Knowledge and Ideology in the Sociology of Education

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PREFACE

THIS short study is about the sociology of education. In particular, I have tried to set the recent developments within the subject in the context of other changes, changes in sociological theory, educational practice and educational ideologies. Though, at times, I am critical of some of the new ideas which are now available, there is a very real sense in which the present study could not have been written without the insights and perspectives which are represented by the 'new directions in the sociology of education.'

I am therefore grateful to all who have been involved in the attempt to change the sociology of education. Also (though I must not assume that they do not wish to change the sociology of education), I am grateful to Tom Whiteside and Sara Delamont for reading and commenting upon a draft of this study, and to Tony Giddens for his very helpful advice. Needless to say I accept full responsibility for the arguments developed, and the faults, particularly, remain obstinately my own.

G.B.