

09.12

Agenda:

1. Overview of Sociology & the Sociological Perspective

2. Approaches / Paradigms to sociological inquiry

Overhead notes : get at copy centre

Seeing like a sociologist

Sociological Perspective: what is Sociology?

Discussion in the Social Sciences

Study of Humanity and its characteristics , to creation, etc.

Probably the youngest field.

notion of society emerging with " Enlightenment"

Thinkers had nothion that the social world had aspects that could be undestood, and that the social world could be understood. Broke with religious though

Sociology is a product of the divine world

Sociology is not something that exists! Conceptual creation

How society operates & why : human behavior, & how it is the product of society

Sociological inquiry : what beviour is socially determined (product of social forces) or constitute of society (forms of interaction with society)

Sociology shares with the other disciplines, in the Social Sciences

Multi-disciplinary approach : spans across the disciplines

Looks systematically at human social activity. Almost dopting a scientific standpoint

Sociology has developed a distinctive body of theory about its subject matter

Distinctive perspective : own questions, modes of reasonings, etc. own sociological perspetive

Great book by CW Mills : added most to the fileld (" The Sociological mind")

Mentions: " quality of mind" ...understanding larger historical meanings.

Allows us to locate a situation within a wider context

Sociologists use terms as " post modern, info age, post-industrial age, neo-liberal govern-ment" to define our age, since 1960/1970

SI : Sociological Imagination.

Allow us to see how biographical & historical interact.

Applying SI: need historical background, wide scope, etc.
 This perspective is not privileged to Sociologists. (authors)

Often it is the people disadvantaged by society who have a broader perspective.

Inversely, those advantaged live in a bubble...
 Finish Overhead notes

Now onto Macionis, who has put stuff in the textbook.

Sociological Perspective :

1. Seeing the general in the particular.

ie: tenant - landlord relationships can be viewed as a relationship of property. Widely historic value, ongoing struggle of rights of non-property owners, symbolic meaning, values placed on property ownership.

2. Seeing the strange in the familiar

Notion that behaviour is naturally predetermined, challenging common-sense understandings.

3. Seeing individuality in social context.

question on degrading autonomy & independence we have.
 the landlord & tenant argue...why? Economical concerns, individuality, tenant is racist, etc.

Not all Sociologists see the world in the same way. There are different approaches.

Sociologists differ according to different theoretical approaches: **3 paradigms:**

- 1. Structural functionalist**
- 2. Conflict interactionist**
- 3. Symbolic interactionist**

Putting the sociological approaches into practice.

Analysing a picture...

Picture #1

The Lawrence inquiry photo of England, working class boys, killed a black kid.

Our interpretation:

- common-sense view, these are just things.
- not representative of society
- product of racial tensions

Sociological view/interpretation:

- Analyse nature of racism
- how racism is manifested, persists, structure, socio-economic views

Picture #2

Prison riot of Buenos Aires

Protesting poor prison conditions

Common sense interpretation

Picture is an expression of their resistance

Also of their violence?

These are people who challenge social order.

Sociological view/interpretation:

Total Institutions

view incarcerations

how power is viewed on the body itself

sociology of law, deviance

Picture #3

Céline Dion's renewal of vows.

Common Sense:

they're rich. let'em be foolish and spend their moulah

Sociological perspective:

Question of extravagance

Celebrity status

Private & public spheres, renewal of vows : is supposed to be private

Values of media trivialization of east culture, vs. our perceptions

09.19

Agenda:

Intro, overview of the 3-4 Theoretical paradigms

Culture, Socialization & everyday life I

The 3 Theoretical Paradigms

1. Structural functionalist

2. Conflict,

3. Symbolic Interactionist

These approaches mean little unless you read or discover how they are applied

1. Structural Functionalist;

aka: systems theory, order theory

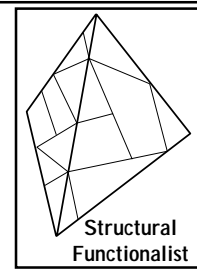
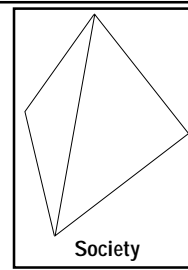
Names: Augustus Comte, Émile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton

All activities have a function for the proper & smooth operation of the whole

Like metabolism, if an organism

All activities function as part of the whole

What is necessary exists.
 What exists, is necessary
 dysfunctions need to be removed or repaired



2. Social Conflict Theory

aka: **Critical Approach**

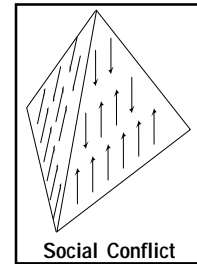
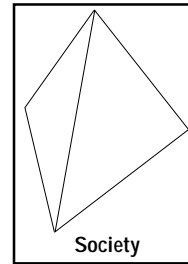
Associated with **Marxism**

Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels

Conflict is seen as an inevitable condition of Capitalist society, ow to the class-system.

Involves meshing of Capitalist & Bourgeoisie

Antagonism & struggle is inevitable.



