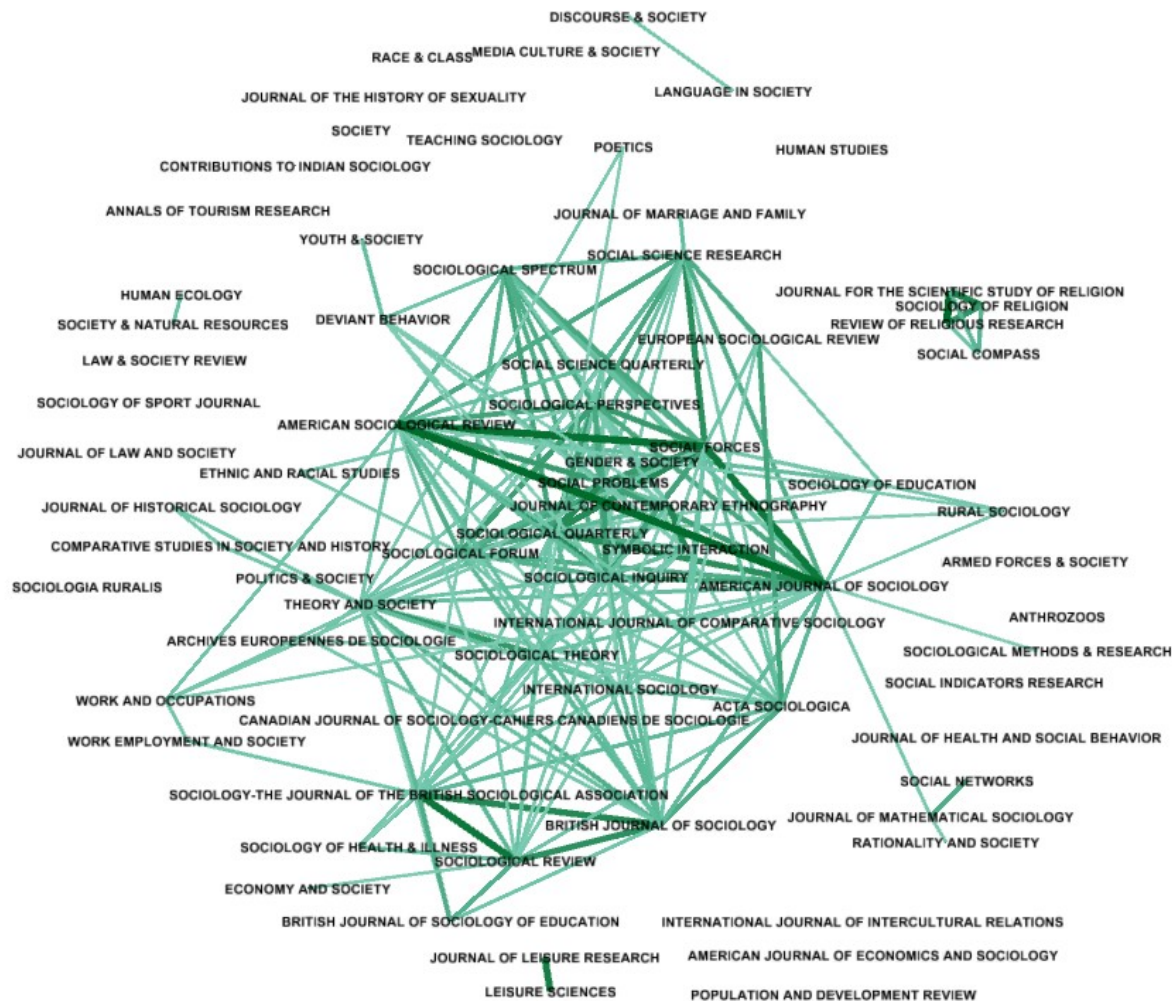


# Lost & Forgotten: Explaining the inattention to once highly-cited books and articles

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# Why Study the Forgotten

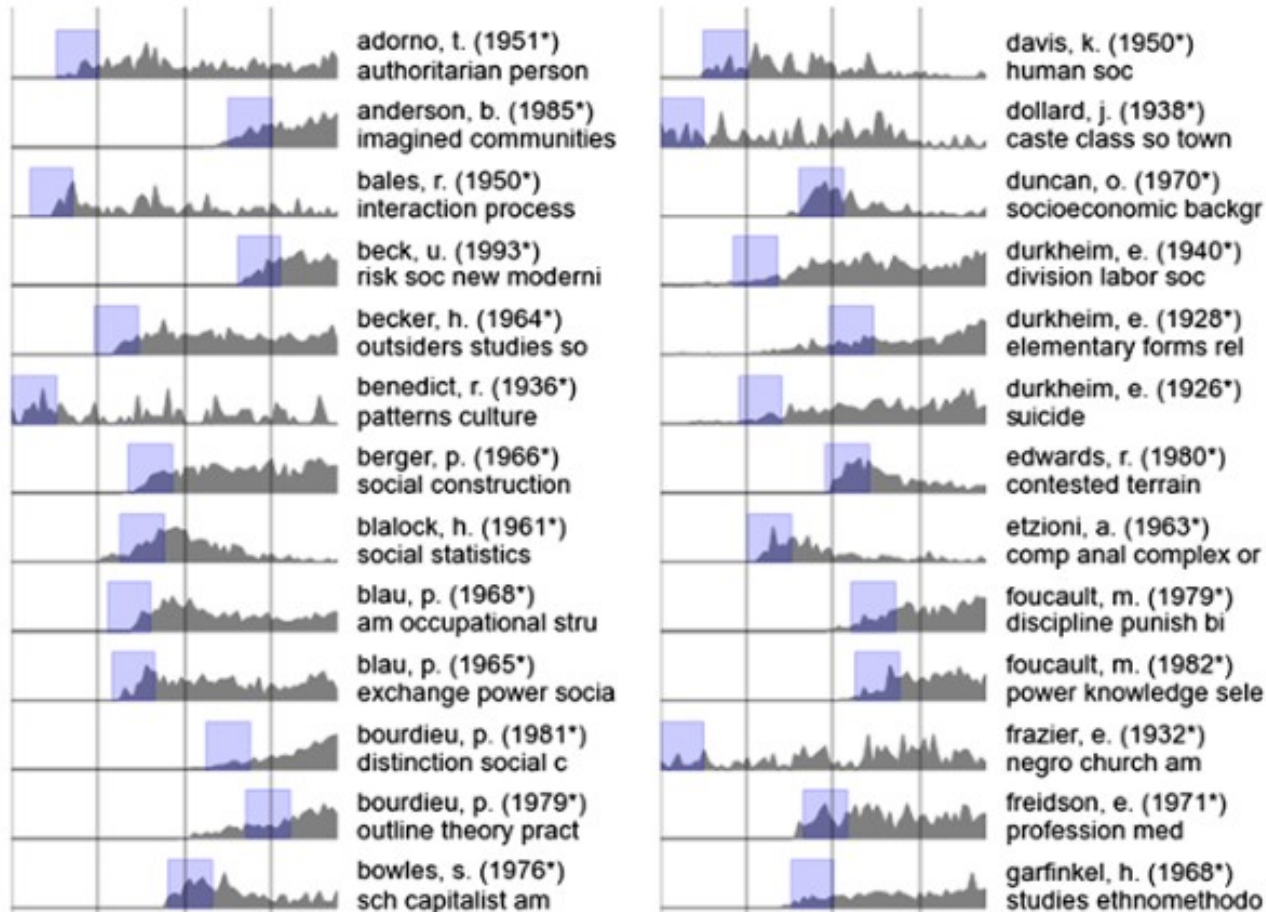
- Forgetting is entangled with remembering (Schudson 1997; Levine 1995; Assmann 2008)
- Forgotten works should be produced by known mechanisms in the development of science (Garfield 1992; Zuckerman 1987; Gans 1992; Merton 1965; Gieryn 1999; Fine 2019)
- The specific forgotten in a given discipline turn a new historical stone, in understanding its contingent historical development



