Contents

List of Boxes, xviii Preface, xix

Part One

Introduction 1

Chapter 1 Public and Private Families, 2

Looking Forward, 4

INDIVIDUALISM AND FAMILIES, 6

WHAT IS A FAMILY?, 9 The Public Family, 11 The Private Family, 13 Two Views, Same Family, 15

HOW DO FAMILY SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW? 16

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY AND FAMILIES, 22

Classical Perspectives, 22

The Functionalist Perspective, 22
The Conflict Perspective, 23
The Exchange Perspective, 23
The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective, 24

Contemporary Perspectives, 25

The Feminist Perspective, 25 The Modernity Perspective, 26

Perspectives from Evolutionary Psychology, 28

A SOCIOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT ON FAMILIES, 30

Looking Back, 32 Study Questions, 32 Key Terms, 33 Thinking about Families, 33 Families on the Internet, 33

Boxed Features

HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: The National Surveys, 20

Chapter 2 The History of the Family, 34

Looking Forward, 36

WHAT DO FAMILIES DO?, 38 The Origins of Family and Kinship, 38 Modes of Production, 41



vi Contents

THE AMERICAN FAMILY BEFORE 1776, 42

American Indian Families: The Primacy of the Tribe, 42 European Colonists: The Primacy of the Public Family, 44

THE EMERGENCE OF THE "MODERN" AMERICAN FAMILY: 1776-1900, 45

From Cooperation to Separation: Women's and Men's Spheres, 47

Working-Class Families, 48
Living between Modes, 49

AFRICAN AMERICAN, MEXICAN AMERICAN, AND ASIAN IMMIGRANT

FAMILIES, 51

African American Families, 51

An African Heritage?, 51

The Impact of Slavery, 52

Mexican American Families, 55

Asian Immigrant Families, 57

The Asian Heritage, 57

Asian Immigrants, 57

THE RISE OF THE PRIVATE FAMILY: 1900-PRESENT, 59

The Early Decades, 59

The Depression Generation, 63

The 1950s, 64

The 1960s and Beyond, 67

The Changing Life Course, 68

What History Tells Us, 70

Looking Back, 71

Study Questions, 72

Key Terms, 72

Thinking about Families, 72

Families on the Internet, 73

Boxed Features

FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: The Process of Marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa, 54 FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Divorce Reform: Have We Been Here Before?, 60

Part Two

Gender, Class, and Race-Ethnicity 75

Chapter 3 Gender and Families, 76

Looking Forward, 78

THE BERDACHE, 78

THE GESTATIONAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER, 82

Hormonal Influences, 82

Biosocial Influences, 84

THE CHILDHOOD CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER, 85

Parental Socialization, 86

The Media, 87

Early Peer Groups, 87

Contents vii

Children's Preferences, 88 Later Peer Groups, 89 Unconscious Influences, 91

THE CONTINUAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER, 93 Doing Gender, 93 Sex Categories, 95

GENDER AND MALE DOMINATION, 96

The Sex-Gender System, 96 Gender, Class, and Race, 100 Gender: The Male Point of View, 101

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GENDER STUDIES, 102

Looking Back, 106 Study Questions, 106 Key Terms, 107 Thinking about Families, 107 Families on the Internet, 107

Boxed Features

HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: Feminist Research Methods, 90 FAMILY AND PUBLIC POLICY: The Earnings Gap, 98 FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: China's Missing Girls, 104

Chapter 4 Social Class and Families, 108

Looking Forward, 110

DEFINING SOCIAL CLASS, 111 Bringing in Gender and Family, 112 Four Social Classes, 113

FAMILIES AND THE ECONOMY, 118 The Impact of Economic Restructuring, 118 Unequal Distribution of Income, 119 Trends in Poverty, 121 Prospects for Dual-Earner Couples, 122

