

# Harvey Warren Zorbaugh (1896-1965)

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Jan Marie Fritz  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Johannesburg

Harvey Warren Zorbaugh was born in East Cleveland, Ohio (U.S.) on September 20, 1896. He received a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago. Starting in the mid-1920s, sociologists directed or were centrally involved in clinics in several U.S. cities. In Chicago, Zorbaugh was one of the directors of the Lower North Child Guidance Clinic.

Zorbaugh wrote about a number of topics including education, comic books, gifted children, and urban problems. His *The Gold Coast and the Slum*, published in 1929, is considered a classic sociology book in the U.S. In the 1940s, Zorbaugh hosted “Play the Game,” a television show focusing on charades that was one of the first game shows on television in the U.S. He suggested the program (as he and his wife had played charades for years at their home) and then became its master of ceremonies. The show first aired on DuMont (DuMont n.d.) and then later on ABC. He also produced “Quizdom Class,” a radio show with high school seniors as contestants (Anonymous 1965). Most of Zorbaugh’s career was with New York University (NYU) where he was a specialist in gifted children. When he retired in 1962, he was chair of the Department of Educational Sociology as well as executive of the university’s communication arts group.

In 1927, Zorbaugh was one of three associate editors of a new journal, *The Journal of Educational Sociology: A Magazine of Theory and Practice*; his responsibility was being the book review editor. The journal was to publish 10 issues a year; in the first year a subscription was \$3.00, and a single issue was 35 cents.

In the first issue of *The Journal of Educational Sociology*, Zorbaugh (1927) described a clinic that was going to be put in place by his department at NYU:

The School of Education of New York University is projecting a research behavior clinic, under the department of educational sociology, which it is hoped will contribute its bit to the knowledge of the processes of social adjustment that clinics throughout the country are slowly accumulating. The Social Behavior Clinic will be unique in at least two respects. It will be directed by a sociologist, and will devote more than ordinary effort to the analysis of the relationship of social situations to personality adjustment. It will have, in the School of Education's experimental schools, opportunity for manipulation of the child's school situation heretofore largely denied to behavior clinics.

Zorbaugh was described in the contributors' section of this 1927 issue as "a Clinical Sociologist interested in the sociological approach to the study of individual and social behavior" (Staloup, 1927:66).

In 1930, Zorbaugh established NYU's Clinic for the Social Adjustment of Gifted Children. The staff members included a psychologist who was enrolled in NYU's educational sociology program, a psychiatrist and "a specialist in diseases with psychological concomitants" (Anonymous 1930:122).

Zorbaugh wrote many articles and reviews for *The Journal of Education Sociology*. One of them, his 1939 "Sociology in the Clinic," is provided here.

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## About the author

Jan Marie Fritz, a Certified Clinical Sociologist (CCS), is a Professor at the University of Cincinnati (United States), Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa) and Adjunct Professor at Taylor's University (Malaysia). She also is the editor of Springer's Clinical Sociology Book Series. Her email address is [jan.fritz@uc.edu](mailto:jan.fritz@uc.edu)

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