Military Sociology:
Past, Present, Future

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Texas State University

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Organization

1. Short Scholarly Biography
2. Definitions of Military Sociology
3. History and Leading Military Sociologists
4. Theoretical perspectives
5. Contemporary Dimensions of Military Sociology
6. Future of Military Sociology
Short Scholarly Biography

J. G. Shields 1914 - 2002
College Years

• 1969 – Vietnam War

• 1977 – Dissertation
  “The Determinants of Service in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam Era”
Early Publications

• **1980** – “Determinants & Consequence of Service in Vietnam”  (Veterans focus)

• “Enlistment during the Vietnam Era and the ‘Representation’ Issue of the All Volunteer Force

1988  Women in the Military “Sex Roles in the Military” The Military More than a Job (Moskos & Wood)

1989  Military Privatization
“Consequence of Privatization” The Bureaucrat

Shift to All-Volunteer military
1993 – Socioeconomics
“A New Paradigm for Military Policy: Socioeconomics”

1996 - Family Demographics
“Changing Family Demographics” in Future Soldier and the Quality Imperative

Volunteer military
Applied Pragmatism
1996 - 2013

Public Administration
Research Methods
Decision-making

John Dewey

American Pragmatism and Organization
Issues and Controversies
Mihaela Kelemen and Nick Rumens

Comparative Decision Making
Edited by Philip J. Cowley & Thomas R. Zastall

The JPAE Messenger
THE JOURNAL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS EDUCATION
A Quarterly Journal
Operates in the broad intellectual and policy spheres where society and the military meet.
2003
The Bureaucracy in Military Sociology

2009
Women’s Contribution to Military and Societal Transformation

Florence Nightingale
Philosophical Pragmatism and International Relations

Expeditionary Mindset (2011)

2013

Pragmatism & Peacekeeping

Post Cold War – War on Terror
Research Methods
Military sociology is a subfield of the study of armed forces and society that is focused more narrowly on the relationships between military organizations and the larger society.
Military sociology is a broad term to describe the academic field that studies the individual within the military institution, and the military profession within its wider society.
‘In warfare the force of armies is the product of mass multiplied but something else, an unknown $x$.’

‘$X$ is the spirit of the Army’
Opinion polling
500,000+

Research Arm of Army

Understand X – develop policies

The American Soldier
Adjustment During Army Life
by Samuel A. Stouffer et. al.

1900 - 1960

Self aware field
• Morale
• Integration (contact Hypothesis)
• Demobilization (point system)
1919-1988

Standing Army and shift focus Officer

Cold War (Shift from absolutist to pragmatist)

1960

Morris Janowitz
THE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER
A social and political portrait
sociology
Political science
Social Psychology
1934-2008

1988

1971

Post Vietnam – volunteer military/Post Cold War
‘Military sociology ... should be understood in a broad, generic way – cluster of disciplines’ (Boëne, 2000)
Jacques van Doorn
1925 - 2008
Decline of Mass Army

Shift in Center of gravity from US to Europe
Christopher Dandeker

Health/mental health of troops
Veterans

Strategic concerns
Giuseppe Caforio
Civil Military Relations

Theories

Huntington
Democratic Control
(Hobbes – Political Science)

Janowitz
Citizen Soldier
(Aristotle/Dewey - Sociology)

Civil Military Relations

Theoretical Perspectives
Samuel Huntington

- Political Science
- Security Studies
- Liberal theory of democratic state
- Problematique - military strong enough to defend the state can threaten the polity
- Objective Control - regime loyalty/Professional autonomy
- Effectiveness
Morris Janowitz

- Sociology
- Civic republicanism theory of democracy
- Citizen Soldier – service & fairness
- Functional Imperative (meet changing threat environment – constabulary force)
- Pragmatic professionalism (focus policy problems)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absolutist View</th>
<th>Pragmatist View</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huntington</td>
<td>Janowitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War basis of IR</td>
<td>War a tool of IR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total victory</td>
<td>More than Victory/Defeat</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of War given</td>
<td>Adjustment between ends and means</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punitive objective</td>
<td>Political objective</td>
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<tr>
<td>States Role in IR – protect own interest</td>
<td>Reinforce commitments to a system of international alliances</td>
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Burk 2005 p. 156-157
Constabulary Force revisited

