

# WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION

## Sociological Perspective

- *Seeing the **general** in the **Particular***
  - Sociologists look for general patterns in the behaviour of particular people
  - Individual is unique but society shapes the lives of its members
  - E.g. Love & Marriage
  - Shapes lives of people in various categories
  
- *Seeing the **strange** in the **familiar***
  - Sociological perspective reveals initially strange idea that society shapes what we think and do
  - Takes a bit of practice to learn how society affects you
  
- Society influences us in two ways
  - The impact of other people in our lives
  - The impact of social structure (statuses, roles, groups, institutions)
  
- How these various elements interact to create social order
  - Structural functionalism
  - Conflict perspective
  - Symbolic interactionism

# WEEK 2 – CULTURAL DIVERSITY (INTRODUCTION)

## Multiculturalism

- A multicultural society is characterised by cultural pluralism
- The notions of multiculturalism celebrates cultural variety
  - Linguistic and religious diversity
  - Opposite of assimilation

## Assimilation

- A process where the 'outsider', immigrant or subordinate group adopts the norms and practices of the dominant group.
- Being 'Australian' tends to be associated with inspiring terms, symbols or myths.

## WEEK 3– Cultural Diversity in Australia

### Nationalism

- Modern versions from around 1800s
- National identity and unity imposed by government
- Seen as an essential tool to modernise the economy and society
- Led to conflicts
- **EXAMPLE:** The 2005 Cronulla Riots were a series of race riots and outbreaks of mob violence in Sydney, beginning on 11 December 2005 in the beachside suburb of Cronulla.

### Immigration

- **Immigration theory:** Based on turn of the century immigration in America
- A focus on superficial aspects of adaptation including: Language, cultural habits, spatial patterns and food
- These aspects took precedence over the structural forces driving immigration
- Need to advance immigration in the contemporary world
- Push towards assimilation – the ‘melting pot’

### Cosmopolitanism

- The opinions and behaviour of emerging from the theory that cultural and artistic activities should have neither national nor parochial boundaries
- International society is defined in terms of social bonds that link people, communities and societies
- More broadly, it presents a political-moral philosophy that posits people as citizens of the world rather than of a particular nation-state. In this regard, cosmopolitanism represents a spirited challenge to more traditional views that focus on age-old attachments of people to a place, customs and culture.

### Social Cohesion

- Social cohesion is defined as the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other in order to survive and prosper
- The **OECD** defines social cohesion as: A cohesive society works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility.
- Utopia – positive responses to migration
- In Australia, critics attack multiculturalism as a failed experiment

### Migration and Development

- Not ALWAYS the poorest people
- Not always the poorest country
- 3 central components to the migration-development debate: Remittances, Brain circulation and Diaspora.