
Mary Jo Deegan. *Race, Hull-House, And the University of Chicago: A New Conscience Against Ancient Evils*. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2002.

Reviewed by Donald K. Pickens

Professor Deegan, Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, has written an interesting book but with one marred by its format. Abraham Lincoln's picture appears opposite the title page. Now Lincoln is a very important figure in American history and one of my heroes but the picture's significance escapes me except that Jane Addams's father admired Lincoln very much. Professor Deegan is a committed scholar and her bibliography indicates deep research. Her advocacy is something called liberationist sociology. The references are embedded in the text with informational notes at the end of the book. Granted the publisher probably determined the book's format but it is a bit disconcerting. One last observation about the book's layout: too many sub-headings. The book is offered as sort of social science when in reality it is an informative narrative about people and groups who have been generally ignored in the previous scholarship. The reason for the omission is interesting, according to Professor Deegan. And it is.

She argues that while Jane Addams and W.E.B. Du Bois were towering figures and rightly so but they were not the complete story. Deegan believes that "establishment accounts" of Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago has created a distorted account, "a white patriarchal view of relations between white and black Americans." (Page 5) While

acknowledging the importance of Robert Park and other well known figures, Deegan believes that Park's defense of Booker T. Washington's ideas was misleading because of the intellectual complexity based on race and gender that existed in Chicago. At the same time in narrative she does not critique anyone's ideas except some of the better-known sociologists of the day.

Instead of a narrative of intellectual history in which the various figures are locked in debate, Deegan seems preoccupied with being politically correct. Her concern distracted this reader. Her account ends in 1960.

The book's eleven chapters are divided into four sections. They are cited to aid anyone interested in this subject. They are "Introduction; Documenting the Hull-House School of Race Relations and the Early Chicago School of Race Relations, 1892-1920; Rethinking the Chicago School of Race Relations, 1920-1960; Conclusion." In chapter seven Deegan discusses the patriarchal legacy of Robert E. Park in the Chicago School of Race Relations.

Undoubtedly, the most interesting chapter discusses, "Wilmoth A. Carter: Her Life and Career Behind the Gendered Veil of the PCSRR [Chicago School of Race Relations, an important sub-group in the Department of Sociology]. Carter's degree and career was in the last thirty years of the twentieth century—long after Robert E. Park had left the University of Chicago in 1935. Deegan never quite writes it, but somehow Park is guilty for the male sexist sins of several generations of scholars. This sub-theme detracts from Deegan's real contribution to the history of sociology in the last century.

For a different perspective on the history of sociology, *Race, Hull-House, And the University of Chicago* offers as slight revisionism of an interesting subject.

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