

SOCIAL STRUCTURE & INTERACTION

Micro & Macro Orientations in Sociology

WHAT ELEMENTS CREATE A SOCIAL STRUCTURE?

- There are two important components of society: the _____ (larger) elements and the _____ (small) elements.
 - _____ is the study of large-scale society, focusing on the social structures that exist within a society and examining how those structures create the social world.
 - _____ deals primarily with the small interactions of daily life.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- _____ are patterns of relationships that endure from one generation to the next.
- They are the arrangement of systems—such as _____, _____, and _____—by which people in a society _____ and are able to _____ together.
- The pattern of these relationships does not vary much over time or place.

CULTURE

- _____ is the language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, (_____) and _____ objects that are important enough to pass on to future generations of a society.
- The embedded structure of culture touches every aspect of our lives and is a large part of our society.

GROUPS

- _____ are any number of people with similar norms, values and behaviors who frequently interact with one another.

TYPES OF GROUPS

- Sociologist _____ suggests that we divide ourselves into two types of groups: _____ and _____.

PRIMARY GROUPS

- _____ are small, intimate, and enduring.
 - Your family and close friends are primary groups to which you belong.

SECONDARY GROUP

- _____ are formal, superficial, and temporary.

- Your relationship with your classmates is probably a secondary group.
- The line between these two types of groups is not always clear-cut, but we have far more secondary groups than primary ones.

SOCIAL CLASS

- _____ refers to a group with similar access to power, wealth, and prestige.
 - The importance of social class varies depending upon the society.
 - Your social class can have a profound impact on your life.
 - Studies have shown that one’s social class can affect his or her health, happiness, and life span.

EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL CLASS

In England, researchers have found that the life expectancy of professional women is far longer (85.1 years) than women who are unskilled laborers (78.1 years) → Jill Sheerman

SOCIAL STATUS

- _____ refers to the _____ that a person occupies within the social structure and is often closely linked to social class.
 - The wealthier and more powerful you are, the higher your social status will be.
 - Often a person’s value to society does not determine his or her social status.

EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL STATUS

Lawyers enjoy high social status, while construction workers have lower status. However, if we had no more construction workers, buildings would fall down.

ACHIEVED & ASCRIBED

- Sociologists divide status into two different types: _____ and _____.
- _____ refers to a type of position that someone **earns** or does something to attain.
- _____ describes a position in society that is **given** or **assigned**.
 - Ascribed statuses are given at birth –we do not make a decision to choose them.

EXAMPLE OF ACHIEVED & ASCRIBED STATUSES

Socialite Paris Hilton’s fame is an ascribed status. Because she was born into a wealthy and famous family, she draws attention at red-carpet events and enjoys the privileges of a celebrity. Paris didn’t choose to be wealthy, just like you didn’t choose your gender, race or ethnicity.

OUR IDENTITY

- Most of us occupy a number of positions in our lives....Student, teammate, child, sibling, friend
- Since we all occupy more than one status in life we will gravitate toward one that we call a _____.
 - The _____ may be what is most important to us, such as our status as a parent, or what is most important to others, such as one's race or economic standing.

ROLES

- People often perceive individuals who have high status to be experts in fields other than their professions.
- Status is an important social construct because the positions we occupy lead to the roles we play.

SOCIAL ROLES

- A _____ is the behavior of a specific status, and your status affects the role you play.
If the teacher asked you to lecture without any advance notice, you'd probably think something was wrong. This is because the roles we play come with certain expectations about how to play those roles.

ROLE EXPECTATIONS

- _____ are the anticipated behaviors for a particular role.
When you go to the doctor, you do as the doctor says, even if you have never met the doctor before. This is because the statuses of doctor and patient define the roles. However, if the doctor is rude or obviously uninterested in your case you'll say he has a bad "Bedside Manner".
- We tend to view people as less capable when they do not fill their role expectations as socially gracefully as we would hope.

ROLE PERFORMANCE

- Role expectations are extremely powerful.
When you refer to a "bad date", it's usually because you expected one thing and got another.
- We evaluate _____ on whether or not a person plays the role in a manner we expect.
 - These expectations can be reasonable or unreasonable.

ROLE CONFLICT

- _____ clarifies other important components of roles.
- We all play a _____ of roles, which make up our role set.

