

WEEK 1 - WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

- Week 2 Learning Objectives
 - Sociological imagination
 - Basic Concepts
 - Social construction, social structure, agency, culture, socialisation, modernity, colonialism
 - Perspectives, sociology as science, politics or interpretation
 - Historical development, public sociology, internationalisation
 - Australian sociology & the world
- Sociological Imagination
 - Institutions over & above individuals
 - Paris Hilton example
 - Inequality & power
 - Making familiar strange
- Concepts
 - Social construction - anti 'reification'
 - Social structure
- Agency
 - A more adequate representation of social reality would be the puppet theatre, with the curtain rising on the little puppets jumping about on the ends of their invisible strings, cheerfully acting out the little parts that have been assigned to them in the tragi-comedy to be enacted...We see the puppets dancing on their miniature stage, moving up and down as the strings pull them around, following the prescribed course of their various little parts. We learn to understand the logic of this theatre and we find ourselves in its motions. We locate ourselves in society and thus recognise our own position as we hang from its subtle strings. For a moment we see ourselves as puppets indeed. But then we grasp a decisive difference between the puppet theatre and our own drama. Unlike the puppets, we have the possibility of stopping in our movements, looking up and perceiving the machinery by which we have been moved. In this act lies the first step towards freedom.
- Culture - values, beliefs, norms, not just rationality
- Socialisation - 'entry into society'
- Modernity
 - E.g., Industrial revolution
- Transition from feudalism to capitalism
- Democratisation
- Urbanisation
- Secularisation
- State Formation
- Rationalisation
 - Enclosures
- Individualism
- Colonialism, settler-colonialism, post-colonialism
- Post-modernity
- Sociology as science
 - Detachment (objectivity) vs engagement (politics)
 - Science socially constructed
- Sociology as interpretation

WEEK 2 – SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY 1

- Week 3 Learning Objectives
 - Why Classical Theory?
 - Durkheim:
 - Social Facts
 - Collective Conscience and Moral Community
 - Division of Labour
 - Anomie and Social Justice
 - Parson's Understanding of Social Order
 - Marx:
 - Ideology
 - Alienation
 - Social Change
 - 'Western' Marxism
- Durkheim
 - Social facts, not individual behaviour
 - ...consists of ways of acting, thinking and feeling, external to the individual and endowed with a power or coercion, by reason of which they control him...since their source is not in the individual their substratum can be no other than society, either the political society as a whole or some one of the partial groups it includes such as religious denominations political literary and occupational associations, etc.
- Collective conscience, moral community
 - The totality of beliefs and sentiments common to the average members of society forms a determinate system with a life of its own
- e.g., Religion:
 - Religious forces 'dominate us; they are, so to speak, something superhuman and, at the same time, they bind us to objects, which are outside of our temporal life. They appear to us as an echo of a force which is foreign to us and which is superior to that which we are'
- Division of Labour, differentiation
 - Adam Smith's example - Pin Factory
- Anomie and Social Justice
 - Disassociation, inequality, Q. of Social Justice
 - 'that we be thoughtful of our fellows and that we be just, that we fulfil our duty. That we work at the function we can best execute and receive the just reward for our services'
- Marx
 - Conflict and Power
 - Nature of capitalism
 - Once upon a time a valiant fellow had the idea that men were drowned in water only because they were possessed with the idea of gravity. If they were to knock this notion out of their heads, say, by stating it to be a superstition, a religious concept, they would sublimely proof against any danger from water. His whole life long he fought against the illusion of gravity, of whose harmful results all statistics brought him new and manifold evidence. This honest fellow was the type of the new revolutionary philosophers in Germany.
 - Alienation
 - Social change
- Western Marxism
 - Why no revolution?
 - Culture, consumerism, market