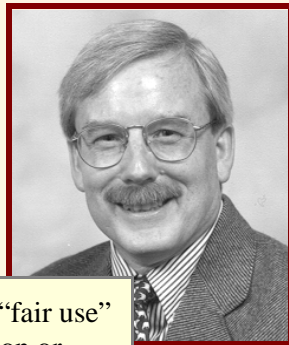


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**DISSERTATIONS AND THESES  
SPONSORED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-  
LINCOLN  
1905-1999:  
ALPHABETICAL AND  
CHRONOLOGICAL LISTS**

Compiled with an Introduction by

**MICHAEL R. HILL**



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2000  
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To My Fellow Alumni

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Presented in Celebration  
of the Centennial of  
the Department of Sociology  
University of Nebraska  
1900-2000

# CONTENTS

Introduction: The Bibliographical Record of Graduate Studies in Sociology at the University of Nebraska	1
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## **Dissertations and Theses Sponsored by the Department of Sociology in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1905-1999**

Alphabetical List .....	7
Chronological List .....	40

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About the Compiler .....	83
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**INTRODUCTION: THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA**

MICHAEL R. HILL, PH.D.

THE YEAR 2000 marks the centennial of the formal departmental organization of sociology at the University of Nebraska. The compilations presented here recognize and celebrate the achievements of hundreds of graduate students, my fellow alumni, who have completed masters theses and doctoral dissertations under the auspices of the Department of Sociology. These student works are constructive, often innovative additions to the advancement of knowledge, and several have been abridged in journal articles or published as books (cf., Hill 1988b). The doctoral dissertation, in particular, is a major *rite de passage* in the transition from student to intellectual (Deegan and Hill 1991a; Hill 1991), and it is especially appropriate, in this centennial year, to salute the corporate contributions made by graduate sociology students to the wider scholarly community. The two compilations presented here are arranged, first, alphabetically by author, and, second, chronologically by year, categorized by theses and dissertations.

The alphabetical and chronological lists presented here represent an attempt to construct a comprehensive catalog of all masters theses and doctoral dissertations written at the University of Nebraska under the auspices of the Department of Sociology in its various organizational configurations from the earliest days to the present. During its one-hundred year history, the department has formally sported a variety of monikers, beginning life in 1900 as the Department of Political Economy and Sociology. To accommodate the incorporation of George Elliott Howard's short-lived Department of Institutional History and the reorganization of graduate studies in economics at Nebraska, the name was changed in 1906 to the Department of Political Science and Sociology, with Howard as its newly appointed Head Professor. Political science and anthropology, disciplines previously allied with sociology, eventually became independent organizational units at the University of Nebraska. The current home for sociological scholarship at Nebraska is named, simply, the Department of Sociology. Readers interested in further details concerning the professors and the early history of the Department of Sociology are directed to the sources in the Selected References, below.

The first graduate sociology dissertation of record is Anderson William Clark's 1905 treatise on *State Control and Supervision of Charities and Corrections*. Scores of students have since emulated Clark's pioneering effort, completing a total of 171 doctoral dissertations in sociology to date. The first known masters thesis was completed in 1906 by John Hudson Bowlby. He wrote on *The Relation of Bank Items to the State of Trade*, a topic in which Edward A. Ross likely had a strong interest. The total number of thesis-based masters degrees awarded by the Department of Sociology currently stands at 254.

### **HOWARD'S TWO ERAS AT NEBRASKA: WHEN DID GRADUATE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY BEGIN IN LINCOLN?**

It is important to note that significant sociological work at the University of Nebraska was completed prior to the official creation of the Department of Political Economy and Sociology on June 6, 1900. Those earlier accomplishments are not reflected in the lists presented here, but a more expansive, interdisciplinary definition of "sociology" could easily accommodate them, especially if we more fully appreciate the nature of George Elliott Howard's two professorships, early and late, at the University of Nebraska. The earliest sociological efforts at the graduate level were sponsored by G.E. Howard during his first period of service to the University of Nebraska (1879-1891). He was then the inaugural Professor of History in the University.

Howard, from the very start, adopted what he termed an "institutional" approach to historical patterns. His was an inherently sociological perspective that was reflected in the intellectual labors of his first students. The latter included, for example, Amos Griswold Warner. Warner, as an undergraduate, studied with Howard at Nebraska, earned the B.A. degree in 1885, and then went to Johns Hopkins for graduate work. Warner subsequently returned and taught at the University of Nebraska (1889-1891) under Howard. In Lincoln, Warner developed the outline for his sociologically influential treatise on *American Charities* (1894).