CLASS DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY LIFE, 123

Social Class and Kinship, 124 Lower-Class Kinship, 124 Chronic Poverty and Kin Networks, 125 The Costs of Kin Networks, 127 Working-Class Kinship, 127 Middle-Class Kinship, 128 Upper-Class Kinship, 130 Social Class and Gender Roles, 131 The Working and Middle Classes, 131 The Upper Class, 133



viii Contents

Social Class and Childrearing, 135
Social Class and Parental Values, 135
Concerted Cultivation versus Natural Growth, 136

SOCIAL CLASS AND THE FAMILY, 137

Looking Back, 139 Study Questions, 140 Key Terms, 140 Thinking about Families, 140 Families on the Internet, 140

Boxed Features

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Homeless Families: The Tip of the Iceberg, 116
FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Kinship Networks among the Mexican Upper Class, 134

Chapter 5 Race, Ethnicity, and Families, 142

Looking Forward, 144

RACIAL-ETHNIC GROUPS, 146 Constructing Racial-Ethnic Groups, 146 "Whiteness" as Ethnicity, 148

AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES, 150

The Decline of Marriage, 152

The Impact of Economics, 152 The Impact of Culture, 154

Explaining the Decline, 158

The Rise of Middle-Class Families, 159

HISPANIC FAMILIES, 161 Mexican Americans, 161 Puerto Ricans, 164 Cuban Americans, 167

ASIAN AMERICAN FAMILIES, 169

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, 171

AMERICAN INDIAN FAMILIES, 173

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND KINSHIP, 175

Looking Back, 176 Study Questions, 177 Key Terms, 178 Thinking about Families, 178 Families on the Internet, 178

Boxed Features

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: How Should Multiracial Families Be Counted?, 150 FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Transnational Families, 165

Contents ix

Part Three Sexuality, Love, Partnership, and Marriage 179

Chapter 6 Sexuality and Love, 180

Looking Forward, 182

THE EMERGENCE OF SEXUAL IDENTITIES, 183 Sexual Acts versus Sexual Identities, 184 The Determinants of Sexuality, 186

SEXUALITY, LOVE, AND MARRIAGE, 187

The Colonial Era to 1890: Spiritual Love and Sexual Restraint, 187

1890–1960: Romantic Love and Marriage, 189 Connecting Romantic Love and Marriage, 189

The Meanings of Love, 190

Gender Differences in Love, 190

1960 to the Present, 191

Nonmarital Sexual Activity, 191

Marital and Extramarital Sex, 192

Sexuality and Marriage: An Overview, 194

CHILDBEARING OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE, 195

Adolescent Sexuality and Pregnancy, 196

The Teenage Pregnancy "Problem", 198

Declining Rate, Rising Ratio, 198

Alternative Life-Course Strategy?, 199

The Consequences for Teenage Mothers, 200

GAY AND LESBIAN SEXUALITY, 201

The Origins of Sexual Orientation, 202

The Emergence of "Homosexuality", 204

The Kinsey Report, 205

More Recent Surveys, 206

The 1950s and 1960s, 209

The Gay Political Movement, 210

Gay Marriage, 210

THE AIDS EPIDEMIC AND SEXUALITY, 211

Sexual Behavior and AIDS, 212

AIDS and Sexuality, 213

Looking Back, 217

Study Questions, 217

Key Terms, 218

Thinking about Families, 218

Families on the Internet, 218

Boxed Features

FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Was Alexander Hamilton Gay? And Other Irrelevant Questions, 184

HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: Asking about Sensitive Behavior, 206 FAMILY AND PUBLIC POLICY: The Policy Response to AIDS in the United States, 214



