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PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

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PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

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Nebraska was a tumultuous new state in 1869, the year its major University was founded. The early sociologists at Nebraska reflected this bumptious and daring spirit. This special issue of the *Mid-American Review of Sociology* explores several facets of the intellectual heritage and institutional foundations of sociology at the University of Nebraska.

Several of the major figures in Nebraska sociology and the society surrounding them are introduced in the following pages. The contributions to this issue lay the groundwork for a yet more comprehensive and integrated study of the foundational years of sociology at the University of Nebraska. Michael R. Hill's efforts in organizing and editing this special issue deserve particular commendation.

It is my hope that you will, as I have, enjoy reading these papers, both old and new, and thus discover more about early university life in the midwest and the then new-born profession of sociology.