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## Situated Intervention

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This book considers the question of how the direct involvement of social scientists in the practices they study can lead to the production of interesting sociological knowledge. It draws together two activities that are often seen as belonging to different realms: intervening in practices and furthering sociological understanding of them. The common separation of these domains partly stems from disciplinary self-understandings within sociology as either 'detached' or 'engaged'. Situated Intervention proposes that this debate is unproductive for discussing the role of social sciences in relation to their fields. Philosophers of science such as Ian Hacking have argued that natural sciences benefited tremendously from broadening their scholarly mode from theorizing about the world to intervening through experiments. Adhering to an objectivist and theorizing image of scholarship within sociology thereby risks losing a mode of knowledge production that has proven highly productive in the natural sciences. Furthermore, experimental interventions prove relevant for discussions about the normativity of sociological research. These matters are explored by analyzing organizational change projects in healthcare: the development of a hemophilia care center, pathways for hematology and oncology at an outpatient clinic, redesigning oncology care and elective surgery in sixteen hospitals, and evaluating a quality improvement collaborative in long-term care. These experiments invariably lead to the surprising production of sociological knowledge as well as producing novel normativities. The analysis thereby shows that, through situated intervention, sociology not only has more to offer to the practices it studies, but also has more to learn from it.