

Working with Communities

Traditional Communities

- **Geographically bounded** – restricted spatially to a particular area, like a neighbourhood
 - We all live in these geographical communities, but the idea that they are a traditional form of community is a legacy of the medieval period (in feudalism, where people didn't move around much)
 - The identity of that community is very much linked to that place
- Based on traditional ideas of **race, class and ethnicity** groupings
- **Static** – if the community changes its because people are moving
- **Idealised** – people tend to associate them with a lost past, an ideal social world (we have this ideal notion of what a traditional community is, which is often invoked around festivals where people try to relive the idealised version of community)

Modernity: What Do We Mean by This?

- From the 18th century we began the slow movement towards modernity, and modernity's ideas of community
- Rejection of tradition
- Modernity prioritises individualism, freedom and equality
- Belief in progress
- Progress is brought about by rationalism (know things through rigorous scientific principles, natural laws – no longer looking towards the divine)
- People started to look towards world concerns
- Rejection of feudal ideas, and a move to capitalist ideals (industrialisation, urbanisation)
- Free trade, capitalism and trade as a means to self-progress
- Technological advancement

Community in Modernity

- Community in modernity is characterised by a series of discourses
- Loss of community – something has been lost to the past, and it is because those geographical communities became more mobile and dynamic and fluid, and it lead to a sense that something timeless and intangible about traditional communities had been lost
 - Other scholars/philosophers believed that just because community became more mobile doesn't mean it had been lost, just that it had changed
- Community as recoverable or yet to be designed – because people wanted to be able to part of that design process
 - Because of this idea, people tried to understand it as something mechanical