## Contents

Preface VII
List of Figures VIII
About the Authors IX

- 1 Theory and Theoretical Operations 1
  Peter Sohlberg and Håkon Leiulfsrud
- 2 On the Heuristic Role of Concepts in Theorizing 23
  Richard Swedberg

n A Thick Description of Robert K. Merron's Middle Eaug

- 3 Sociology and the Power of (Ordinary) Language 39
  Willy Guneriussen
- 4 Weber's Ideal Types: A Sociological Operation between Theory and Method 59 Pål Strandbakken
- Class Operations and Measures 72

  Håkon Leiulfsrud and Annick Prieur
- 6 Question-Driven Sociology and Methodological Contextualism 89 Ragnvald Kalleberg
- 7 If Not, Why Not and What If: Asking Counterfactual Questions 108
  Göran Ahrne
- 8 Abduction Assessing Fruitfulness and the Construction of Scientific Concepts 126

  Roar Hagen
- 9 Theorizing through Comparative Case Studies 145 Mette Andersson
- 10 Explanatory Practices in Sociology: An Overview 160 Willy Martinussen

VI

A Thick Description of Robert K. Merton's Middle Range 11 Theory - Manifest Properties and Latent Ambivalence Peter Sohlberg

Index 199

Published in paperback in 2017 by