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the core

# Sociology The Core

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I would like to dedicate this book to three sociologists at the University of Alabama in the 1960s who served on my master's dearee committee and who were essential to my professional and personal development. They are presented here in the order that I knew them: • to the memory of Donal E. Muir, who was the first sociologist and intellectual that I knew, and who was, for me, the truly great teacher who comes along once in a lifetime; • to the memory of H. Jeff Buttram, who was the first sociologist I knew who was also a true personal friend, and with whom I had intense dialogue, arguments, and discussions about sociological issues: and in lasting admiration, appreciation. and highest gratitude to Majeed Alsikafi. who trusted me, nurtured me, encouraged me, stood behind me, and gave me the confidence I needed to do sociological work; without Majeed, I would never have become a sociologist.

Michael Hughes