in football is related to career orientations to link the theoretical notions of play, games, and social action to substantive matters.

The book can be useful in theory courses on social interaction because of its detailed exposition of theoretical ideas on the structure of everyday activities. Researchers will find the ideas difficult guides for empirical studies because the analytic notions and illustrative examples are at a high level of abstraction, glossing many of the problems a researcher must face in assembling claims to knowledge about actual everyday social interaction.

**Methodology**


**Reviewer: BETTY J. MAYNARD, Southern Methodist University**

What this mini-book does is put it all together in a brief, but lucid, statement of what the beginning graduate student should know about the state of the art of scientific sociology. This essay is not an account of specialized research techniques, nor is it a theory book in the usual sense of presenting theoretical schools or problems in theory development. The author has two aims. One is to set down guidelines on the scientific process to aid behavioral science researchers in the design of studies. The second, and more ambitious, is to provide a “framework for reducing the enormous variety of scientific research—both within a given field and across all fields—to a limited number of interrelated formal elements.” He arrives at this “limited number of interrelated formal elements” by drawing upon the works of philosophers of science (Nagel, Kaplan, Popper, Wartofsky, to name a few), and those of sociologists (such as Zeitlerger, Blalock, Stinchcombe, and Merton) who have been distilling the original works of these philosophers of science to construct a logic of inquiry adapted to the problems that arise in the study of human behavior. Wallace fuses and interrelates their definitions, and notes agreement and disagreement about each of the formal elements in his schema.

The schema is divided into five principal information components: theories, hypotheses, observations, decision to accept or reject hypotheses, and empirical generalizations; and six methodological controls. The methodological controls are concerned with concept formation, measurement, instrumentation, tests of hypotheses, logical inference, and logical deduction. The suggested interrelation of these components is impossible to explicate succinctly in a short review, but, as the author notes, they are common elements of which a large number of variations can be and are used by researchers. He also notes that the directions of influence suggested by his schema are not inflexible. In fact it may be helpful for judging the appropriateness of methods to reverse the direction in some studies.

Breaking his overall schema down into segments of the related components, he discusses the process of transformation of one information element into another by the application of the methodological procedures. Parsimonious as he is, he nevertheless devotes one chapter, a fourth of the essay, to “Theories,” suggesting in his conclusions that this analysis may facilitate the classification of theories within a given field or across many fields.

The author does break some new ground in his chapter on “Theories.” In his concern with explanatory-predictive strategies he presents a synthesis of types of deductive strategies used for explanation or prediction of a given phenomenon. The resulting reclassification should be helpful for scientists in clarifying the interrelation of “descriptive” and “explanatory” studies, but my feeling is that subsuming Nagel’s probabilistic, functional, and genetic explanations under the type “causal” strategy is too parsimonious.

In all, this is a worthwhile essay for purposes of review and clarification of the elements of the scientific method for practicing sociologists, and a very valuable guide and overview for graduate students. Whether or not theoreticians of the sociology of knowledge will use it for coding the formal “profile” of an entire field by analyzing articles and books remains to be seen.


**Reviewer: N. KRISHNAN NAMBOODIRI, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

By its sheer size alone, this book is impressive, running to about nine hundred double column pages of quarto size. There are twenty-five chapters and four appendices in it, Volume 1 consisting of Chapters 1 to 12, and Volume 2, the remainder. Such a massive effort was called for by the very nature of the task the authors elected for themselves, which is no less than providing “a systematic and comprehensive exposition, with illustrations, of the methods currently used by technicians or research workers in dealing with demographic data.”

The main body of the book is divided into five parts. Part One treats the nature and sources of demographic data and the methods and procedures usually employed in collecting and processing them. Parts Two and Three deal with the study of population structure: size, geographical distribution, and composition of population. Under population composition the topics covered include age and sex