



# Cultural Sociology in Practice (21st Century Sociology)

By Laura Desfor Edles

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*Cultural Sociology in Practice* is a concise introduction to the burgeoning new field of cultural sociology. Using straightforward language and popular examples, the book sorts out the various definitions of the word "culture" in a sociological context.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*Cultural Sociology in Practice* is a shockingly good book. Edles achieves the almost impossible task, a highly accessible book for students that provides a powerful and sophisticated disciplinary statement for their teachers. This is a wide-ranging survey of the vast and surging new field of cultural sociology. It is also a deep and penetrating theoretical and methodological argument in its own right. Moreover, Edles does not just write about the work of others; she provides numerous and compact cultural-sociological studies of her own. Filled with wisdom, fairness, and creativity, this is one of the very best statements of cultural sociology ever written." *Jeffrey Alexander, University of California at Los Angeles*

"*Cultural Sociology in Practice* brightly illuminates the practices of studying culture in all of its forms for readers seeking a map of the field. Laura Desfor Edles writes intelligent, critical, and lucid prose as she explores the specifically sociological chartings of such cultural phenomena as religion, race, and the mass media. An eminently useful survey." *Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Swarthmore College*

#### From the Back Cover

*Cultural Sociology in Practice* is a concise introduction to the burgeoning new field of cultural sociology. Using straightforward language and popular examples, the book sorts out various cultural concepts and types of cultural analysis. Part I outlines the origins and theoretical premises of cultural sociology, and it demonstrates culturalist approaches to religion, the media/popular culture, and race/ethnicity. Part II explains exciting new culturalist methods, focusing on ethnography, discourse analysis, audience/reception research, and cultural history. The text also includes lists of key terms and study questions, providing a useful overview for students grappling with cultural concepts for the first time.

#### About the Author

**Laura Desfor Edles** teaches sociology at California State University, Northridge. She is the author of *Symbol and Ritual in the New Spain: The Transition to Democracy after Franco* (1998).

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