











INSTITUTIONAL AREAS AND FIELDS

- Institutions are cultural norms and roles that organize some area of social life and dictate how things “ought to be.”
- Most often in sociology, they are introduced but rarely theorized.
- Instead, sociologists tend to focus on relationships between them, forgetting to probe the actual unit of analysis more deeply.
- The most common examples are the economy (markets), religion, polity, education, kinship (the family).

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS FICTIONS



