

# Sociology

- the study of human beings
- the study of how we live together
  - the policies
- establish rules to create order
- a science of social life

## What sociology isn't

- interested in people but not "love" people
- isn't a practice is an attempt to understand
- not super quantitative

## Distinguishing Sociology

- soc more concerned with how people interact & not what is going on in someone's head
- anthropologist is qualitative while soc was more quantitative

## -linked to the Industrial Revolution

↳ marrying for love became more popular

↳ divorce increased too

↳ changed how children were seen

↳ children became seen as blessings instead of "farm hands"

- Started using social science to explain things instead of Religion

## Comte

- coined the term sociology
  - originally called social physics
- the queen of the sciences

## Durkheim

- thought comte was too vague
- trying to empirically show how human forces effect

Functionalism - Durkheim (1858-1916)

Conflict Theory - Marx

Symbolic Interaction - Goffman, Cooley

## Functionalism

- things serve a function
- Society + system
- a macro theory
  - looking at institutions
- focus on the parts of society
  - family
- identify the systems of the function
  - families socialize + raise children
- equilibrium
- focus on the ways institutions rely on another
- how it contributes to the function of the whole
- a change in one area can change another
- As there an increase of mothers w/ preschoolers then more
- Merton (1968) writes about dysfunction of society
- Gans (1972) wrote about the function + dysfunction of poverty
  - function: makes sure the dirty work gets done
    - creates jobs for people who serve the poor
  - dysfunction: intensifies problems in society
    - worse health
- Not good at dealing w/ history
- Exaggerate in some sense
- Too accepting of the status quo
- Durkheim
  - 1893

- Div. of labor in society
- social solidarity
- early societies → mechanical solidarity
  - much solid - no specialization; sense of oneness
- modern societies → organic solidarity
  - very specific form of industry
  - narrow specialities
  - very little people are fully self-sufficient
  - We rely on another so we feel connected

## Social Facts

- aspects of social life
- independent reality
- can constrain behavior
- "Norms"
- Take on a quality of a thing
- provide pressure

## Durkheim

- 1897 "Suicide"
- looking at rates of suicide
- Trying to refute some theories about suicide
- Said suicide is explainable by social facts
- protestants committed suicide at higher rates than Catholics
- Social solidarity
- Those who have strong connections + are responsible for others are less likely to commit suicide

## Marx

- 1818-1883
- devoted to explaining how capitalism shaped society
- argue that profit is made through the working class
- Workers are less than they give

## Conflict Theory

- emphasize the process of change
- focus on interest that divide people
- the role of coercion & control
- derived from Marx
- inspired by Marx but not just his
- gains for one group means less for another

## Weber (1864-1920)

- influenced by Marx
- built a more multidimensional view of society
- Verstehen - understanding social behavior through those actually in it
- Ideal type
- "The Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism"
  - protestant supported capitalism
  - Calvinist thought every soul was predestined for heaven or hell
  - material success became a sign for being one of the saved

- Status is prestige
  - title
  - fancy cars

## Veblen (1899)

- parvenu = new money
- Conspicuous consumption
- Its not enough to get & hold power to have prestige
- Having the latest & greatest is a symbolic way to show prestige
- Status is more about consumption

## Weber (cont)

- Party is about power

- Not just about money
- power of persuasion
- Bureaucracy
  - ideal type - portrays the principle characteristics of a phenomenon
  - ideal type of bureaucracy
  - ideal types aren't realistic

## W.E.B DuBois (1868-1963)

- Wasn't acknowledged for a while
- Combining objectivity + activism
- Double consciousness
  - Being an American but also being black
- The "veil" metaphor
  - Worn by blacks because they see the world differently

## Socialization

- the process of social interaction that people obtain skills
- transforms us into people
- Society is dependent on socialization
- parents in charge of socialization
- Significant other = parent
- Generalizing
- through primary socialization you develop an identity
- Can't pick your parents
- Socialization is never finished
- Secondary socialization
  - happens through friends, teachers
  - role specific knowledge
- Emotional connection not needed with secondary socialization
- Agents of secondary socialization are interchangeable
- Some proponents of secondary socialization are more important

than others

## Becker "Becoming a Marijuana User"

- Starts marijuana for pleasure
- First stage: proper technique
- Second: perceived effects
- Third: Enjoy effects
  - Some people feel super paranoid while high

## Mores

- Laws
- Social expectations
- Conformity + deviance
- **Structural Strain** - Functionalist view of deviance
- **Ritualism** - Don't care about the goal you are just doing the job
- **Retreatism** - reject both the goals & means but still have norms

## Labeling Theory

- There is no act that is completely legal or illegal
- behavior that is deviant but goes unnoticed
- Secondary deviancy