



# The most influential books in Australian sociology

## About the survey

In 2003, as part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations, the TASA Executive undertook to do a survey of the Most Influential Books in Australian Sociology (MIBAS). The MIBAS survey, modelled on similar exercises by the International and American Sociological Associations, was divided into two stages: nomination and ranking.

### Nomination

In early 2003 all TASA members were asked to nominate up to five books published since 1963, which they considered to have most profoundly shaped the sociological scholarship in this country. They could be of sociological interest, on Australian sociology, books about Australian society or by Australian sociologists (broadly defined). Over 60 books were nominated via our members' only section of the TASA website.

### Ranking

Following the nominations, members were asked to select and rank their top 10 from the list of nominated books. The voting closed in October 2003. At right are the top ten titles as ranked by TASA members.

## The Top Ten Most Influential Books in Australian Sociology

- ▶ **Ruling class ruling culture: studies of conflict, power and hegemony in Australian life**  
Connell, R.W. (1977)
- ▶ **Economic rationalism in Canberra: a nation-building state changes its mind**  
Pusey, M. (1991)
- ▶ **Damned whores and God's police: the colonization of women in Australia**  
Summers, A. (1975 & 2002)
- ▶ **Gender and power: society, the person, and sexual politics**  
Connell, R.W. (1987)
- ▶ **Masculinities**  
Connell, R.W. (1995)
- ▶ **Making the difference: schools, families and social division**  
Connell, R.W., Ashenden, D.W., Kessler, S. & Dowsett, G.W. (1982)
- ▶ **The body and society: explorations in social theory**  
Turner, B. (1984 & 1996)
- ▶ **Gender at work**  
Game, A. & Pringle, R. (1984)
- ▶ **Medical dominance: the division of labour in Australian health care**  
Willis, E. (1983 & 1989)
- ▶ **Crime, shame and reintegration**  
Braithwaite, J. (1989)