The volume is divided into three parts. The first part examines the classical tradition. Included here are critical discussions of Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Habermas, and figurational sociology. The reader gains a comprehensive and informed picture of the key issues and central figures of the day. The final part ranges over the key debates in current social theory. Questions relating to positivism, metatheorizing, cultural studies, consumption, sexualities, the body, globalization, nationalism, socialism, knowledge societies, ethics and morality, as well as post-social relations are fully discussed. The dilemmas and promise of contemporary social theory are revisited with pinpoint accuracy.

Anthropology and the Human Subject: Brian Morris 2014-04-04 The German philosopher Immanuel Kant famously defined anthropology as the study of what it means to be a human being. Following in his footsteps "Anthropology and the Human Subject" provides a critical, comprehensive and wide-ranging investigation of the key debates in current social theory. Rather than following closely the complex original prose in an effort to explain the theory in its minutiae, Holmwood presents a highly readable non-technical critical assessment of the leading figures in the discipline. The book will appeal not only to students and scholars in the humanities and social sciences, but to anyone interested in the way key social scientific debates have developed in the late twentieth century. Such is the range and depth of Holmwood's engagement with the leading figures in the field that this book is essential reading for anyone interested in social theory.

The Structure of Social Theory: Strategies, Dilemmas and Projects Terry Johnson 1984-12-06 The Structure of Social Theory: Strategies, Dilemmas and Projects is a seminal textbook for students of sociology. It offers an accessible and engaging introduction to the major debates and issues in social theory, covering a range of perspectives and approaches. The book is divided into three parts: the first part explores the development of social theory over the past century; the second part examines key debates in social theory; and the third part looks at the future of social theory. Throughout, the author provides clear and concise explanations of complex ideas and concepts, making it an invaluable resource for students and researchers alike.