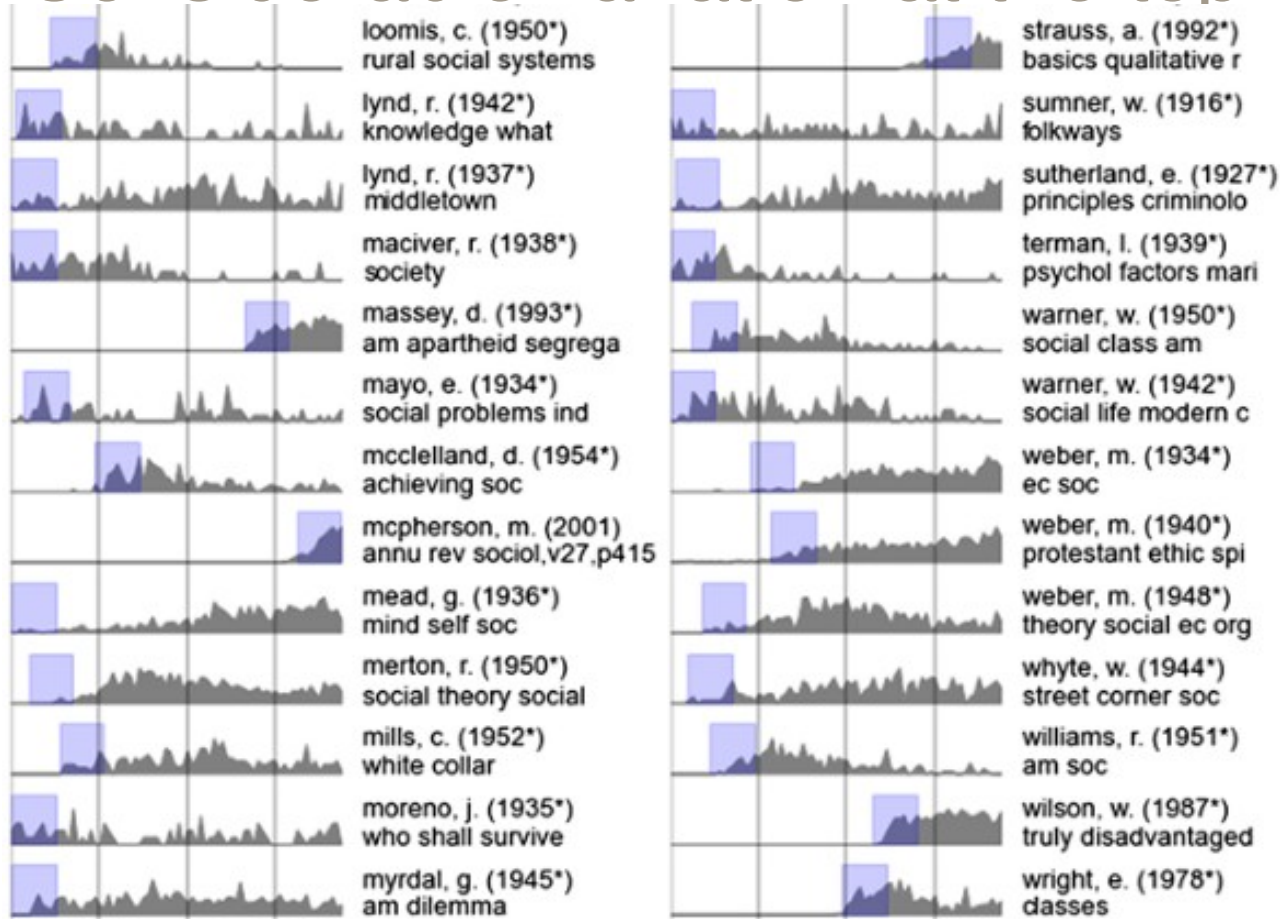
# Most cited papers are ignored

- Of the 1,699,615 distinct cited works cited in these articles, 75% received only a single citation, 18% received between 2 and 4 citations, and 7% received at least 5 citations.
- However, 45% of citations are to the 7% of books and articles which receive at least 5 citations.
- 62% of works which received at least 5 citations between 1970 and 1980 went at least a decade without being cited and 43% were not cited at all between 2005 and 2015.

# Considerable variation at the top

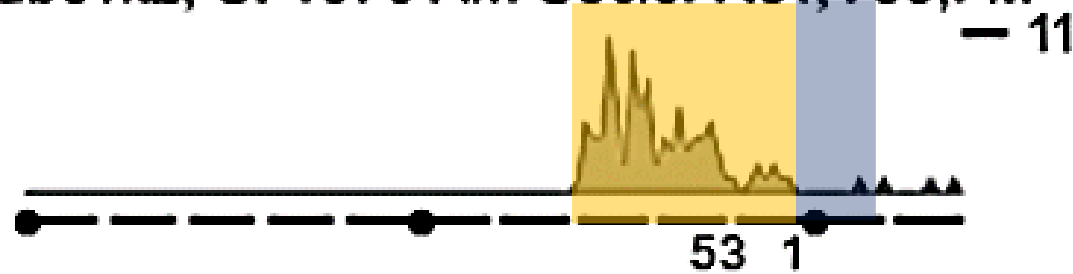


# Considerable variation at the top



# Defining Academic Death

Labovitz, S. 1970 Am Sociol Rev, V35, P...



