

ROBERT K. MERTON



SOCIAL RESEARCH  
AND THE  
PRACTICING  
PROFESSIONS



*Edited and with an Introduction*  
*by*  
*Aaron Rosenblatt and Thomas F. Gieryn*

---

**Abt Books**  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

## Contents

---

Foreword and Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	x
PART I. SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL RESEARCH	1
Chapter 1 The Normative Structure of Science	3
Chapter 2 Notes on Problem-Finding in Sociology	17
Chapter 3 Social Problems and Sociological Theory	43
Chapter 4 The Sociological Vernacular	100
PART II. SOCIOLOGY OF THE PRACTICING PROFESSIONS	107
Chapter 5 Institutionalized Altruism: The Case of the Professions	109
Chapter 6 Preliminaries to a Sociology of Medical Education	135

*Contents*

<i>Chapter 7</i> Functions of the Professional Association	199
<b>PART III. SOCIAL RESEARCH APPLIED TO PUBLIC POLICY</b>	<b>211</b>
<i>Chapter 8</i> Basic Research and Potentials of Relevance	213
<i>Chapter 9</i> Social Knowledge and Public Policy	224
<i>Chapter 10</i> The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy	248
Index of Names	269
Index of Subjects	275