Contents

Chapter 7 Cohabitation and Marriage, 220

Looking Forward, 222

FORMING A UNION, 223

Anglo-American Courtship, 226

The Rise and Fall of Dating, 227

The Trend toward Independent Living, 228

MARRIAGE, 229

From Institution to Companionship, 230

The Institutional Marriage, 230

The Companionship Marriage, 231

From Companionship to Individualization, 232

Toward the Individualized Marriage, 233

The Influence of Economic Change, 234

The Marriage Market, 237

The Specialization Model, 238

The Income-Pooling Model, 238

Marriage and Religion, 240

Is Marriage Good for You?, 241

COHABITATION, 244

Heterosexual Cohabitation as an Alternative to Marriage, 246

Heterosexual Cohabitation as Part of the Marriage Process, 248

Heterosexual Cohabitation: A Summing Up, 250

Cohabitation and Family among Lesbians and Gay Men, 250

Families of Choice, 251

Class and Racial-Ethnic Differences, 252

SOCIAL CHANGE AND INTIMATE UNIONS, 252

Changes in Union Formation, 252

Marriage as an Ongoing Project, 255

Looking Back, 256

Study Questions, 257

Key Terms, 258

Thinking about Families, 258

Families on the Internet, 258

Boxed Features

FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Love and Marriage in Japan, 224

HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: Archival Research, 234

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Domestic Partnerships, 246

Chapter 8 Work and Families, 260

Looking Forward, 262

FROM SINGLE-EARNER TO DUAL-EARNER MARRIAGES, 263

Mothers Enter the Labor Force, 263

Behind the Rise, 264

A Profound Change, 265

The Current Situation, 266

Contents xi

CARE WORK AND MARITAL POWER, 268

Who Does the Housework?, 269

Rethinking Caring Work, 270

Breaking the Work/Family Boundary, 270

Care Work as a Public Responsibility, 270

Valuing Caring Labor, 271

Toward an Ethic of Care, 271

Marital Power and Authority, 272

The Meaning of Power, 272

Marital Power and Wage Work, 274

A Stalled Revolution?, 274

OVERLOAD AND SPILLOVER BETWEEN PAID WORK AND FAMILY LIFE, 278

Overworked and Underworked Americans, 278

Spillover, 279

Shift Work and Childcare, 281

Unemployment, 282

Toward a Responsive Workplace?, 283

Looking Back, 287

Study Questions, 288

Key Terms, 288

Thinking about Families, 289

Families on the Internet, 289

Boxed Features

FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: "I Also Have Some Rights", 276

FAMILY AND PUBLIC POLICY: Putting Work-Family Issues on the Agenda, 284

Part Four Links across the Generations 291

Chapter 9 Children and Parents, 292

Looking Forward, 294

WHAT ARE PARENTS SUPPOSED TO DO FOR CHILDREN?, 296

Socialization as Support and Control, 296

Socialization and Ethnicity, 298

Socialization and Social Class. 299

Socialization and Gender, 299

What's Important?, 300

What Difference Do Fathers Make?, 301

Fathers Relate to Young Children Differently Than Mothers, 301

Fathers' Influence Is Often Indirect, 302

Fathers' Influence on Children is Long Term as Well as Short Term, 302

How Fathers Act toward Their Children, Not How Much Time They Spend

with Them, Makes a Difference, 302

An Appraisal, 302

Adoption, 303

WHAT MIGHT PREVENT PARENTS FROM DOING WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO?, 305

xii Contents



Unemployment and Poverty, 305 *Unemployment, 306 Poverty, 307*Divorce and Remarriage, 308
Single Parenthood, 309
Time Apart, 310

How Parents Compensate for Time Apart, 310 The Consequences of Nonparental Care, 310

Lesbian and Gay Parenthood, 312

Questions Raised by Researchers, 312 Studies of Children in Gay and Lesbian Families, 312 Tentative Conclusions, 314

THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICAN CHILDREN, 315 Compared with When?, 315 Which Children?, 318 Children by Socioeconomic Status, 319 Children by Race and Ethnicity, 320

A Summing Up, 322

Poor and Wealthy Children, 322
Children in the Middle, 322

Looking Back, 326 Study Questions, 327 Key Terms, 327 Thinking about Families, 327 Families on the Internet, 328

Boxed Features

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Elián, the Troxels, and Parents' Rights, 297 HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: Measuring the Well-Being of Children, 316 FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: U.S. Children in International Perspective, 324

