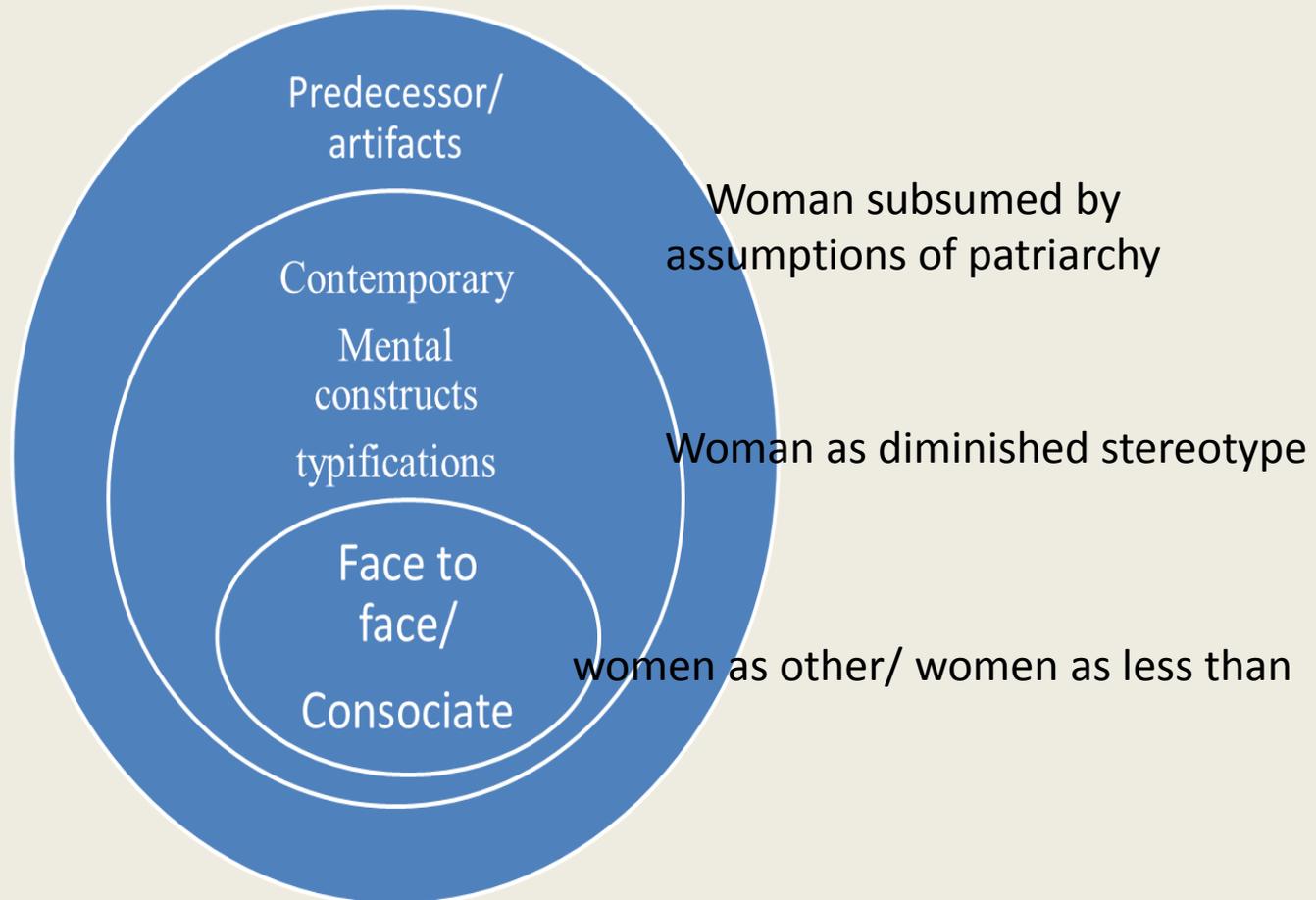
Politics of Gender

“...women’s tenuous hold on authority in a man-made culture.”