As a high school student you might also play the role of child, employee, sibling, boyfriend/girlfriend.

- when playing these multiple roles, you might find you have to choose between the competing demands of those roles known as _____.

EXAMPLE OF ROLE CONFLICT

This happens often when parents return to college. A sick child quickly becomes more important than studying for a test, and grades can suffer. Why? Because the role of student and parent often conflict.

ROLE STRAIN

- At other times, we may feel role strain.
 - This occurs when the demands and expectations of one role are impossible for us to satisfy.
You might feel role strain when deciding whether to go out to a party on Saturday night or cram for the midterm that Monday.

STIGMAS

Any convict who's been released from prison will tell you that life on the "outside" is no picnic. That's because people who serve time for a crime and then rejoin society carry with them the label of "ex-con" for the rest of their lives.

- In other words, we attach a _____, or a mark of disgrace associated with a particular status, quality, or person to the ex-convict.

TYPES OF STIGMA

- Sometimes one's _____, _____, _____, _____, or _____ can result in a _____.
- _____ suggests that we all have a positive _____ that we hope others will accept.
- Unfortunately, a stigma points out the difference between _____ and _____ in _____ and _____ stigmas.

DISCREDITED STIGMA

- A _____ is a stigma that _____ from others, or is no longer hidden from others.
 - A person with a physical handicap has a discredited stigma.

DISCREDITABLE STIGMA

- A _____ is a stigma that can be concealed from others, such as sexual orientation, STD's and criminal history.

STAGES OF SOCIETAL CHANGE

- As societies change over time, the _____ of social interaction also changes.
- American sociologist _____ is one of the few theorists who maintain an _____ of society.
- According to Lenski, et al, the evolution of society consists of four main stages:

STAGE 1: HUNTING & GATHERING

- In _____ and _____ societies, an individual's _____ and _____ were closely _____.
- Thus, the status of a tribal leader was often given to the strongest person or the best hunter.
- Because there were _____ to play, Lenski suggested that _____ was very _____.
- _____ had to be _____ for survival.

STAGE 2: AGRICULTURAL

- _____ and _____ societies appeared when humans learned to _____ plants and animals.
- Members of these societies learned to use _____ to till the soil and plant seeds in order to grow grains for food.
- This increased their food supply and allowed them to become _____.

STAGE 3: INDUSTRIAL

- Lenski et al suggested that _____ societies actually have _____ than agrarian societies.
- This is largely because the increasing _____ and _____ improve the _____.
- Even the poorest of people in industrial societies have access to goods and services that are unavailable in agrarian societies.

STAGE 4: POSTINDUSTRIAL

- _____ societies can _____ meet their own needs, energy, food, and goods must be _____.

- These societies have become societies vested in a _____ that grew exponentially with the invention of the _____.
- Sociologist _____ suggested three key characteristics of postindustrial societies:

DANIEL BELL'S POSTINDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- These characteristics bring about changes in _____ and _____.
- The creation of wealth is no longer rooted in controlling land or building factories.
- _____ and _____ are associated with who controls and develops the latest _____.

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- _____ are structures that provide for _____.
In other words, the roles and statuses are already established and the members of society merely need to step into them.
- It's important to note that the specifics of these institutions change with the type of society and the culture of people being studied.

TYPES OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- There are four basic forms of social institutions:
- Family
- Educational & religious systems
- Economic systems
- Political and legal systems

FAMILY

- Families are a _____ and a _____.
- The _____ of the family may have changed a great deal throughout human history, but the _____ of family has remained constant.

FUNCTION OF FAMILY

- Families teach the value of _____ and _____.
- They provide _____ and _____ needs for their members, _____ on important _____, and offer a safe haven for _____ and _____ for the _____.

EDUCATION

- _____ is a _____.
- Education systems _____ the _____ and _____ of the society to new members and can be both _____ and _____.

RELIGION

- _____ is another _____.
- Religious practice varies a great deal depending upon a person's culture, but most religions _____ people through an organized _____.
- By bringing people together, religion _____ society and provides a framework for people to live their lives.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

- _____ allow for the _____, _____, and _____ of goods from one person to another.
- To keep society's economic system running smoothly and efficiently, _____ must be established.
- That's why every society has political and legal systems to help establish rules for society at large.