**Definition:** “continuously prepared to act, [was] committed to the minimum use of force, and [sought] viable international relations rather than [military] victory”  
(Janowitz, 1971, 418)

- Approach to the use of force
- Does **not** specify a unique structure
## Implications for force structure

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<th>Pragmatist View of IR</th>
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<tr>
<td>War a tool of IR</td>
<td>tool of IR</td>
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<td>More than victory/defeat</td>
<td>Success/effectiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustment between ends and means</td>
<td>Fluidity between ends and means as context changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political objective</td>
<td>Emphasize political objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reinforce commitments to a system of international alliances</td>
<td>Manage commitments to an international system of alliances</td>
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</table>
Categories useful distinctions, they interpenetrate, process connects them
TRENDS

Mass Army

Constabulary Force

Institutional/Occupational Hypothesis

WWII

Cold War

All volunteer force
Institutional/Occupational Hypothesis

Cold War Ends

Post Modern Military

9/11
Afghanistan
Iraq

21st Century
Institutional values

Traditional values

Occupational values

Market mechanisms

Moskos 1977
Post Modern military

Decline of Mass Army
Expeditionary Model

Strategic Private
Post Modern military

Reform after cold war
Olav Bogen

Small forces w/Global Outreach
Torunn Haaland

Anders Sookermany – New Skills
Topics in Military Sociology

Overlapping and interpenetrating

Useful distinctions
Working Groups

1. Morale, Cohesion, Leadership
2. Women and gender issues
3. Military Family
4. Military Profession
5. Warriors in Peacekeeping
6. Recruitment/Retention
7. Blurring of Military and Police Roles
8. Veterans
9. Civilian Control of Armed Forces
Morale, Cohesion, Leadership

Diversity in the Ranks
- Gays
- Racial/ethnic
- Women
- Transgender
- Post modern context
Women and gender issues

Diversity broadly defined

Brenda Moore

Mady Segal
Military Family

Both are Greedy Institutions

Mady Segal

David Segal
Military Profession

Janowitz

Giuseppe Caforio
Warriors in Peacekeeping

Christopher Dandeker

David Segal

Postmodern Military
Blurring of Military and Police Roles

Constabulary Force
Veterans

Christopher Dandeker

Vidar Falck
Civilian Control of the Armed Forces

James Burk

Overlap Political Science

Christopher Dandeker
Public Opinion – Mass Media & Military

Canadian Support for Troops in Afghanistan

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of Canada’s troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan?

- Support: 57%
- Oppose: 40%
Future

New or different **X-factor**

- Multi-Polar World – Small Wars
- Climate Change – AF “rescuer”
- Technology Weapons, Drones, Robots
- Nature of communication
- Wealth polarization
- Veterans
Multi-Polar World – Small Wars

Decision-making pushed down chain
Climate Change

Military as “rescuer”
Technology  Weapons, Drones, Robots
Nature of communication
Communication During WWII

Head quarters AIR FORCE ORDNANCE DEPOT # 10
APO 528 US Army
July 30, 1944

PERMANENT VEHICLE PASS

Be arer Cpl. John G. Shields 19075079, Hq. 43d. Bn., Ist. Ord. Depot Reg't., has permission to drive any make of vehicle to and from the Depot at any hour of the day or evening.

L. W. CARRY SR.
CAPT. ORD. ADJUTANT
Wealth polarization

Who will serve?
Place of military in society?

Bridging environment.
Veterans

Last Civil War Widow
2004

1861-1864

PTSD
Health issues
Homelessness
Unemployment

Vietnam Veterans Since the War

Edited by Charles R. Figley, Ph.D. and Seymour Leventman, Ph.D.