Chapter 10 The Elderly and Their Families, 330

Looking Forward, 332

THE MODERNIZATION OF OLD AGE, 334
Mortality Decline, 334
The Statistics, 334
The Social Consequences, 335
Fertility Decline, 336
Rising Standard of Living, 337
Variations by Age, Race, and Gender, 338
Social Consequences, 338
Separate Living Arrangements, 339

Gender Differences in Living Arrangements, 341
Cultural Underpinnings, 342

Dying and Death, 343

Contents **xiii**

GIVING AND GETTING, 344

Mutual Assistance, 344

Moving In with Grandparents, 345

Skipped-Generation Households, 346

Rewards and Costs, 346

Care of the Disabled, 347

Women in the Middle?, 349

THE QUALITY OF INTERGENERATIONAL TIES, 351

Contact, 351

Geographical Distance between Generations, 352 Mother–Daughter Relationships and Family Culture, 353 Affinity, 353

Demographic and Economic Change, 354 Shared Values, 355

SOURCES OF TENSION, 356 Intergenerational Ambivalence, 356 The Effects of Divorce and Remarriage, 357

THE FAMILY NATIONAL GUARD, 359

Looking Back, 363 Study Questions, 363 Key Terms, 364 Thinking about Families, 364 Families on the Internet, 364

Boxed Features

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Financing Social Security and Medicare, 340 FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: The Elderly and Their Families in Japan, 360

Part Five Conflict, Disruption, and Reconstitution 365

Chapter 11 Domestic Violence, 366

Looking Forward, 368

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, 369
Early History, 369
The Twentieth Century, 370
The Political Model of Domestic Violence, 370

The Political Model of Domestic Violence, 370 The Medical Model of Domestic Violence, 370

WHAT DO WE KNOW?, 373
What Constitutes Domestic Violence?, 373
Intimate Partner Violence, 374
Prevalence, 374
Marital Status, 377
Social Class and Race, 377
Child Abuse, 379

Prevalence, 380 Sexual Abuse and Its Consequences, 381 Physical Abuse and Its Consequences, 382 xiv Contents



Rising Abuse or Rising Reports?, 382 Poverty or Abuse?, 383 Elder Abuse, 384

SEXUAL AGGRESSION AND VIOLENCE IN DATING RELATIONSHIPS, 386

Sexual Aggression, 387

Prevalence, 387

Perpetrators, 388

Physical Assault, 389

EXPLANATIONS, 390

Social Learning Perspective, 391

Frustration-Aggression Perspective, 391

Social Exchange Perspective, 393

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY, 394

The Policy Debate, 394

Social Programs, 394

Looking Back, 396

Study Questions, 398

Key Terms, 398

Thinking about Families, 398

Families on the Internet, 399

Boxed Features

HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: Advocates and Estimates:

How Large (or Small) Are Social Problems? 375

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Foster Care, 384

FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Wife Beating in the Developing World, 392

Chapter 12 Divorce, 400

Looking Forward, 402

THREE ERAS OF DIVORCE, 404

The Era of Restricted Divorce, 405

The Era of Divorce Tolerance, 406

The Era of Unrestricted Divorce, 409

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DIVORCE, 409

The Societywide Rise, 410

Cultural Change, 410

Women's Employment, 411

Men's Employment, 412 Individual Risk Factors, 412

Low Income and Unemployment, 412

Age at Marriage, 412

Race and Ethnicity, 413

Personal and Family Background, 414

THE PROCESS OF DIVORCE, 416

The Emotional Divorce, 416

Early Warning Signs, 416

Separation, 417

Contents xv

The Legal Divorce, 418

Property and Assets, 418

Child Custody, 418

The Coparental Divorce, 420

The Economic Divorce, 421

Single-Father Families, 422

DIVORCE AND CHILDREN, 424

The Crisis Period, 424

Loss of a Parent, 425

Parental Conflict, 426

Multiple Transitions, 426

After the Crisis Period, 427

Long-Term Adjustment, 428

The Sleeper Effect, 428

Glass Half-Empty/Half-Full, 429

Marital Happiness, 430

In Sum, 430

Looking Back, 431

Study Questions, 432

Key Terms, 432

Thinking about Families, 433

Families on the Internet, 433

Boxed Features

HOW DO SOCIOLOGISTS KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW?: Measuring the Divorce Rate, 403 FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Divorce among the Kanuri, 407

