**What Makes a Hero? Theorizing the Social Structuring of Heroism**

**Abstract**

The article explores four perspectives in the sociology of heroism and their relationship to sociological debates. It also examines problematic areas, such as the masculinity of heroism and its perceived disappearance with modernization, and calls for a more self-aware approach to foster dialogue in sociological research.

**1 Introduction**

**2 Methodology**

**3 Exploring Heroism: Four Perspectives**

**3.1 Great Men: Carlyle, Weber, Spencer and Cooley**

**3.2 Hero Stories: Explorations in Mythology and Fiction**

**3.3 Acts of Heroism: Motives, Situations and Organizations**

**3.4 Hero Institutions: Functional Systems and Social Constructions**

**3.5 Sociology’s Contribution**

**4 Problematizing Heroism: Three Areas for Future Research**

**4.1 A (Fe)Male Heroism**

**4.2 No More Heroes**

**4.3 Dark Heroism**

**5 Conclusion**

In sum, the study highlights the connection between heroism and sociological questions, explores the multidimensional nature of heroism, and discusses the shift in research focus from elite figures to everyday heroes. It calls for further examination of gendered patterns, the impact of modernity, and the darker aspects of heroism to promote dialogue in sociological research.

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**Note**

**References**