Cits/Year After

$< 0.1 *$

Cits/Year Before

# So, what was forgotten?

**Table 1** This figure shows the 258 “big falls,” which make it to the top 2% cited works in a decade, and subsequently “fall,” to 10% of their yearly citations for at least a decade. **Best** lists for each work the average number of citations the work received in the decade in which it was most cited. **Fall** is the first year the cited work would receive just 10% of its average yearly citations to that point for at least a decade. **05–15** is the average number of citations per year the work received in that time-period (including 2015). Rows prefaced by an \* breached the top 1% in some decade 1930–2015. (\*) indicates methodological works within the top 1% which I exclude from the qualitative analysis below

Authors	Year	Title	Best	Fall	05–15
Aiken, Mott	1970	The Structure of Community Power	3.3 (72—81)	2002	0.1
* Ajzen, Fishbein	1980	Understanding attitudes and predicting social behavior	5.0 (90—99)	2000	1.5
Alexander, Eckland	1974	Sex Differences in the Educational Attainment Process	4.4 (75—84)	1995	0.7
Alford, Friedland	1985	Powers of Theory	2.9 (87—96)	2002	0.2
Allen	1974	The Structure of Interorganizational Elite Cooptation	3.8 (76—85)	1987	0.2



# So, what was forgotten?

The American Sociologist

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Authors	Year	Title	Best	Fall	OS-15
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Allen	1974	The Structure of Interorganizational Elite Cooptation	3.8 (76-85)	1987	0.2
(*) Alwin, Hauser	1975	The Decomposition of Effects in Path Analysis	10.3 (76-85)	2002	0.5
(*) Andrews	1967	Multiple Classification Analysis	6.5 (70-79)	1997	0
Argyle	1958	Religious behavior	3.6 (67-76)	1988	0
* Aronowitz	1973	False promises	5.3 (76-85)	1996	0.3
Aschold	1956	Urban Structure and Social Participation	3.7 (66-75)	1984	0.4
Banfield	1970	The Unheavenly City	3.8 (69-78)	1988	0.2
Banfield, Wilson	1963	City Politics	4.5 (71-80)	2000	0.2
Barran	1957	The political economy of growth	3.1 (80-89)	1997	0.6
* Barber	1957	Social Stratification	3.8 (67-76)	1990	0.1
Barrett	1988	Women's oppression today	3.8 (87-96)	2001	0.1
Bartholomew	1967	Stochastic models for social processes	3.6 (76-85)	2003	0.4
Bedor	1968	Through values to social interpretation	2.5 (56-65)	1966	0.2
Beller	1984	Trends in occupational segregation by sex and race, 1960-81	3.9 (86-95)	1998	0
Bereben	1960	Graduate education in the United States	3.2 (65-74)	1983	0.1
Bereben, Steiner	1964	Human behavior: an inventory of scientific findings	3.5 (66-75)	1994	0
Bernstein, Kelly, Doyle	1977	Societal Reaction to Deviants	4.2 (79-88)	1992	0.1
* Bibb, Form	1977	The Effects of Industrial, Occupational, and Sex Stratification on Wages in Blue-Collar Markets	8.4 (80-89)	1995	0.4
(*) Bialock	1960	Social statistics	11.1 (69-78)	2001	0.5
(*) Bialock	1961	Causal inferences in nonexperimental research	5.4 (69-78)	1982	0.2
* Bialock	1969	Theory construction	18.3 (73-82)	2005	0.8
(*) Bialock, Bialock	1968	Methodology in social research	5.5 (70-79)	1997	0.2
* Blau, Schwartz	1964	Crosscutting social circles	4.5 (80-89)	2002	0.1

Table 1 (Continued)

