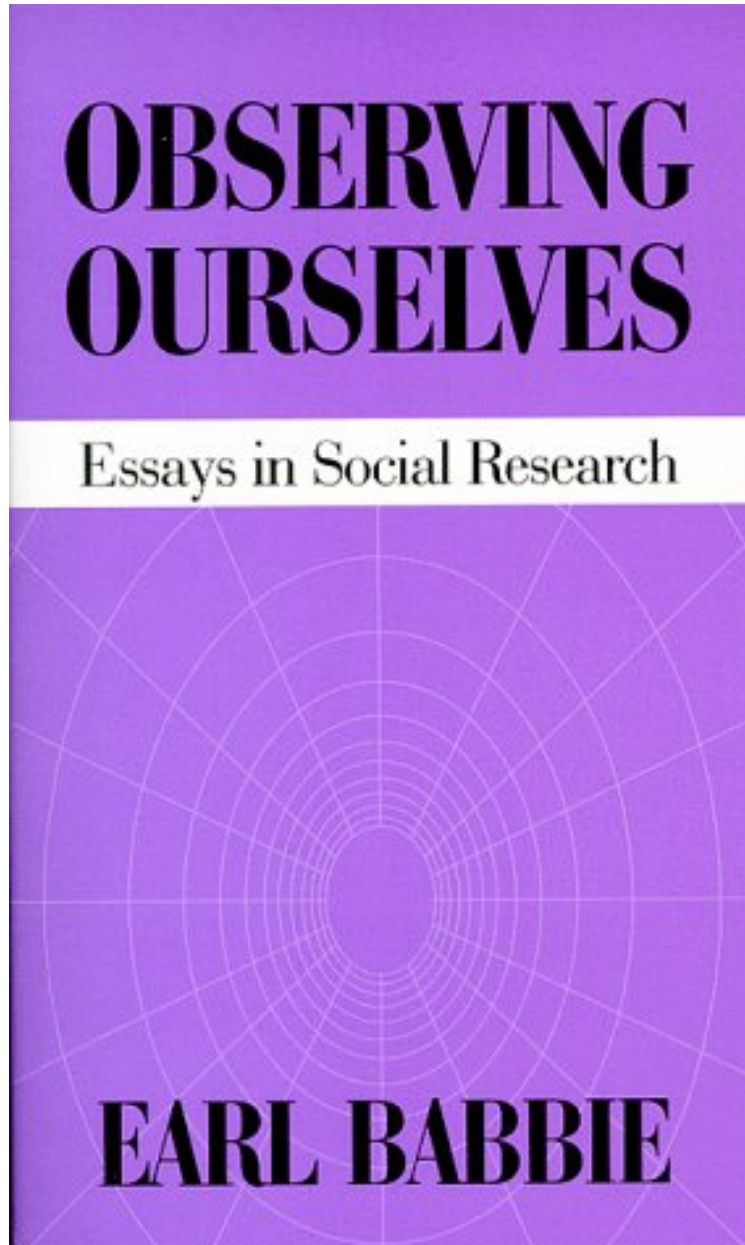


[Ebook free] Observing Ourselves: Essays in Social Research

Observing Ourselves: Essays in Social Research

Earl R. Babbie

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Earl R. Babbie : Observing Ourselves: Essays in Social Research before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Observing Ourselves: Essays in Social Research:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. InstructiveBy Dr. W. G. Covington, Jr.In the preface Babbie tells

readers the question he seeks to answer in this book is whether we can observe ourselves scientifically. From there he launches into a description of his background, saying he had been a social scientist almost all his life (p. 1). On page 7 he says the book is not a textbook, that it is intended for three audiences: 1) for college students taking a course in social research it is a supplemental addition, 2) social researchers will find it contains essays of interest from the perspective of a colleague 3) general readers will gain some insight into the work of social researchers. Babbie does not claim to resolve any social problems with pat answers. He says the "power of social research, then, lies more in the realm of questions than in the realm of answers" (p. 17). The author's particular arena of investigation is religion. Studying religion caused Babbie to drift from his early training. On page 172 he writes "while I was quite religious as a young person, I had become much less so by the time I began studying religion sociologically." Overall this is a book containing essays on the study of sociology from a social scientist who seeks to explain what he does to a broad audience. He answers the question he poses originally in the affirmative, he does believe one can observe one's self.

Now available from Waveland Press, this highly regarded short book addresses fundamental philosophical and methodological issues involved in the scientific study of human beings. *Observing Ourselves* is not really a textbook; rather, it is a book of somewhat unconnected essays. It will not teach the reader how to do social research, but it will support the reader in thinking powerfully about the subject. No pat answers are provided, nor does the author try to influence the opinions of his readers. Rather, he identifies some fascinating questions that lie near the heart of one's ability to know anything about oneself scientifically. The issues raised will engage readers and help them discover what it takes for human beings to study human beings.

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