# From the Editor

In this issue, the *Review* presents its first mini-symposium, composed of articles and comments on a new paradigm for research on crime and community. Associate Editor John Hagan, who proposed, organized, and edited this symposium, writes an introduction placing the new work in perspective for readers of the *Review*.

Three articles on the legal profession, all regular submissions, are presented together in this issue. Two articles examine the impact of contemporary social change on lawyers' work in the United States and Germany, and the third examines the responses of the American legal profession to the rise of administrative law during the New Deal.

## Crime, Class, and Community—An Emerging Paradigm

John Hagan's introduction describes the three articles in the symposium on crime, class, and community as an important step forward in the half-century of work by criminologists toward theory which situates crime in its "historical, political, economic and more general social" context. Earlier theories explaining crime and responses to crime in terms of social disorganization or social conflict have offered increasingly sophisticated understanding of the roles in the production of crime and responses to crime played by an individual's network of social relationships and interaction with the agents of law enforcement. Yet, theories of crime have lacked a broader perspective linking crime to the social organization of communities and groups in the society.

The lack of emphasis on broader theories of key crime-related issues, such as the distribution of social resources, poverty, and inequality among communities and social groups in our society, has reflected in part the currents in mainstream intellectual thought since the early 1970s on these issues. During that period, theories of poverty, like the politics of poverty, played on the themes of individual responsibility and ineffectiveness of public responses in the 1960s and 1970s.

However, the intellectual climate is changing. During the past decade the writing and research of William Julius Wilson (1980, 1987, 1991) on the political economy of poverty and race has given impetus to a fresh examination of the sources of

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inequality in American society. Wilson reconsiders the role of government policies in creating and maintaining inequality. His theory of economic and racial inequality stresses the relationship of the distribution of resources among communities to the ability of individuals to move into the economic and social mainstream. Wilson has argued that residence in communities with high rates of poverty, crime, unemployment, low educational attainment, family instability, and other characteristics of the American "underclass" greatly reduces the likelihood of individual success. The theory has provided a much needed alternative to politics and scholarship placing primary emphasis on individual choice and initiative as determinants of poverty or criminal conduct. Two of the contributions to the symposium explicitly acknowledge the importance of Wilson's work in the effort to view crime in the larger context of social organization and social policy.

The authors in the symposium are among the leading contributors to a new theoretical paradigm which draws together elements of existing disorganization and conflict theories and has also been inspired in part by the climate created by Wilson's broader vision linking the individual's fate with the place of community in the larger economy and culture. Robert Bursik and Harold Grasmick report on a study of economy and neighborhood crime, Robert Sampson and John Laub examine inequality in juvenile courts, and Martha Myers further develops results of her award-winning historical study of punishment in the American South. Essays by Alan Liska and Austin Turk comment on the innovations and accomplishments of the research and suggest questions that remain to be explored.

The research presented in this symposium has implications beyond the problem of crime and responses to crime. The system of inequalities among American communities potentially affects the treatment of individuals by a broad range of institutions within and outside the community, not only the police and the courts, but also, for example, the job market, government welfare agencies, the educational system, and the patterning of economic and social ties over time. Further, this research provides renewed emphasis on the role of the state. State policies create, maintain, and respond to community and perceptions of community in ways that contribute to the problem of crime. We are invited to explore the proposition that the problems of the disadvantaged are in part a product of systemic forces that the state itself maintains and, implicitly, could change.

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## Change and Adaptation of Lawyers' Work: Evolving Theories

While emergent issues of the 1980s relating to the dramatic rise in the number of lawyers and the restructuring of elite law practices have received particular attention, research on the legal profession has also been motivated by the development of general theories explaining the evolution of the structure of the profession and the organization of its work. The three articles on the legal profession in this issue examine the applicability of emerging theories to a wide variety of new research settings, encompassing changes in the practice of lawyers in different employment settings, in different historical time periods, and in different cultures. The articles are distinguished by their attention to alternative theories explaining the effects of the changing status and economic security of lawyers on the organization of lawyers' work.

Ronan Shamir examines the power of each of three theoretical approaches—market monopoly (Abel 1981), corporate functionalism (Halliday 1987), and professional jurisdiction (Abbott 1988)—to explain the concerns of elite and non-elite lawyers about professional competition created by the expansion of administrative law during the New Deal. By examining a significant period in the evolution of the American legal profession through the lenses of these three theories, he is able not only to identify areas of relative strength and weakness in each but, importantly, to move toward a more satisfactory understanding constructed from his in-depth and contextualized examination of the responses of the professions by drawing selectively on all three theories.

Reporting selected results from an extensive study of New York metropolitan lawyers, Carroll Seron analyzes lawyers' acceptance of evolving norms for advertising and marketing legal services and considers the lawyers' views of the effect of the new norms on the public's evaluation of the profession. Drawing on existing frameworks for understanding the organization of professional work, she explores the relationship of professional "hemisphere" (Heinz & Laumann 1982) and age/gender on attitudes. Her analysis reveals that an important professional stratum—the suburban lawyer—exists that has been overlooked in previous research. Seron suggests that attitudes of suburban lawyers reflect substantial differences between the careers and practices of lawyers in the suburbs and those of lawyers in either hemisphere of the urban hierarchy.

Trends toward greater access to higher education (of which the "glut" of lawyers may be one manifestation) and increasing computerization of professional knowledge are among the factors affecting the legal profession in many Western industrial-

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ized societies. Michael Hartmann explores the impact of these trends on the employment of lawyers by German insurance companies, which employ more lawyers than any other industry in the FRG. Hartmann's analysis brings to bear general theory about the role of professional jurisdiction (Abbott 1988). Sensitive to the differences between Anglo-American and German professional cultures, Hartmann also discusses how such differences have affected the theories developed by scholars in each society. Reflecting in part the boundaries perceived most at risk as a result of social change within each culture, Anglo-American research has examined the breakdown of intraprofessional status differences, while German research has also examined the threat of a breakdown in the boundary between professional and nonprofessional work.

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