From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Teach Yourself Sociology.

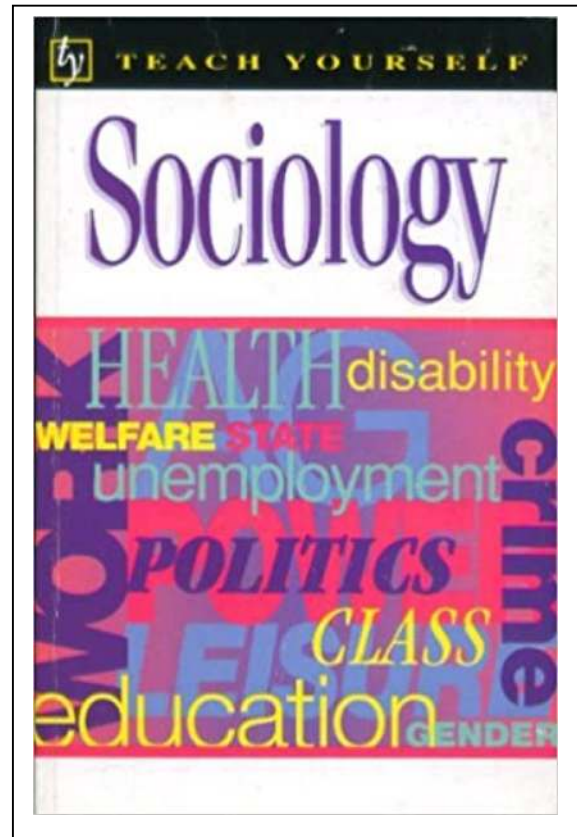by Stephen Moore (Author) with Stephen P. Sinclair (Author)
Teach Yourself Books, London, 1995

Sociology is an incredibly important discipline in and of itself, but it is an especially important allied profession for the urban planner. *Teach Yourself Sociology* is a title that could be denigrating to the profession since it is really not a teach yourself subject; however, this book gives great overview information, a solid foundation into the history and precepts of the discipline and a useful language. This book is a great place to start to appreciate the importance of sociology and its direct application to the issues and opportunities afforded cities as they plan their future.

The authors first chapter is so elucidating that what might be considered a "long pull" goes quickly from the origins of sociology to the three revolutions that brought it to the for:

- The scientific revolution of Kepler, Galileo and Newton,
- The political and social revolution of Locke and Voltaire, and
- The industrial revolution [1750-1850]. "This provided the impetus for sociology by creating dramatic social and economic change on one hand, and also by creating the belief that it was possible to achieve control over forces that had previously seemed completely beyond the power of humanity." [p4]

The first chapter alone is sufficient to create a fundamental understanding of the subject and spark in interest in reading on.

Sustainability theory depends on a full understanding and appreciation for the needs, wants and powers of society. City planning requires the same understanding. Sustainable urbanism is ripe for a strong dose of sociological thinking in the formulation of plans for the future of the city.