

Editorial

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Thanks to the good offices of Andrew Carlin and Roger Slack we have come into possession of much—most—of the *Analytic Sociology* archive. This was a microfiche-only journal published out of Manchester between 1977 and 1981. Some materials originally published in this journal have subsequently appeared elsewhere but others have remained obscure.

Starting this issue we intend to republish those papers that appeared in *Analytic Sociology*, and did not appear subsequently elsewhere (although we will indicate what these are). We will, of course, ask for authors' permissions and—if not granted—we will note what their contribution was for the sake of completeness.

Our interest in these materials is driven by two concerns. One is that they are interesting and perceptive. They are more than a snapshot of a particular time; they show how many contemporary concerns were appearing under the radar almost a half-century ago. Two, they exemplify the sheer breadth of ethnomethodological and conversational analytic work being undertaken a mere decade after the publication of *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. A sense of exploration and discovery imbues these works, and barriers to the perspective's future development are being discovered, and either overcome or noted for future scholars. This was work at the cutting edge, and—although more raw—reflected what was being discussed, analysed and argued about more faithfully than more polished and cautious publications.

In this issue we will start with two pieces from the very first issue of *Analytic Sociology*: the editorial statement (of intent) and R. J. Anderson's 'Research Activities and Professional Practices'. For reference the full contents of that issue were as follows:

Anderson, Digby C., and Wesley W. Sharrock. 1977. 'Editorial'. *Analytic Sociology* 1 (1): A04–A06.

Klatzky, Sheila. 1977. 'Authored Delays in Identification: Part One'. *Analytic Sociology* 1 (1): A07–D07. This is to be published in a forthcoming collection edited by Andrew Carlin and Nozomi Ikeya.

Gazdar, Gerald. 1977. 'Conversational Analysis and Conventional Sociolinguistics'. *Analytic Sociology* 1 (1): D08–F09. We have been unable to secure Professor Gazdar's permission to reprint this piece.

Anderson, Robert. 1977. 'Research Activities and Professional Practices'. *Analytic Sociology* 1 (1): F10–G03.

ANALYTIC SOCIOLOGY ISSUE 1 EDITORIAL

Rigorous Qualitative Analysis

It has often been said that ethnomethodologists don't make their work readily available. This microfiche journal is one attempt to correct that situation by providing an outlet for

paper in the area of rigorous qualitative sociological analysis. In our experience, there is quite an extensive backlog of interesting papers which exist in mimeographed form and which are often unsuitable, or thought unsuitable, in content, approach or size or shape for the more regular publications in sociology. Though a reasonably large number of people are interested in reading such papers the business of circulation is very much a hand to hand, hit or miss affair and although we can't hope to remedy it with this journal, we can do something to improve it. We can, we hope, provide a fairly speedy, convenient and flexible form of publication. We aim, then, to make available as much material as we can but we want to run things in an informal and flexible way.

Our own preferences in sociology incline pretty strongly toward ethnomethodology and toward the conversational analytic end of that but we do not want to have some kind of exclusivist policy which means that we look only at papers which are in ethnomethodology or concerned with conversational materials. When we say the journal is interested in rigorous, qualitative research we mean that, and are prepared to look at anything which might fall within that description, or more important regard that description of itself as a relevant objective, regardless of its intellectual affiliations or its topics of enquiry. We do not even intend to confine ourselves within sociology: the paper by Gazdar in our first issue is by a linguist and we would always be pleased to receive contributions from people in other fields than our on. We are, as we have hinted, also keen to take pieces which might be too long, short; or otherwise unsuitable for publication in the professional journals: the Klatzky paper which appears in issues one and two is almost one hundred pages in length. We want to be informal; we would be interested in papers which represent work in progress, or pieces which are extracted from ongoing graduate theses: Above all else, we would like to make interesting ideas available.

If there is any doubt as to the meaning of 'rigorous qualitative analysis' then the best we can do is to say that for us the work of the conversational analysts represents the *paradigm*: it is that sort of work which is concerned to come to grips with the detailed organisation of naturally occurring phenomena. However, while we are not to be interpreted literally as being interested only in conversational analysis itself, we are pretty disinterested in abstract and programmatic discussions unless they have something very striking to say. In general we will give preference to that work which is addressed to some sort of problem in data analysis over that which is not.

We are beginning in a small enough way for the simple reason that the basic problem is, as always, money. Microfiche is cheap enough but still costs and we would be happy for any kind of financial support.

While we are not interested in proselytizing, we would hope that those who are interested in the field covered by the Journal would order it for their libraries or themselves and make it known to others. A small but regular circulation will enable us to publish more whilst not having to please an eclectic readership. We aim to produce two or three or four issues per year averaging a hundred pages per issue.

As well as papers, we would like to receive books, reviews, squibs, bibliographies, tape indices, correspondence, conference announcements and notes, and in general to act as an information exchange.

Copyright of materials published by us will remain with the author. A copy of the style sheet has been included immediately before this editorial and we would urge contributors to adhere to it. The papers we receive must be camera ready copy. We do not amend or in any other way tidy them. Two small aspects of this are that carbon ribbons make better copy and spelling and typographical errors cannot be corrected. We would, of course, be happy to read material before asking it to be typed up in suitable style.

Digby C. Anderson, University of Nottingham
Wesley W. Sharrock, University of Manchester
Fall 1977