

# The utility of the sociologist

The intervention of sociology in social life can be conducted according to several models:

- **Denouncers of oppressions** ... sociology aims to tear the veils of domination by the great apparatuses of the cultural industries, education, the media, politics, the organisation of labor and all the technologies of social control.

- **Revealers of social life complexities** ... other sociologists adopt a posture consisting of revealing the thousand ways in which the actors aim, not to escape society, but to construct themselves as the subjects of their own life in society and in spite of it. In this case, the sociologist endeavours to reveal how/why the actors act, or, on the contrary, are prevented from acting.

- **Experts working with different actors** ... The sociologist can also adopt a position closer to expertise according to which it is a question of defining a practical problem, of drawing up an inventory, of evaluating a policy and, possibly, to propose solutions to the actors concerned: political leaders, leaders, leaders of associations, unions, movements ...

None of these postures would be able to define the totality of the action of sociologists in society because each of these types of public intervention is mixed with the other two postures and the researcher often aims to cover the whole range of intellectual positions. possible: the same research will be delivered to the sponsor so that he can make the best use of it, it will become a book or a scholarly article and sometimes, it will be the pretext for some well-regarded platform in the press.

François Dubet, "Understanding society", Cahiers français n ° 326, 2005  
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