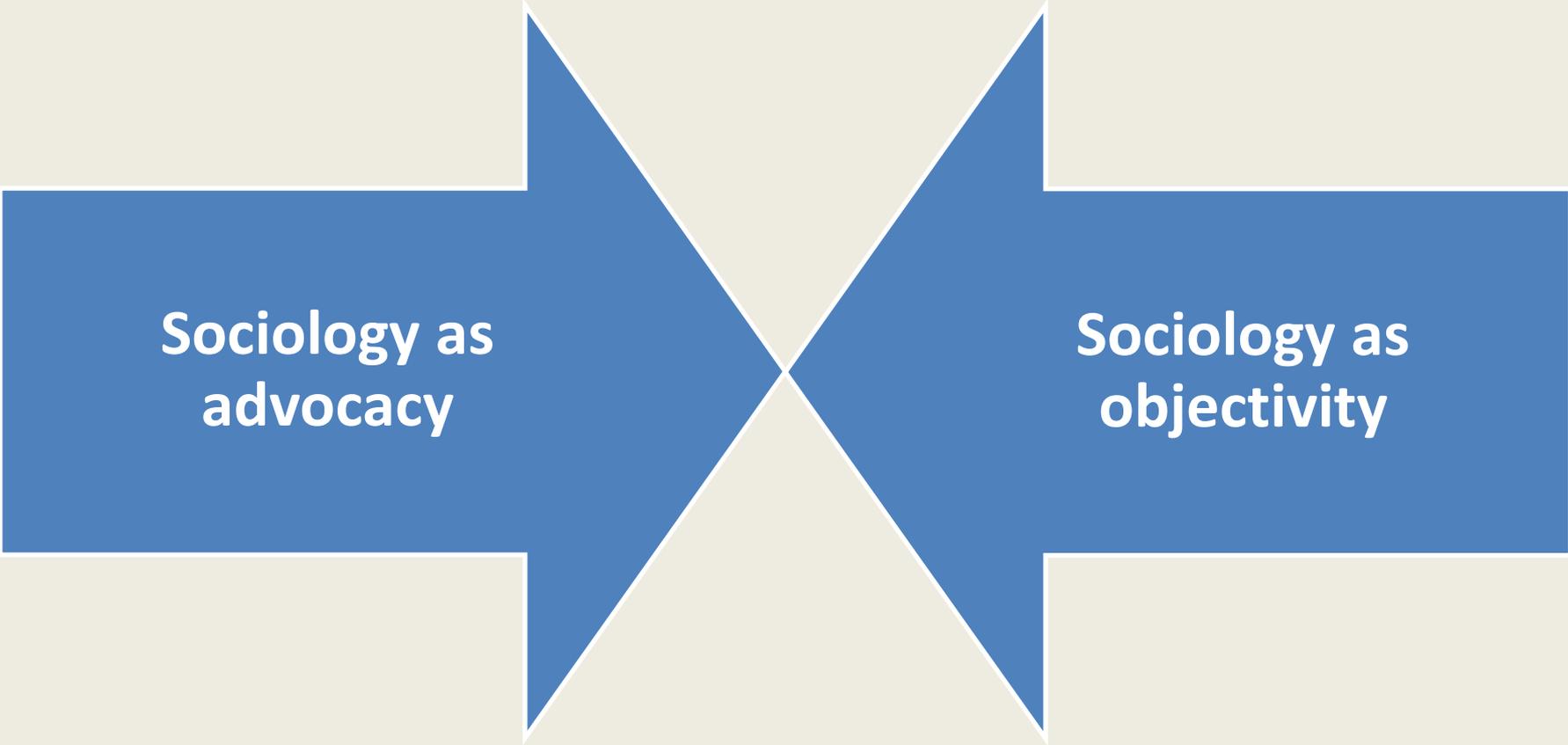
Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley’s feminist application of Alfred Schutz



Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley's Feminist Application of Alfred Schutz to the Politics of Gender



Politics of Knowledge



**Sociology as
advocacy**

**Sociology as
objectivity**

Politics of Knowledge

Sociology as advocacy

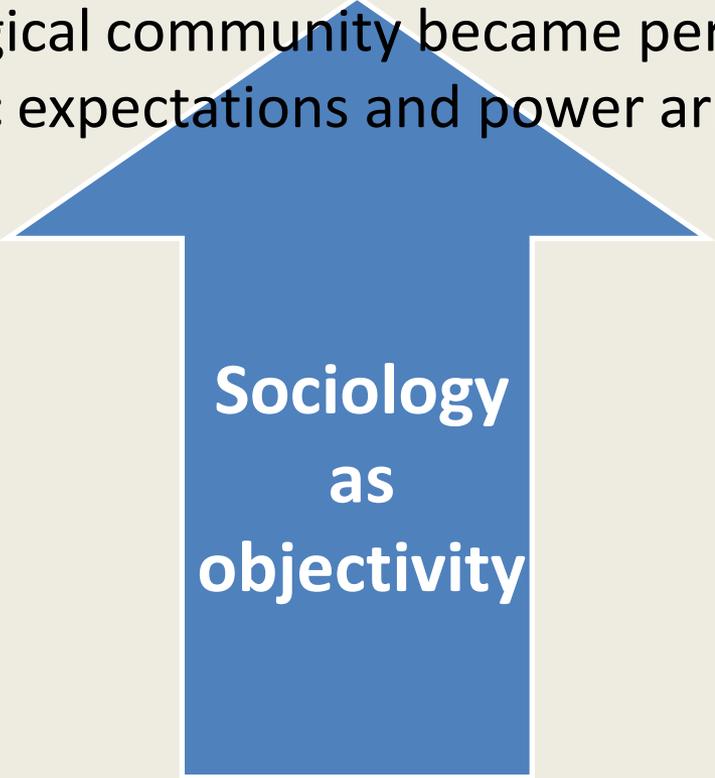
Women theorists
Conflict theorist
activists