Authors	Year	Title	Best	Fall	OS-15
Bluestone, Murphy, Stevenson	1973	Low wages and the working poor	3.4 (80-89)	1982	0
* Bogue	1949	The Structure of the Metropolitan Community	5.1 (62-71)	2000	0.1
Bogue	1959	The population of the United States	2.4 (51-60)	1994	0
(*) Bornshtet, Marwell	1978	The reliability of the products of two random variables	5.7 (77-86)	1996	0.4
* Bowen, Finegan	1969	The Economics of Labor Force Participation	5.2 (74-83)	1998	0
(*) Boyle	1970	Path Analysis and Ordinal Data	5.5 (70-79)	1984	0
Brenner	1976	Agricultural Class Structure and Economic Development in Preindustrial Europe	3.2 (80-89)	1995	0.5
Brunner	1928	Rural social trends	1.6 (36-45)	1996	0
Burgess, Wallin	1953	Engagement and marriage	2.6 (56-65)	1999	0.2
Burgess, Cottrell Jr	1939	Predicting success or failure in marriage	3.5 (43-52)	1989	0.1
Burke, Turk	1975	Factors Affecting Postmarital Dispositions	3.5 (76-85)	1993	0
Burt	1980	Models of Network Structure	3.3 (80-89)	2002	0.6
Butler, Stokes	1974	Political change in Britain	3.6 (72-81)	2001	0.4
Cain	1976	The Challenge of Segmented Labor Market Theories to Orthodox Theory	3.7 (82-91)	2003	0.4
Cain, Treiman	1981	The Dictionary of Occupational Titles as a Source of Occupational Data	3.4 (81-90)	2005	0.3
Campbell, Converse	1972	The human meaning of social change	4.2 (73-82)	1992	0.5
Caplow, McGee	1965	The Academic Marketplace	3.5 (69-78)	1993	0
Carehedi	1974	On the economic identification of social classes	3.2 (79-88)	1998	0.2
Carrier	1966	An Assessment of Quality in Graduate Education	4.6 (69-78)	1995	0.1
Certeau, Rendall	1984	The practice of everyday life	3.0 (89-98)	1998	3.2
Chapin	1935	Contemporary American institutions	1.6 (36-45)	1984	0
Chapin	1947	Experimental designs in sociological research	1.9 (48-57)	1986	0
Chasey, Rosenman	1965	Automobile workers and the American dream	3.7 (67-76)	2005	0.3
Cherniss, Waldo	1975	Socioeconomic Status and Criminal Sentencing	4.6 (77-86)	1987	0.1
Chernsky	1965	Aspects of the theory of syntax	3.5 (75-84)	2000	0.5
Clark	1968	Community structure and decision-making	3.4 (68-77)	1982	0
Cohen	1978	Karl Marx's theory of history	4.4 (81-90)	2001	0.1
* Collins	1975	Conflict sociology	6.4 (78-87)	1988	2.3

Table 1 (Continued)

Authors	Year	Title	Best	Fall	OS-15
Cooley, Lehnus	1971	Multivariate data analysis	3.1 (73-82)	1986	0
(*) Corbier	1965	Criteria for measures of association	4.8 (66-75)	1987	0.1
Crompton, Sanderson	1990	Gendered jobs and social change	3.7 (91-00)	2001	0
Davis	1974	Hierarchical Models for Significance Tests in Multivariate Contingency Table	5.0 (75-84)	1990	0
* Davis	1949	Human society	5.7 (61-70)	2002	0.4
* Dean	1961	Alienation	4.5 (66-75)	1984	0.5
Demerath	1968	Religion in Social Context	3.9 (69-78)	1984	0
* Dehnbend, Dehnbend	1969	Social status and psychological disorder	6.4 (75-84)	2004	0.4
(*) Duncan	1966	Path Analysis	10.9 (68-77)	1988	0.4
* Duncan, Haller, Portes	1968	Peer Influences on Aspirations	5.1 (69-78)	1985	1
Duncan	1979	How Destination Depends on Origin in the Occupational Mobility Table	3.5 (80-89)	1999	0.3
Duncan	1968	Social stratification and mobility	4.2 (72-81)	2001	0.3
(*) Duncan	1973	Introduction to structural equation models	9.2 (77-86)	1997	0.7
Duncan, Scott, Lieberman, Duncan, Wimbombrough	1980	Metropolis and region	4.3 (75-84)	1994	0.2
Duncan, Reiss	1950	Social characteristics of urban and rural communities, 1950	3.0 (69-78)	2002	0
(*) Duncan	1981	Methodological Issues in the Analysis of Social Mobility	5.6 (70-79)	1990	1.2
Eaton, Dennis	1969	Children in the political system	5.6 (70-79)	1996	0.6
* Edwards, Reich, Gordon	1975	Labour market segmentation	7.1 (80-89)	1995	0
England	1981	Assessing trends in occupational sex segregation, 1900-1976	3.5 (84-93)	2004	0.1
Espenbade	1985	Marriage Trends in America	3.0 (88-97)	2002	0.5
Eisner	1968	The Active Society	4.2 (70-79)	1998	0.4
Eisner	1964	Modern organizations	4.1 (67-76)	1997	0.1
Furley	1977	Trends in Racial Inequalities	4.4 (78-87)	1991	0.1
Featherman, Lancaster, Jones, Hauser	1975	Assumptions of social mobility research in the U.S.	3.7 (85-94)	1999	0
Featherman, Hauser	1976	Changes in the Socioeconomic Stratification of the Race, 1962-73	4.1 (77-86)	1990	0.4
* Featherman, Hauser	1976	Sexual Inequality and Socioeconomic Achievement in the U.S., 1962-1973	7.2 (78-87)	1998	0.2