Another important early Howard student was Mary Adell Tremain, the first woman to earn a graduate degree at the University of Nebraska (1890). Her thesis, *Slavery in the District of Columbia: The Policy of Congress and the Struggle for Abolition* (1892), was first presented in the pioneering graduate seminar jointly offered by G.E. Howard, A.G. Warner, and another of Howard's former students, H.W. Caldwell, in 1889.

This early era of undifferentiated and interdisciplinary sociological work ended when Howard accepted a call in 1891 to join the founding faculty at the newly formed Leland Stanford Jr. University in California, and Warner left Nebraska to become, at the request of President Harrison, the first Superintendent of Charities for the District of Columbia. For much of the 1890s, sociology at the University of Nebraska lacked a major advocate.

New interest in sociology arose, however, during the 1899-1900 academic year when Charles A. Ellwood was "hired" as the first University of Nebraska instructor specifically appointed to teach sociology courses. Ellwood soon departed, however, following a year of service for which he received no salary, but he was fortuitously replaced by Edward A. Ross who was just then being fired, in late 1900, from Stanford University in what became a nationally-prominent academic freedom case. Ross had supporters and defenders at Stanford, including George Elliott Howard. For voicing his loyalty to Ross, Howard was also fired from Stanford, in January 1901, and eventually rejoined the faculty of the University of Nebraska, in 1904, as Professor of Institutional History. In 1906, Howard was formally named Head of a reorganized Department of Political Science and Sociology. From this point forward, Howard was unequivocally a sociologist, and in 1917 he was elected President of the American Sociological Society.

Considerable archival work remains before a comprehensive portrait can be drawn of “the first period” of Howard’s sociological work at Nebraska (1879-1891). It was deeply entwined in his interdisciplinary approach to history, economics, political science, and sociology. All of his early students, graduate and undergraduate, still need to be identified. And, there are tangible continuities between Howard’s “first” and “second” Nebraska periods that need explication. For example, Mary A. Tremain continued advanced graduate study with Howard, in sociology, after his return to Lincoln although she never completed the doctorate. Documenting these early patterns and connections resides outside the boundaries of the present project, however. Suffice it to say that the distinctively sociological orientation of Howard’s “second period” (1904-1928) at Nebraska is beyond question and is well established by the many theses and dissertations produced with his support and encouragement as Head Professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology after 1906.

### SOURCES

Several sources were consulted to assemble these lists of theses and dissertations. Fundamentally important was the old dictionary card catalog at Love Library. Fortunately, the initial work for this project was completed prior to December 15, 1997, when the card catalog was permanently replaced by the IRIS computer system. IRIS is the primary source for theses and dissertations written after 1989. In the first months following the destruction of the card catalog, this author discovered that more than a hundred theses and dissertations listed in IRIS could not be identified, via IRIS, as written under the auspices of the Department of Sociology. That deficiency has since been largely corrected. Nonetheless, the lists presented here are more comprehensive, by more than a dozen titles, than any that can be constructed using IRIS alone. In several cases, it was necessary to physically consult the theses and dissertations to determine actual departmental sponsorship, the number of pages in the thesis or dissertation, and, occasionally, to distinguish between M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. *Comprehensive Dissertation Index, 1861-1972* also provided helpful information, as did copies of the University of Nebraska *Bulletin*, commencement programs, and alumni directories. Finally, accurate departmental attribution sometimes rests on serendipitous discoveries in archival files, autobiographies, and/or biographical sketches of the relevant authors. For example, Lowry Charles Wimberly’s 1925 doctoral dissertation on *Death and Burial Lore in the English and Scottish Popular Ballads: A Study of Death, Burial, Return of the Dead, and the Otherworld* was completed in the Department of Sociology, but this fact is reported only on the title page of the typed manuscript in the University of Nebraska archives, not in the 1927 published version. I was led to consult the typed manuscript when I discovered the official announcement of Wimberly’s oral examination in sociology among the archival papers of Hattie Plum Williams at the Nebraska State Historical Society. It remains possible, even likely, that at least a few sociology dissertations and theses are still “out there” waiting to be properly claimed by the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska.

It is also possible that a few M.A. students have slipped through the cracks. In the earliest era, masters theses were not deposited with the University for safekeeping and transcripts were not always maintained for students who took only graduate work. Further, there is no comprehensive equivalent, for masters theses, of *Dissertations Abstracts International*. Thus, whereas considerable effort has been expended to make these lists comprehensive, there is no guarantee that they are complete. As a matter of record, it should be noted that the lists below do not include the names of non-thesis masters degree students.

Omission of any thesis or dissertation title is entirely accidental and unintended. The author knows from personal experience (Stoddard and Hill 1976) that bibliographic errors in projects of this size are nearly impossible to eliminate. Emendations and corrections to the lists are welcome at any time.

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**Michael R. Hill** is an interdisciplinary scholar holding earned doctorates from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Geography (1982) and Sociology (1989).