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Introduction to the Special Issue

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In this special issue on the challenges of teaching sociology, we address public and professional sociology through a selection of original works. True to the mission of the journal, the articles document the variety of ways in which we convey our discipline to academics and non-academics alike. Thus, teaching, by definition, is a very public form of sociology. By documenting and sharing best practices of our pedagogical craft, we strengthen and enhance the profession.

A wide panoply of expertise is contained in the following volume, offered from long-tenured experts to novices, with topics ranging from “the basics” to specialized areas. Personalized experiences about gender and violence, race and whiteness, and ethnography are presented in honest, accessible styles. We also build on the previous special issue topic of studying abroad, applying lessons learned in Madrid, Spain and the Caribbean Island of Trinidad.

Our authors discuss changing the culture in their classrooms whether through an increased awareness of ethics, enhanced student motivation, and *not* teaching to the test. They share their frustrations, triumphs, and joys. We hope you will enjoy this special issue and benefit from the collective wisdom that lies within.

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