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Ira L. Reiss's primary focus has been on researching and explaining the way society shapes our sexuality, gender roles and family life and using these explanations to throw light on possible resolutions of the myriad of controversial social problems related to these areas. He retired from the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota in June of 1996 but he has continued to work in the area of sexual science.

He has over 165 professional publications, including the following books:

- [An Insider's View of Sexual Science Since Kinsey](#). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.
[At The Dawn of the Sexual Revolution: Reflections on a Dialogue](#). Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2002 (co-authored with Albert Ellis)
[Solving America's Sexual Crises](#). Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books, 1997 (co-authored with Harriet M. Reiss).
[An End To Shame: Shaping Our Next Sexual Revolution](#). Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books, 1990 (co-authored with Harriet M. Reiss).
[Journey Into Sexuality: An Exploratory Voyage](#). New York: Prentice-Hall, 1986.
[Contemporary Theories About the Family](#). Volumes One and Two. New York: The Free Press of Macmillan, 1979. (Co-edited with Wesley Burr, Reuben Hill and Ivan Nye).
[Readings on the Family System](#). (Editor), New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972
[Family Systems in America](#). New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, (Four Editions) 1971, 1976, 1980, & 1988. (The Fourth Edition had a co-author: Gary R. Lee.)
[The Social Context of Premarital Sexual Permissiveness](#). New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967.
[Premarital Sexual Standards in America](#). Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, 1960.

He has been elected President of several professional organizations including: The International Academy of Sex Research, The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, The National Council on Family Relations, and the Midwest Sociological Society.

Professor Reiss is the recipient of a many awards for his work in the areas of sexuality, gender, and the family. Among these are:

- American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists Award for "leadership, pioneering vision, and expertise"
- Kinsey Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, for "outstanding contributions to the understanding of human sexuality"
- Ernest W. Burgess Award from the National Council on Family Relations for "continuous and meritorious contributions to theory and research in the family field"
- Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality for having made "outstanding contributions to the field of sexual science"
- Reuben Hill Award from the National Council on Family Relations, for the "outstanding research and theory article of 1980 in the field of marriage and the family"
- Election to the Sociological Research Association of the American Sociological Association for having made "significant contributions to sociological research and advancing sociological knowledge"
- Educational Foundation for Human Sexuality Award from Montclair State College in N.J. for "outstanding contributions to the advancement of public understanding in the field of human sexuality"
- Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S. Citation "in recognition of distinguished service"

He has delivered over 600 talks at universities, professional organizations, civic organizations, and on television and radio in this country and abroad.

He taught at: Bowdoin College 1953-55; College of William and Mary 1955-59; Bard College 1959-61; University of Iowa 1961-69; and the University of Minnesota 1969-96. He has been a visiting professor at San Francisco State University in the summer of 1967, The University of Wisconsin in the summer of 1968, and Uppsala University in Sweden, 1975-76.