Sociology as objectivity

Functionalists
conformists
Institutional legitimacy

Politics of Knowledge

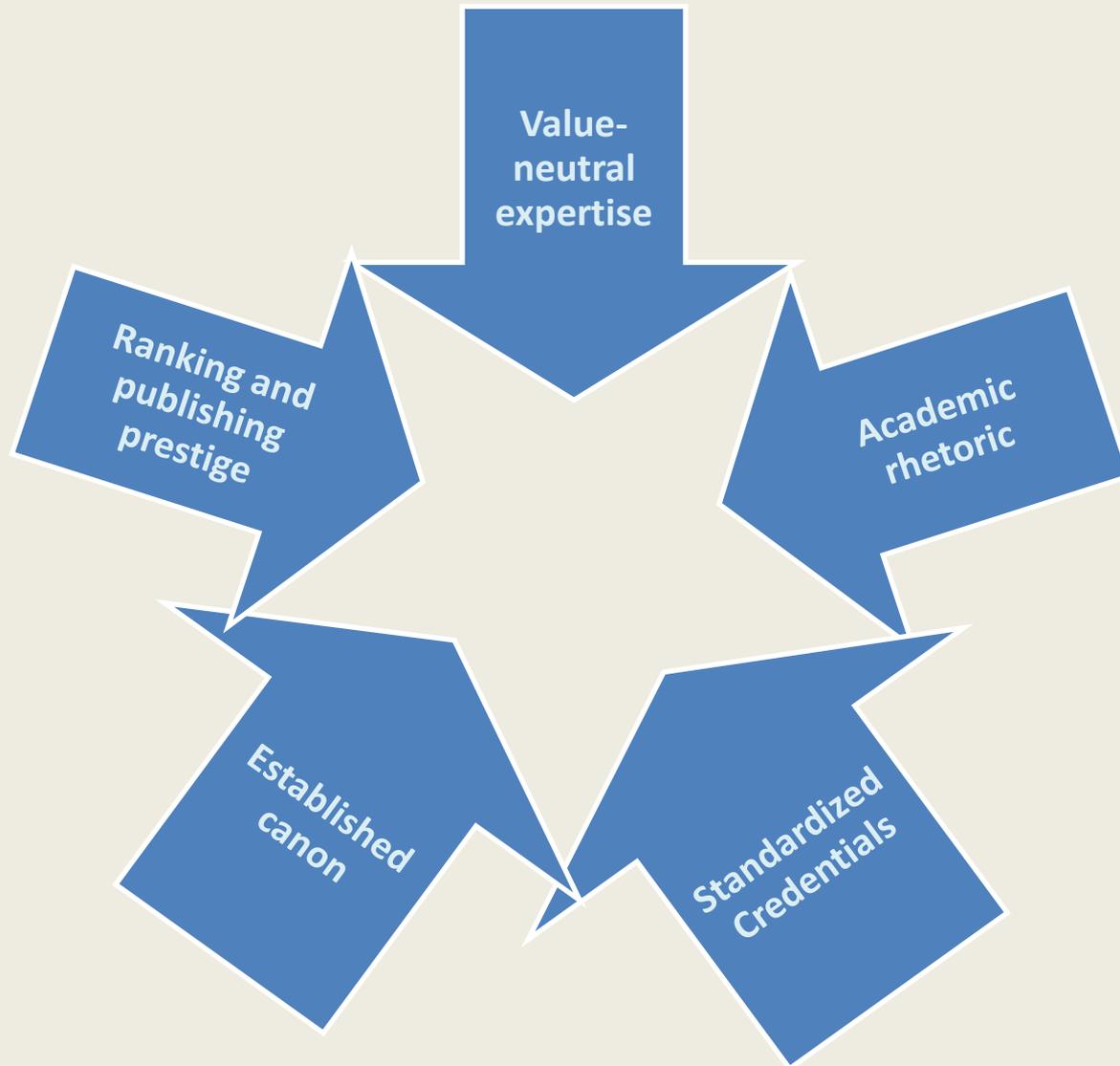
Securing and expanding this work site meant that the sociological community became permeated by academic expectations and power arrangements.



**Sociology
as
objectivity**

The university, whether private or public, depended on the economic support of powerful corporations and governmental groups aligned with capitalism.

The Resulting Sociology



Key Concluding Points by Lengermann and Niebrugge-Brantley

...the operative canon
in modern sociology is
a social construction,
not a natural
development.

This canon '...is
conceivable only
because of the earlier
marginalization of the
women founders.'

