Abstract:

The Future of Sociology and The Sociology of The Future

This paper discusses some of the issues, challenges and opportunities that Sociology is likely to face in the next decade in Australia. It explores the notion of Sociology as a discipline in its own right and its relevance in the global context of economic as well as other forms of fundamentalisms. A particular concern for Sociology as a discipline, at least in Australia, is the absence of a strong professional association, board etc. that not only protects the interests of its members but also demands and enforces professional and ethical standards. This paper suggests that the Sociology of the Future needs to be not only an academic discipline but also a profession, which combines clear theoretical thinking with practical application. It must be clear about its boundaries, and be aware and honest about ideological stances and their potential contamination of sociological endeavours.

Key words: Sociology, Fundamentalism, Discipline, Profession, Economic Rationalism

Anne Seitz
Senior Lecturer/Discipline Leader, Sociology
Swinburne University of Technology
Locked Bag 218
Lilydale, Vic. 3140
AUSTRALIA
Tel: +61-3-9215 7151
Fax:+61-3-9215 7096
E-mail: ASEITZ@swin.edu.au