



RAYMOND BOUDON

A LIFE IN SOCIOLOGY

Essays in Honour of Raymond Boudon

EDITED BY

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This *Festschrift* has been prepared to celebrate the life and work of Raymond Boudon (b. 1934), France's most eminent contemporary sociologist. It provides an important reference work containing 83 articles by a cross-section of the world's leading sociologists, social scientists and philosophers who offer analytical essays that explore and evaluate aspects of his many contributions to the scientific understanding of contemporary society.

Boudon's methodological and sociological insights are widely known among researchers in many fields, and extensively used by social scientists across a wide range of disciplines and specialisms. His cognitive theory of rationality offers a major alternative to rational choice theory, and even more to the outmoded grand theories that treat individuals as subject to forces beyond their comprehension and control. Boudon's methodological individualism and interest in modelling the behaviour of social actors,

has been critical to the emergence of new fields of social research such as multi-agent modelling.

He has written to great acclaim on the leading figures in sociological thought such as Tocqueville, Weber, Durkheim, Merton and Lazarsfeld, and been tirelessly active as a promoter of sociology as the scientific analysis of contemporary society.

The articles in this *Festschrift* collection have been specially written to celebrate Raymond Boudon's contributions to sociology and the social sciences. They offer insights into and discussions of his major theories and methodological contributions, from leading authorities in contemporary social science, that will be of lasting interest to researchers and students in the field.

A full list of the contents is provided overleaf.

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