ABOUT THE AUTHORS

SUE C. ALEXANDER is a Lecturer in sociology at the University of New England, Australia. She received her B.A. (1965) from Stanford University, her M.A. (1967) from the University of Michigan, and her Ph.D. (1970) from Ohio State University. Her present interests include theories of law and social deviance, the design of social structures for people, and the human potential movement.

GIANCARLO BARONTI is a graduate of the University of Perugia. He teaches cultural anthropology at the University of Perugia. He has written *Fattori di criminalità e quadro sociale della devianza* and various articles on crime, the stereotype of the criminal, and terrorism. He is currently involved in research on the pattern of rural homicides in Umbria in the second half of the nineteenth century. He is a member of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control.

JEF BREDA is a research fellow at the University of Antwerp. He has worked on educational experiments and is now conducting research on legal services and legal needs, and on social change in welfare systems.

VOLKMAR GESSNER Dr. jur., is a lawyer and sociologist. After practicing as an attorney and serving as a judge he became a senior research fellow in sociology of law at the Max Planck Institute, Hamburg, in 1970 and a *Privatdozent* at the sociology faculties of the universities of Bielefeld and Hamburg in 1975. He has conducted field work in Germany and Mexico on conflict and conflict behavior.

SEWERYN A. OZDOWSKI received an M.A. in law (1971) and an M.A. in sociology (1973) from Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland) and is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology, University of New England (Armidale, Australia). He has published papers on the sociology of law in Polish and English, and coauthored *Swiadomość Prawna Robotników (Workers' Legal Consciousness*). He is currently working on the social implications of recent changes in Australian family law.

TAMAR PITCH is a graduate of the University of Florence and the University of Connecticut at Storrs. She teaches cultural anthropology at the University of Perugia. She has written La devianza and Sociologia alternativa e nuova sinistra negli Stati Uniti, and various articles on crime, deviance, radical sociology, and women. She is a member of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control.

VALERIO POCAR is Professor of Sociology of Law at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the State University of Milan. He has published articles on the history of sociologal thought, especially nonmarxist socialism. As well as many empirical studies of family law, he has done research on the judicial process and the legal profession.

BARBARA RHODE received her Dipl. Soz. in sociology. She has worked in urban sociology and published a major study on the depopulation of the central city. Since 1976 she has been a research fellow in sociology of law at the Max Planck Institute, Hamburg, where she is currently working on the methodological problems of comparing societies and legal systems.

G. SEBASTIAN SCHEERER is a research fellow at the Department of Criminology, University of Münster, West Germany. He is currently conducting a study on the development of narcotic laws and is coauthor of a forthcoming introduction to criminal sociology (*Kriminalsoziologie*, Stuttgart, 1979).

PAOLA RONFANI has a postdoctoral position at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the State University of Milan. Her main field of activity is the sociology of family law. She has written various papers on this subject and, with Valerio Pocar, is editing a book on sociological aspects of family law in Europe.

GERHARD STRATE is currently completing his doctoral dissertation in legal sciences at the University of Hamburg; it concerns the rights of employees when their firms go bankrupt. He has been a research assistant in sociology of law at the Max Planck Institute, Hamburg, since 1975.

JEAN VAN HOUTTE is Professor of Sociology and Sociology of Law at the University of Antwerp (University Faculties of St. Ignatius). He is currently working in the field of sociology of family law and the administration of justice.

KLAUS A. ZIEGERT is wissenschaftlicher Referent in the sociology of law at the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg. He received his doctorate in sociology and slavonic languages from the University of Münster. His publications, especially on Eastern Europe and the Scandinavian countries, include Zur Effektivität der Rechtssoziologie—die Rekonstruktion der Gesellschaft durch Recht (Toward Effectiveness in the Sociology of Law—the Reconstruction of Society through Law) (1975), as well as articles on the functions of law. He is currently working on an international comparison of legal systems with research projects on maintenance, bankruptcy, and hire purchase.