3. Symbolic Interactionalism

Associety with **Weberian Social Theory**

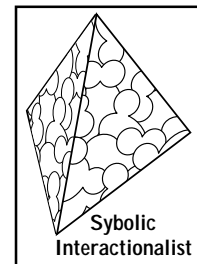
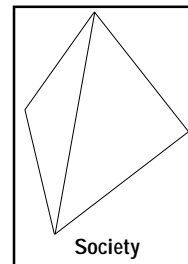
Names: Max Weber, Herbert Mead, Erving Boffman (a Canuck)

Individuals interacting with social setting

Society is a sum total of interactions

How two people interact

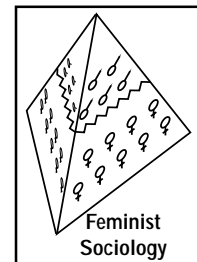
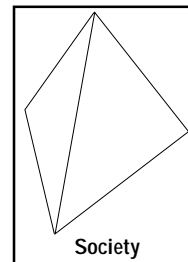
What are the sybmolic aspects of their interaction



sub4. Feminist Sociology

Emerged in recent years

Focuses on gender relationships



We may sya there are sociological perspectives with an interest with common questions about inequality, group behaviour, etc.

The way we approach a question has consequences.

Sociology work can be found to influence policy making and law development.

There are some influential sociologists.

Anthony Gibbins - view on Globalization

Castels - influence of Information on Society

Equilibrium view : dysfunctions set off the balance

Western Society. Inequality - culture bound?

They are politically-based ... consider that

Culture, Socialization & Everyday Life

Groundwork to the sociological study of culture

Sociology of culture : is a special domain

integrates views to apply to culture

view on the social world

Culture, Socialization & Everyday Life demonstrate the effectiveness of the social perspective with contrasts on the social world

Look at how something is a "way of life"

culture, socialization & everyday life

(Learning, personal development : socialization

in the everyday setting, we acquire an understanding, that is socialized from the everyday.

The 3 are inter-connected.

Culture is defined on sometimes contradictory ways. have to take it apart & analyse the pieces.

Culture is the way we live our lives & the various components of the way we live

Macionis defines culture as: values, behaviour, material objects, comprise a system of products, actions, & way of thinking & talking that has meaning for a group of actors and observers (/ people)

A cultural system = system of communication

Definition is too general compromises too much

Not practical ... have to break culture up and deconstruct it.

First, compare and contrast the everyday with sociological understandings

3 everyday misunderstandings or assumptions.

1. Culture is unchanging

View that culture doesn't change or shouldn't.

Can't think a culture has always been like that.

2. Culture is self-contained, coherent & neatly bounded.

Over generalization of a culture. There is more variation than you think. Associating a culture with the are strictly.

3. Culture is natural / naturally-occurring

Perception that you're born into culture, born with Culture.

Seeing your own culture as natural ethnocentrism Other cultures are different.

How does a sociological understanding of a culture challenge these everyday views & conceptions?

Sociology would suggest

1.) Culture is subject to change

Overtime, things are not fixed. Symbols, nouns, Language these are enduring ones, norms of conduct.

ie.: Deviant, margin, rebellious acts, people on street asking for money, small numbers of the deviants

Practice of body piercing / Tattooing

sociologists account for cultural change by changes in economy, politics, etc.

2. Culture is fluid, marked by internal contradictions, not neatly bounded.

Culture is not territorially bound, would not be tied to state, even with society

Definition of society : " people interacting with a limited territory guided by their cultures"

There are overlaps though...

There are subcultures, national culture

The systems of symbols & many that comprise cultures, are subject to many influences..

global culture is influenced by western society

3. Culture is learned & acquired by humans. We can adapt to different contexts

Socialization : lifelong social experience by which individuals develop their human potential & learn culture

We acquire a knowledge of the rules

We are continuously socialized, learn new cultural practices, Language, proper conduct

Our Cultural practices are not always natural, just ways of responding to outside world

Adaptation, building of shelter, we have also distanced socially due to how our neighborhood is spatially arranged.

Components = symbols, norms, Language, values, belief

Dimensions = popular / mass culture, high culture, material culture, sub-culture, national culture, global culture

09.26

Got the list of articles,

Regarding the essay

So far we can apply the paradigms & perspectives to analysing the articles.

ie: Article from the Gazette.

About risk and risk taking

" Flirting with death is rational for some

adventure as a form of expression

1st para: summary of the article

You can criticize, reinforce, embellish

teacher's point: you cannot cite biological factors as the reason for people's actions.

The articles are in the Socio & Anth Dept.

6th floor of the library

12-7 on weekday, 12-5 on Friday

Culture, Socialization & Everyday Life

Culture (way of life) ↔ Socialization ↔ Everyday Life

This brings upon values & belief, behaviour, material objects from socialization of these from everyday life.

Culture as components and dimensions

Review finished.

Now: about socialization

A process forms us to social human beings

Not something that happens to us.

