

EDITORIAL

A Hundred Years Later:

Social Sciences May Have Changed, But the Need Has Not

One hundred years ago, when Dr. Leroy Allen, head of the Economics Department of Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas published the first issue of the *International Social Science Review* (then known as the *Social Science*) he asked, “why another journal?”

The world Dr. Allen was living in was complex and in need of Pi Gamma Mu and *Social Science* to take a leadership role to help make sense of the aftershocks of the First World War, economic challenges, the rise of fascism, and astounding technological advancements. The world we are living in also needs Pi Gamma Mu and the *International Social Science Review* to take a leadership role to help make sense of climate change, economic challenges, geopolitical divisions, and astounding technological advancements.

Please enjoy reading Dr. Allen’s justification below. I rarely print articles anymore, but I did print out this one because I needed to highlight this passage that is just as relevant as when it was written:

In the great battle for truth and righteousness two things are necessary. We must know how our lofty ideals and great principles are to be applied in particular situation, and we must know the relationship of each special problem to the whole situation.

That is the continued purpose of this journal and all social sciences.

Editorial

A New Journal.

Why another journal? The only valid reason for adding to the list of current publications already too long would be an unoccupied field of vital importance to the race. SOCIAL SCIENCE therefore hastens to seize upon this excuse.

Its fundamental aim is the development of interest on the part of educated people in co- operation in the scientific study of society and in the solution of human problems by Its fundamental aim is the development of interest on the part of educated people in co- operation in the scientific study of society and in the solution of human problems by the scientific method. This is an extremely broad and exceedingly important expanse of territory upon which no journal has ever dared to enter! SOCIAL SCIENCE rushes in where others fear to tread! Thus at the outset we prove rushes in where others fear to tread! Thus at the outset we prove our courage.

SOCIAL SCIENCE differs from the popular magazine which discusses social questions in that it has a definite mission and program. It differs from the more learned and technical journals devoted to the various phases of social study in that its field is comprehensive, embracing the mission and program. It differs from the more learned and technical journals devoted to the various phases of social study in that its field is comprehensive, embracing the territory of sociology, economics, commerce, business administration, law, political science, history, philosophy, psychology, biology, education, ethics and religion. All of these must have a place, since all are concerned with society and all are necessary to the solution of social problems. Its aim is, not only to arouse the interest of the high school and college student and graduate and other educated folk, by calling their attention to the several phases of social science and its multifarious problems, but also to lead each specialist to see social life more clearly "and to see it whole." In the great battle for truth and righteousness two things are necessary. We must know how our lofty ideals and great principles are to be applied in particular situations and we must know the relationship of each special problem to the principles are to be applied in particular situations and we must know the relationship of each special problem to the whole situation. What journal ministers to these two demands? The answer is: Only SOCIAL SCIENCE.

How well it will do this depends upon the future. Today it is to be judged by its intentions and ideals. Tomorrow it is to be judged by its intentions and ideals. This initial issue is put forth with natural trepidation. If its claims as stated herein, seem a little preposterous and egotistical, this is to be attributed not to any false ideas as to its importance in the world of letters and science, but rather to its desire to keep up its own courage. Be gentle, O critic, whosoever thou art, remembering that one of the unerring earmarks of greatness is not to quench the smoking flax or crush the broken reed. Also despise not the day of small thing, and many other words of like import!

In harmony with its purpose, the articles in SOCIAL SCIENCE will cater not to the specialist in any field of social study, but rather to those who wish to be interested in

many fields of social endeavor and informed as to what other cohorts in the army of the enlightened are doing to bring on the victories for which we all yearn.

What is to be the policy of the new journal? Absolute freedom of thought and speech. The editors will not hold themselves responsible for the opinions advanced by the contributors but allow the latter to fight their battles out on a fair field. SOCIAL SCIENCE will be neither capitalistic nor socialistic, militaristic nor pacifistic, Catholic nor Protestant, nationalist nor internationalist, Fundamentalist nor Modernist. It will be an open forum for all schools of thought.

Yet it has a positive policy, too. SOCIAL SCIENCE will be scientific. Reliance will be placed upon the sufficiency of human knowledge ultimately to solve all problems. At least none can be solved upon any other basis. Obscurantism is to be fought as a foe to the bitter end. SOCIAL SCIENCE will also be humanitarian. The greatest good to the greatest number is still a valid objective. Finally, strange to say, SOCIAL SCIENCE will be religious. Sects and creeds depend upon the various opinions of men, but religion is a vital and universal need of the soul. The desire to know God is as scientific as the desire to know the electron. Religious, humanitarian and scientific, SOCIAL SCIENCE calls for all who favor, or oppose, such a policy to labor with it to make such ideals, or better ones, if there be such, more real to the workaday world.

LEROY ALLEN

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<http://www.jstor.org/stable/23905310>.