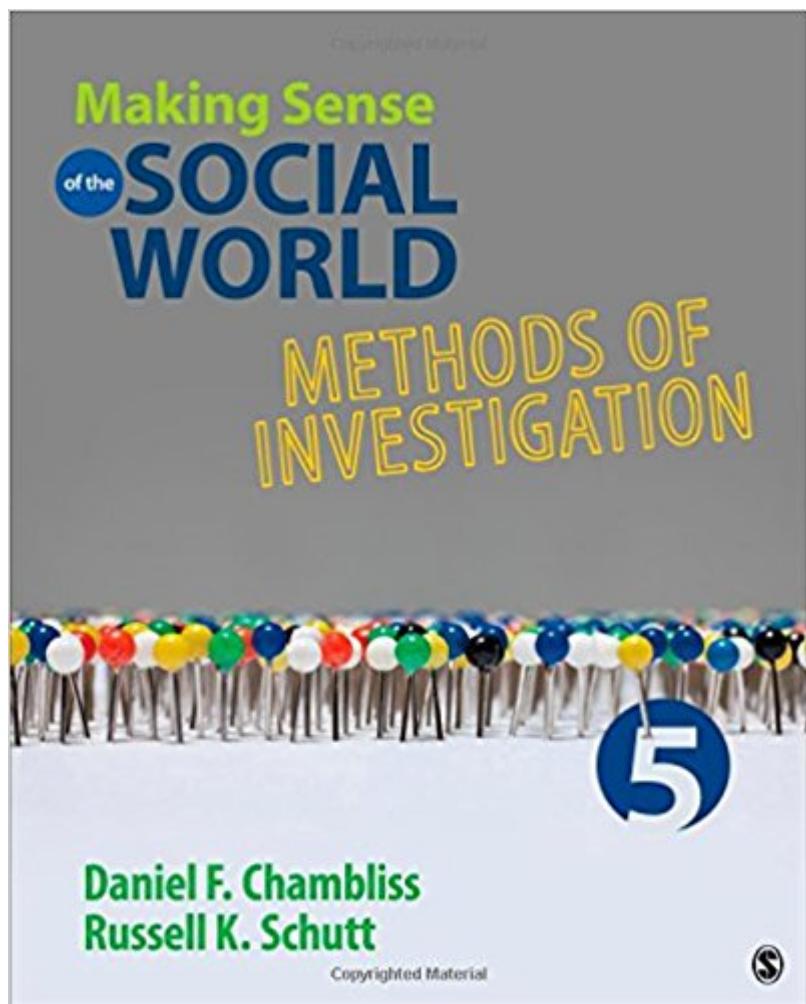


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# Making Sense Of The Social World: Methods Of Investigation



## Synopsis

At the heart of this book is the authors' firm belief that understanding research methods is critical to being an informed citizen in our complex, fast-paced social world. Now in its Fifth Edition, *Making Sense of the Social World* by Daniel F. Chambliss and Russell K. Schutt continues to help students achieve that understanding by providing a balanced treatment of qualitative and quantitative methods, integrating substantive examples and research techniques throughout. All essential elements of social research methods are covered, including validity, causation, experimental and quasi-experimental design, and techniques of analysis. Additionally, it is written in a less formal style to make concepts more accessible to students, and it includes wide-ranging, practical exercises drawn from every experience to help students get hands-on with the material. Not only do students find the book approachable and easy to digest, but they also enjoy it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was a required textbook for class but it's honestly one of the worst textbooks I've ever used. Truthfully, I am a smart student (I work full time and attend full time school and maintain a 4.0 GPA.) but this textbook made almost no sense to me. I re-read each chapter multiple times but the concepts were not fully explained and the chapters seemed to have no order or flow. I found that in order to do my assignments I would basically just have to google the concepts my professor wanted us to write about in order to get a more clear understanding. For example, here is a question my professor asked for chapters 7 & 8: [In regard to a fictional research study that we proposed]

"Identify at least three types of descriptive statistics and one type of display (graphic) you would use to analyze the data and explain why you chose those." However, these chapters don't clearly explain what a "descriptive characteristic" is. Verbatim, here is what the text says in full about this: "A statistic, in ordinary language usage, is a numerical description of some feature of a variable or variables in a sample from a larger population, usually based on a sample of that population. (In the technical language of mathematics, a parameter describes a population, and a statistic specifically describes a sample.) Some statistics are useful for describing the results of measuring single variables or for constructing and evaluating multi-item scales. These statistics include frequency distributions, graphs, measures of central tendency and variation, and reliability tests. Other statistics are used primarily to describe the association among variables and to control for other variables, and thus, to enhance the causal validity of our conclusions.

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