To interact

Sociologists : how we learn, behave

What is proper behaviour in a given situation...

What governs behaviour? fashion, living, preferences

Behaviour & Conduct is not inherent

is patterned, learned through socialization

Challenges biological perspectives

Process that takes place during life

throughout adulthood

Overhead ... in reserves.

3 main stages

the influences of socialization from

Primary level	Secondary level	Third Level
household	School-clubs	Workplace
childhood	Adolescence	Adulthood
Parents, sibling	Schoolmates	Acquiring status
Family	identity formation	

there's a fourth sorta-stage where people are retired.

All sorta governed by social structure :

Ethnicity, gender, race, disability, religion, class, etc.

Social culture hierarchy

The process allows us to be part of a culture

Cultural dimension "juxtaposes" on the whole influence scheme

Mapping cultures on the process are 3 levels of Culturalization:

Global / Western / Post-Modern / Full-a-symbols Culture

Core culture Popular Culture, National Culture

Sub-Cultures, defined by Ethnicity, race, Gender, sexuality

10.03

We're watching a video today about how Language is acquired in childhood
asks the question: Is there a point its no longer possible to learn a Language?

Let's go over the textbook.

Remember, you should take notes in all the chapters as you read.

Check your checkmarks in the sections

Back to Socialization, Culture & Everyday Life

The approaches already prepares sociologists for presumption, different perspectives

The handout covers some ground

Ref: back the socialization dynamic.

+ Everyday life Juxtaposition

Social Interaction is shaped & shaped by culture

That's it,

now for the film:

A movie "Wild Chil" about Genie who's 10 years

Hadn't learned to talk

Abused by parents, tied to a chair

People worried if she had lost the capacity to learn

Testing the ability to learn Language

Girl was like an infant

Woman Professor in her graduate studies had the opportunity to study the kid

Genie had a weird walk, was beatn for making noise, it condition not to make noise

She explored her surroundings

They scanned her brainwaves to see if she was braindamaged

Found many "sleep spindles"

Was she braindamaged from the isolation, or from birth?

Father had shot and killed himself...less way to find out now.

How would she be handled? Maybe make more relationships

With another professor, almost expressed "sadness" when he left...had she made form attachment?

Learned to form a vocabulary, she was repeating words.

Finding in a way, to express herself.

Later learned 100 words that spring.

Metnal & Physical ability developed.

She might fully recover. The doctors were very hopeful.

Reminiscent of another "Wild Child" .

A film was being released in France about a child who came from the woods.

Kid was 12 years old, named Victor, was "wild" most of his life.

This intrigued historians.

Victor was adapted to cold, liked being in the snow. Could the wild have desensitized him? Is it society that sensitizes us to cold?

Brought up question: "what makes us human? Walking? Appearance? Language?"

Brought Victor to the National Institute for the deaf

A physician beleived he could civilize Victor...perhaps this would make him famous. He was very intelligent.

Parallels were alarming.

What to do with Genie ... now 14years old.

Could a teenager still learn to talk?

Noam Chomsky: we learn language because it is in our **nature**

Ellan Nelanberg: It is in Nature, but after puberty the opportunity is lost.

This was a time to test the hypothesis.

Genie's speech & emotional development was monitored, Genie had surrogate paretns, to limit her contact with people.

Genie was eager to learn new words, had a habit of hording glasses of water.

Genie's development was in consideration, can she be experimented on & be a patient?

Genie got a new Foster parent, a psychologist while she was 14-18 & try to rehabilitate her.

Genie would get upset, into rage.

Like Vitor she was desensitized to temperature...sometimes running a freezing bath.

Genie was distressed about her background, describing things that happened before she

learned how to speak.

Vocabulary was growing, learned words for emotions, abstracts

Passed age of puberty & acquiring a first language...really?

Contrast to Victor:

Victor could not learn to talk. Knew words, could not speak. Kid was abandoned, lived last days in some building, died at 40.

1 century later: Genie.

Started teaching Genie Sign Language, became much too taskful.

The surrogate parents were not very clear with their research....but had many videos.

Was Genie braindamaged from birth? Some think not...or so.

She did have braindamage waves, but her brain did develop more every year.

Government began to demand data...then pulled funding.

1 year after: had to end year of foster care.

They found her another home.

Genie could not put words together grammatically, could know words, message was clear, but they're not sentences.

Perhaps Nelanburg was right, it was after the critical time.

Genie was returned to her mother, who was acquitted. But she found it too difficult.

Then a series of foster homes. She was abused and moved.

Then a bombshell: Genie's mother filed a lawsuit against the scientists and the hospital for outrageous testing

Testing was a priority, and welfare. Pushing her beyond the limits.

Lawyers point out the minimal scientific relevance of the tests...they were repetitive.

Scientists say tests were fun for Genie.

Did the etam go as far as they could testing her, or did they exploit her?

Genie's trouble still not over. Genie was traumatized, abused for vomiting. Was now afraid to open her mouth.

Regressed back to being silent.

Now lives in an adult foster home in California

There is an ethical dilemma

How to balance research and therapy