

WEEK 1: THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

Sociological imagination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stepping outside of individual experiences and seeing things from an outside perspective
Social construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The ways in which human behaviour, interaction and social institutions change over time and vary across different social and cultural contexts
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How societies change and how societies are maintained- Cultural dynamics at global, national and local levels contribute both to the establishment of communal feeling within groups and to conflict between them
Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- People are created by and are the creators of society- We construct our own interpretation of a situation and react in ways that cannot be reduced to the dull weight of external social forces
Socialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Refers to the transmission or reproduction of culture from one generation to the next- Culturally specific development of patterns of behaviour, experiences, and identities
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Constellation of characteristics that people regard as part of their self, including the way they present themselves to others – derived from genetic inheritance and psychological development in early years
Modernity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Complex range of phenomena associated with the historical process commencing in the 17th century of Western societies changing from an agricultural to an industrial foundation and from a feudal to capitalist economic framework- Populations migrating from rural settings to towns and cities- Western Europe colonising much of the rest of the world
Colonialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Captures the ways in which European modernity has been associated with the spread of empire by the English, French, Portugese, Spanish, Germans, Dutch and Belgians in India, SE Asia, Indonesia, etc.- R.W. Connell argues early sociology concerned with the contrast between Western Europe and rest of world ie. Metropole and periphery
Settler-colonialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Situations where Europeans take up a more permanent presence in the non-European land and make it more their “own”
Post-colonialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It is important to see some parts of the world through social structures and dynamics marked by their postcolonial character – i.e. their former colonies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edward Said's argument is that there is Orientalism – a perception of the rest of the world as inferior and the Western world as superior
Globalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Process by which people's daily lives are increasingly influenced by the growing technological and economic, political and legal, social and cultural integration of people and communities around the world
De-globalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Globalisation disrupts local cultures and customs and created material instability - This has led to a reassertion of local traditions and identity in the rise of nationalist movements, community-based organisations, and the shift to regions as the basis for economic development

McDonaliation

- Companies are increasingly looking to increase their profit and deal with people in more systemised fashions
- Many companies support call networks are now automatised, to deal with the high number of calls, creating a more efficient process

Public and private issues

- Private troubles are troubled experienced privately by and individual, whereas public issues are private troubles that happen on a larger scale
- For example, when one person is unemployed, it is a private trouble experienced by the individual, but when thousands of people are unemployed, it becomes a public issue
- Societies' awareness of such issues grow once something becomes a public issue

Structure and agency

- The concept of social structure is based on social systems that are made up of a variety of social institutions such as the education system and political system
- Durkheim stated that how humans behave in society is governed by expectations, obligations, and patterns that exist outside of us
- However, agency is concerned with the fact that people are created by and are the creators of society, through the construction of our own interpretation of a situation, without external forces

WEEK 2: WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology as science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scientific to the extent that sociological analysis is systematic, based on the collection and analysis of information and data, the development of theories, and overall concern to relate whatever is said by one sociological researcher to the work of other researchers in the same field- Core aim of value freedom – pure objectivity to, as Weber states, not mixing personal views on matters of social fact
...as politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Concerned with the idea that value-freedom is not possible- Social scientists cannot avoid their value orientations structuring the questions they ask, topics they choose to research, etc.
...as interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aims to interpret and give expression to interesting aspects of social life “without pretensions to offer scientific knowledge or to claims of political significance” (Hamilton 2002, p. 27)
Interpretive sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provides range of possible perceptions of human social experience, distinguished primarily by a variety of narrative orientations
Functionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Functionalist theories about questions such as the family, politics and social inequality reinforced the values and beliefs of conventional, white, male middle-class America- Parsons argued that in Western democracies, the answer to the question “how is order maintained” lay in the existence of a social consensus in which there was agreement on social arrangements
Conflict theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Suggests that contemporary Western societies should be seen as based on the exploitation of the many by the few rather than on

	<p>harmonious consensus, and that this produces social problems that affect everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared functionalisms focus on social structure as the explanation of social phenomena, asking how does society change - Answered this in terms of structural arrangements for inequality, especially economic inequality in the form of class - <i>Explains many aspects of social formations in terms of what is believed are fundamental differences of interest among social groups, which are usually based on economic differences and create unequal relations of power</i>
Feminist theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explained how gender is socially constructed, challenging the traditional role of women - Theories that explain the position of women in society, including how this intersects with class and race - Identifying and explaining some of the effects of male regulation and control of women eg. Male to female violence, women's labour market experiences, abundance of women in casual and part-time sector – work was often linked to an activist social agenda concerned with addressing social injustices experienced by women - Understanding cultural aspects of women's experience, especially in relation to the role of the media in gendered constructions of the body - Challenging binary assumptions of human sexual identity
Postmodernity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refers to the form of social life in which the enlightenment belief in science, rationality and the idea of progress characterising earlier stages of modernity is no longer unquestioningly accepted - One of the central observations is that the placement of greater weight and significance on structures and material relations has not applied to social life since the middle of the 20th century - Sees the possible package of identity as more variable than structuralist theories, no assumed linkages - Characterised by risk and uncertainty, consumption and individualisation
Public sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four different sociological orientations, traditions or perspectives – professional, critical, policy and public sociology - 'Traditional' public sociology – sociologists having a say in public debate or having their research discussed in the media - 'Organic' public sociology – with 'sociologists working with a labor movement, neighbourhood associations, communities of faith, immigrant rights groups, human rights organisations (2005 pp7-8)
Australian sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of white Australian society as invading and dominating Aboriginal society - The country's period as a British penal colony and then a colony of British immigrants - The particular relationship between state and society - The multiculturalism generated by successive waves of migration - The particular pattern of urbanisation and suburbanisation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class and gender relations - Australia's geopolitical and cultural relationship with other countries
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Sociology as a science

- To say that sociology is a science means that it is scientific to the sense that it is systemic and is concerned with the collection and analysis of information and data, observations that are compared and theories
- Sociology could also be a critical theory as some argue that it is not possible to detach one's own values and beliefs from sociological research

Public debate

- Refugees, Marriage equality etc:
- Conflict theory perspective- Controversial issue – talk about features of aust society – divisions – link to next q
- Not harmonious consensus
- Exploitation of many by few
- Gender issues such as wage gap, second shift etc.
 - o Feminism, Feminist Theory
- For each could mention sclg as politics
 - o Must be active participant
 - o Cannot avoid value orientations
 - o Premises and presuppositions placed on discussion
 - o Debates and issues highlighted

Australian society and sociology

- Australian society is different from other parts of the world in our multiculturalism that was/is generated by successive waves of migration
- Parts of Australian sociology are focused on patterns of migration and settlement, and communications and culture which relate to this

Sociological imagination

- The best explanation for the tendency for middle-class parents to send their children to private, rather than public schools is that private schools appear to give their pupils a competitive advantage in an increasingly unequal world
- Feminists of the 1970s and 1980s identified gender's effect on all levels in all societies, prior to this, the dynamics of class was condered as the primary cause of social change