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Enforcing Child Support Obligations, 423

Chapter 13 Remarriage and Stepfamilies, 434

Looking Forward, 436

THE INCOMPLETE INSTITUTION, 437

THE DEMOGRAPHY OF REMARRIAGE AND STEPFAMILIES, 439

Declining Remarriage Rates, 439

Who Remarries?, 440

Divorce Rates among the Remarried, 440

Increasing Cohabitation, 441

Redefining Stepfamilies, 442

THE NEW EXTENDED FAMILY, 443

Some Definitions, 444

Households, 444

Remarriage Chains, 445

Doing the Work of Kinship, 446

BUILDING STEPFAMILIES, 448

The Transitional Period, 448

The Stepparents Polite Outsider, 449

Adjustment of the Stepchildren, 449

xvi Contents

The Stabilization Period, 451 Differences between the Role of Stepmother and Stepfather, 452 Income and Racial-Ethnic Differences, 454

THE EFFECTS OF REMARRIAGE ON CHILDREN, 454 Behavior Problems, 455 Age at Leaving Home, 456

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE: SOME LESSONS, 457 The Primacy of the Private Family, 457 New Kinship Ties, 459 The Impact on Children, 460

Looking Back, 461 Study Questions, 462 Key Terms, 463 Thinking about Families, 463 Families on the Internet, 463

Boxed Features

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: The Rights and Responsibilities of Stepparents, 438 FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: The Origins of the Wicked Stepmother, 452

Part Six Family and Society 465

Chapter 14 The Family, the State, and Social Policy, 466

Looking Forward, 468

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WELFARE STATE, 471
The Welfare State, 471
The Family Wage System, 472

FAMILY POLICY DEBATES, 474 The Conservative Viewpoint, 474 The Liberal Viewpoint, 475

PRACTICAL COMPROMISES, 477
The Earned Income Tax Credit, 477
The 1996 Welfare Reform Law, 478
Reasons for the Policy Reversal, 479
The Effects of Welfare Reform, 482

CURRENT DEBATES, 483 Work–Family Issues, 484 Marriage, 485 Marriage Promotion, 485 Same-Sex Marriage, 488

FAMILY POLICY IN THE EARLY 2000s, 489

Looking Back, 490 Study Questions, 491 Key Terms, 491

Contents xvii

Thinking about Families, 492 Families on the Internet, 492

Box Features

FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: The Abortion Dilemma, 476
FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: Public Opinion toward Government Assistance for Employed Parents, 486

Chapter 15 Social Change and Families, 494

Looking Forward, 496

TWO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES, 497
The Lessened Economic Dependence of Women, 497
The Weakening of Marriage, 497

THE DO-IT-YOURSELF FAMILY?, 499 Institutional Reflexivity, 499 Personal Life in the Late Modern Era, 501 Being True to Yourself, 503

SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE PUBLIC FAMILY: THE ELDERLY, 505

A Success Story, 505 The Calm before the Storm, 506

The Feminization of Kinship, 504

SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE PUBLIC FAMILY: CHILDREN, 508

The Nonpoor, 508 The Poor, 509 What to Do?, 511

> Encouraging Two-Parent Families, 511 Assisting Single-Parent Families, 512 Assisting All Families, 513

SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE PRIVATE FAMILY, 515 The Deregulation of Intimate Unions, 516 Excessive Individualism?, 517

Sharing the Cost of Stability, 518 A SUMMING UP, 520

Looking Back, 522 Study Questions, 523 Key Terms, 523 Thinking about Families, 523 Families on the Internet, 523

Boxed Features

FAMILIES IN OTHER CULTURES: World Revolution and Family Patterns, 500 FAMILIES AND PUBLIC POLICY: Fragile Families, 514

Glossary, G-0 References, R-0 Acknowledgments, A-0 Photo Credits, C-1 Indexes, I-0

