

SOCIOLOGY 100: ISSUES AND THEMES IN SOCIOLOGY

LECTURE 1: INTRODUCTION

C. Wright Mills was an American sociologist. He wrote 'The sociological imagination'. Defined **sociological imagination** as "the awareness of the relationship between personal experience and the wider society".

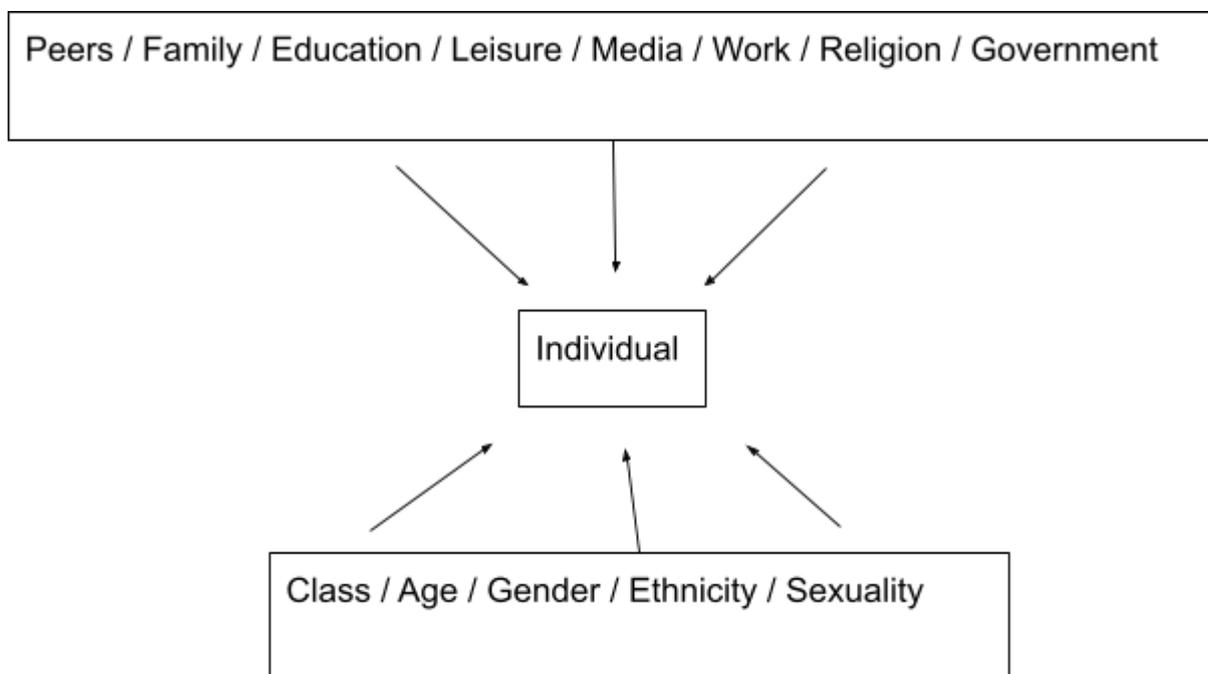
S.H.I.P

Structure

History

Individual

Power



Sociology is also about how society uses these institutions and statuses to organise itself, and how power is manipulated in society's organisational processes.

- Marshall Island
- Nuclear testing site
- 60,000 population
- U.s buried nuclear waste on Runit island in a dome (known as Runit dome/ The tomb). However, due to global warming and climate change, water levels are rising which means 'the tom' is likely to crack, leaking toxic waste into the waters of the Marshall islands and spreading.

LECTURE 2: MODERNITY. + week 2 tutorial notes:

Modernity:

is understanding the different processes by which we advance in society.

- How we organise ourselves differently across different time periods.

"Modernity, a topic in the humanities and social sciences, is both a historical period, as well as the ensemble of particular socio-cultural norms, attitudes and practices that arose in the wake of the Renaissance- in the "Age of Reason" of 17th-century thought and the 18th-century "Enlightenment".