# So, what was forgotten?

	Parsons	1961	Theories of society	4.5 (74—83)	1999	0.5
*	Parsons, Shils	1951	Toward a general theory of action	6.1 (66—75)	1976	0
*	Parsons, Bales, Shils	1953	Working papers in the theory of action	4.1 (65—74)	2001	0.3

# So, what was forgotten?

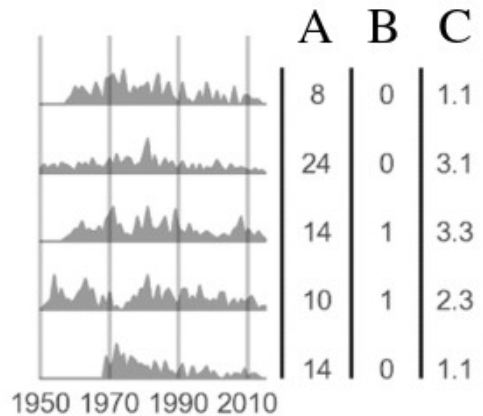
(1) parsons, t. (1958\*)  
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(2) parsons, t. (1949\*)  
essays sociological

(3) parsons, t. (1957\*)  
family socialization

(4) parsons, t. (1951\*)  
general theory actio

(5) parsons, t. (1969\*)  
soc evolutionary com



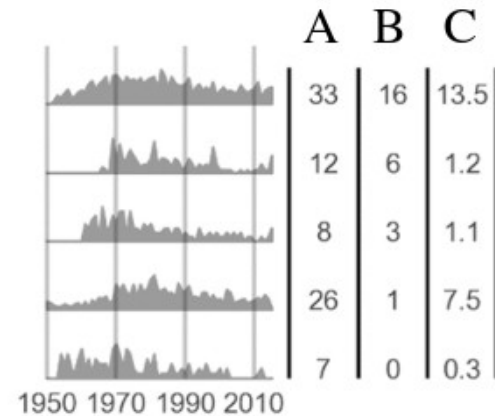
(6) parsons, t. (1952\*)  
social system

(7) parsons, t. (1966\*)  
sociological theory

(8) parsons, t. (1961\*)  
structure process mo

(9) parsons, t. (1938\*)  
structure social act

(10) parsons, t. (1954\*)  
working papers theor



Sorokin	1947	Society, Culture, and Personality	3.0 (62—71)	1977	0
MacIver	1931	Society	2.3 (58—67)	1978	0.3
Marx	1969	Protest and Prejudice	3.5 (70—79)	2004	0.1
Merton, Lazarsfeld	1950	Continuities in social research	4.2 (69—78)	2001	0.9
Merton, Reader, Kendall	1957	The student-physician	3.1 (64—73)	2004	0.2

# So, what was forgotten?

- Limit qualitative analysis to the top 1% in each decade. Among these, only 79 cited works have died.
- Qualitative analysis of 20 in-text citations throughout the life-course of each work.

# So, what was forgotten?

- Methodology accounts for ~40%
  - More likely to be highly cited.
  - Can be entirely incorporated into more recent references.
- Functionalism (Barber 1957; Davis 1949) and Marxism (Aronwitz 1973; Mandel, 1972; Poulantzas, 1975; Robinson, 1979)
  - Later citations to these works referred to their identities, in a distancing move.

