



TASA The Australian
Sociological Association

Contact Email for July 2016

We are Sociologists, whether we work in the community or in academia. However, are sociologists simply observers of the world or do our observations lead to action and if it does, do we or who decides what that action should be and can we still remain sociologists and take real action?

I must admit that much of my work, over the years, has tended to report what was wrong suggest how it could be remedied. Mostly because the power to change things was in other people's hands, not mine, and that may be our problem. It is not enough just to present a report or publish a paper, then move on to the next job hoping that something will be done. Certainly, in many situations, something was done, but that still leaves issues that attack the actions of the powerful or the rich or criminals or a culture in a particular environment, can we act to change these?. See the news today about the treatment in youth detention centres and the cover-ups that have occurred?

The skill of the sociologist is in understanding the social results of a particular group of humans who are brought together in a particular situation. Such as a village, an urban setting, an office, a factory, a military unit, a police force, or by a political policy. People say there are always winners and losers, but that only brings up another sociological question of "Why?"

Given all that, I still listen to the news every morning, and every morning, it seems I am being told of attacks on crowds of people going about their normal life, followed by the number of shootings in Sydney or Melbourne, the increasing road toll, and people being cheated out of their savings.

What can a sociologist do? We have the skills to uncover the social process that is taking place even if it doesn't fit academic or political theories. But what do we do with it when this is done. What we must learn to do is to get close to those with the skills to inaugurate change; print journalists, media presenter, people in the political system, (not necessarily the politicians) and anyone else who can influence bad social situations to make it at least better.

In don't know that it is worth subscribing to but if you can find someone who gets it, it might be worth a look now and again.

Journal of Applied Social Psychology

© Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Edited By: Richard J. Crisp

Published since 1971, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* is a monthly publication devoted to applications of experimental behavioural science research to problems of society (e.g., organizational and leadership psychology, safety, health, and gender issues; perceptions of war and natural hazards; jury deliberation; performance, AIDS, cancer, heart disease, exercise, and sports).

Alan Scott, Continuing Education Officer.