Production - exchange - consumption.

In the 1700's, the system that governed everybody was called feudalism.

The textile industry- (clothes, curtains, rugs, etc.) Was a point of big shift for the industrial industry.

- It provided more jobs.
- Opened up the context of capitalism.

With modernity; the better work life became, the better people's well being and personal life became (this was seen through increase in population and life expectancy).

Capitalism:

(It comes to play around the time of the industrial revolution).

- Capitalism is an economic system in which there is private ownership.
- Capitalism dictates the socio-economic structure.
- More aspects of our lives are becoming more commodified

Tradition- royalty- capitalism/business owners. This is a shift that can be seen through history

The French revolution began in 1789.

- People asked why is power only being distributed through lords?
- Charles Robert Darwin, English naturalist, geologist, biologist, best known for his contributions to science evolution.
- DARWINISM: theory of biological evolution. 'All species of organisms rise and develop through the natural selection of small, inheritable variations that increase the individual's ability to compete, survive, and reproduce.
- Auguste Comte- French philosopher.

- First to develop the concept of sociology. Defined it as a positive science.

Division of Labour:

Adam Smith (17th century economist) is the theorist primarily associated with 'division of labour'. Smith wrote the 'The Wealth of Nations' in 1776.

'The bigger the market, the more we specialise, the more we produce'

Adam Smith felt that the use of division of labour was more efficient as a system. The division of labour increased production speed and output, and innovation.

Karl Marx:

18th century German philosopher believed in:

- Bourgeoisie: Those who own the means of production (key sources; capital).
- Proletariat: Those who may use their own labour as currency within the capitalist system. Experience alienation - humans feel dominated by forces of their own creation.
- Marx said capitalism produces a lot of oppression. Marx had a cynical outlook on capitalism.
- "Species-essence". Alternative to what we see today, before the division of labour. We still have them today but it is much more common to have division of labour compared to craftsmen.

Alienation:

(Marx).

- Alienation from the product- (*Little to no connection/concern for the product being made*)
- Alienation from the process - (*Can't control working conditions*)

Alienation from others- (*labourers vision and purpose is reduced to wages, they lack connection to the product and process. The world of capitalism puts everyone up for competition. Labourers compete against other labourers in terms of wages, hours, and benefits.*)

Alienation from oneself- (what we contribute to the world is a manifestation of our creativity and creativity is an essential part of our human nature. People lose their sense of self. We live to work rather than work being an extension of our being).

In a capitalist system the owners want to profit as much as possible, which often means exploiting their workers. Because of this conflict between the two classes, workers experience various types of alienation.

Moving into the mid 1900's, service based work comes into play.
Now we are moving into a digital revolution.

There is a shift in the prominence of these types of work.

Gemeinschaft versus Gesellschaft:

Founded by Ferdinand Tonnies, German philosopher

- “Community and society”
- Terms used in order to categorize social ties into two dichotomous sociological types which define each other.

LECTURE 3: POWER

Capitalism is currently the dominant system.

- Private ownership
- The predominant value/objective is to make as much money as possible through that business
- Increased commodification of human life (or life as we know it).

Defining and conceptualizing power.

- Power = influence
- “A has power over B” - “A’s behaviour causes B’s behaviour”.

Max Weber:

(definition of power)

- Power is about relationships.
- Who has more power in relationships?
- Focused on the ways different individuals access and manipulate power?

❖ Type of domination: grounds for claiming obedience

- Traditional domination - obey me because this is what our people have always done
- Charismatic domination - obey me because I can transform your life
- Legal-rational domination - obey me because i am your lawfully appointed superior

Milgram experiment- 1961, Yale university. (example of legal rational power).

Michel Foucault: Panopticism.

- Central in capitalism.
- Manipulation of vision.
- To induce the inmate, a state of consciousness and permanent visibility that assures