# So, what was forgotten?

- Featherman and Hauser (1976) on the gender pay-gap
- Dohrenwend and Dohrenwend (1969) on psychological stress associated with class position
- Bogue (1959) on demographic trends in the United States
- Bowen and Finegan (1969) and Martin and Roberts (1984) on labor force participation
- Burgess and Wallin (1953) on the determinants and effects of engagement and marriage
- Duncan et al. (1968) on peer effects and the Wisconsin model
- Gross, Mason, and McEachern (1958) on role conflict and role strain
- Lenski (1954) on status inconsistency.

# So, what was forgotten?

- Featherman and Hauser (1976) on the gender pay-gap
- Dohrenwend and Dohrenwend (1969) on psychological stress associated with class position

*From Edwards (2001): By the early 1970s, however, social scientists recognized that instead there had been steady, substantial growth in the employment rate of all mothers (Bowen & Finegan, 1969; Sweet, 1973), [...].*

- Duncan et al. (1968) on peer effects and the Wisconsin model
- Gross, Mason, and McEachern (1958) on role conflict and role strain
- Lenski (1954) on status inconsistency.



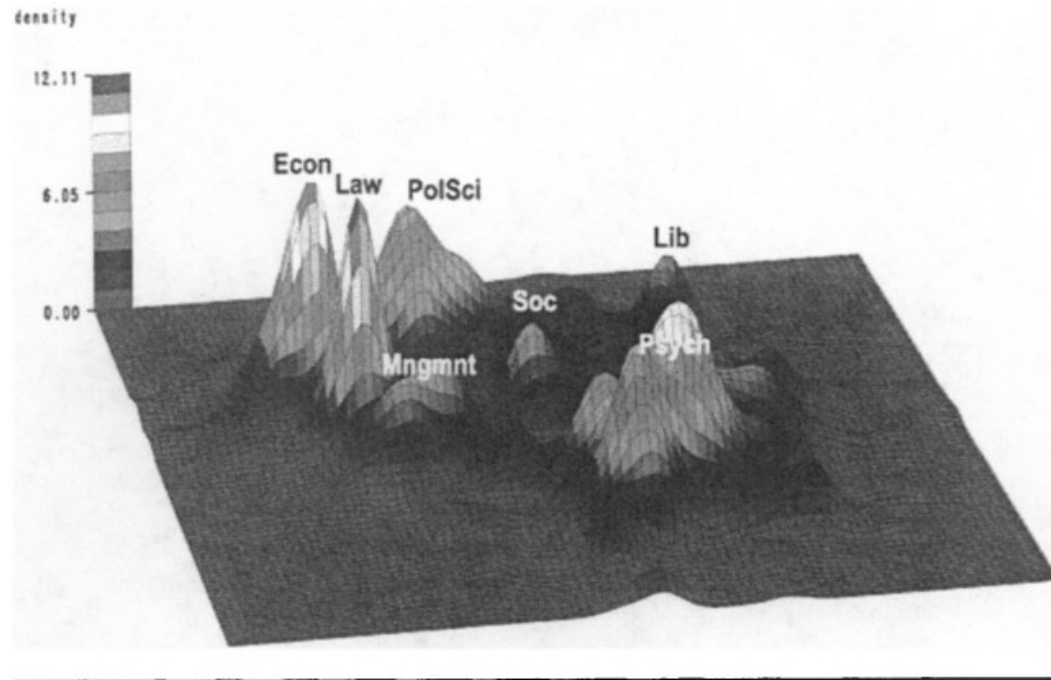
# So, what was forgotten?

	Lazarsfeld, Thielens	1958	The academic mind	3.5 (62—71)	1995	0
*	Friedrichs	1970	A sociology of sociology	5.6 (71—80)	1994	0.1
	Ritzer	1975	Sociology: a Multiple Paradigm Science	3.5 (78—87)	1992	0.1

# Bibliographic Interview Targeting

- Which authors have cited these forgotten cited works?
- And of these, who is alive, well, and interested?
- The first 15 interviews together cover 106 / 258 (41%) biggest falls among the **top 2%**

# Expanding Beyond Sociology



Moody and Light (2006) A View from Above: The Evolving Sociological Landscape