POLITICAL & LEGAL SYSTEMS

- _____ distribute _____ in a society, and power is the key component of any political system, whether a dictatorship or a democracy.
- Political power is used to _____ or rules that dictate _____ and _____ in society.
- So, the _____ and _____ systems are integrally _____.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES & INSTITUTIONS

Although the form may vary, family, education, religion, economics, politics and legislation exist in every form of society. That makes these institutions social facts. Societies become more complex as they develop; this complexity witnesses the replacement of many of the old ways of living and thinking.

HOLDING SOCIETY TOGETHER

*What exactly holds a society together?
Solidarity! That's the glue that binds a society.*

MECHANICAL & ORGANIC SOLIDARITY

- _____ suggested that _____ forms of society have _____, whereas _____ holds more _____ societies together.
- In societies with _____, people's _____ and _____ help bind them together.
- On the other hand, the _____ of the people is what holds societies with _____ together.

DURKHEIM INSPIRES TONNIES

- Durkheim's idea led German sociologist _____ to investigate how the _____ might affect the _____ we might have in his theory of _____ vs. _____.

GEMEINSCHAFT & GESELLSCHAFT

- Society can be classified into two distinct groups:
 - _____ (community)
 - _____ (society)

GEMEINSCHAFT

- _____ connections involve personal relationships based on _____ and _____ such as the family.
- A society's form can also influence the _____ of a group.
For example, small bands of hunters and gatherers live in communal societies because they have very little division of labor. This creates a group that exists with shared values, goals and beliefs.

GESELLSCHAFT

- Often we also engage in groups considered as _____.
- These relationships are more _____ and _____.
Urban life is filled with many impersonal interchanges, so groups living here are more likely to occur in industrial and postindustrial societies.
- In Gesellschaft, _____, _____ and _____ become very important.
Are you interested in knowing the janitor who cleans the classroom? You're probably only aware that the seats and the floor are clean.
- _____ suggested that as societies grow _____, many of our interactions invariably become _____.

Large cities tend toward Gesellschaft relationships, while smaller ones tend to be more Gemeinschaft.

*That means the size of your immediate area influences your daily life.
 This idea leads sociologists to look for other common behavior patterns.
 To do this, we turn from large-scale observations and review the sociological study of small orientations.*

MICRO ORIENTATIONS: SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

- Generally macro orientations take for granted that societal structures exist.
- Additionally, less emphasis is placed on the ways in which societies are held together.
- _____ tend to study the “how” of society, as opposed to the “what.”
- Instead of observing what binds a society together, these sociologists seek to discover how that society is held together.
- _____ is one component of the “how” of the social world.
- However, communication involves more than simply having conversations.
- From verbal interaction to physical distance, effective communication requires knowledge of the things that inform how we communicate with one another.
- One of those things, _____, refers to the invisible bubble that each of us has around us that insulate us from others.

PERSONAL SPACE

- Sociologist _____ suggests that people in the United States have four discrete zones of personal space:
- We reserve _____ (0-18”) for those with whom we are very close.
- _____ (18”-4’) for normal conversations
- _____ (4’-12’) for formal settings (job interview)
- _____ (12’ or greater) highly formal settings (graduation)

DRAMATURGY

“All the world’s a stage,” Shakespeare wrote in ‘As You Like It’

- Erving Goffman developed a theory of interaction called _____, which suggests that life is like acting.
- Social actors enter every situation with two possible selves
 - The performer-attempts to manage the impressions they make called _____

FRONT STAGE

If you think someone is having an iced mocha at the corner coffee shop is attractive, you might want to make contact with him or her.

As you approach, hoping to look “cool” you are entering the _____.

- This is what the audience sees.
- Most of us live our lives on the front stage.

BACKSTAGE

- Of course, we are more than our front stage acts.
- _____demeanor incorporates our true feelings and beliefs.
- Most people do not show their backstage personas often.
- We usually save that version of ourselves for our very closest friends and family.

GOFFMAN'S FINAL SAY

- _____ suggests that we would be wise to _____ most of what we see in other people because almost every interaction is front stage behavior.
- A wise student of Goffman can use impression management to get ahead in the world.