









open

SYSTEMS AND PARSONS

- Parsons defines a system as “a set of interdependent phenomena [that] shows sufficiently definite patterning and stability over time.”
- Systems are delineated by boundaries: “significant difference[s] between structures and processes internal to the system and those external to it.”
- Empirical social systems are **open**: they have permeable boundaries with other, environing systems.

DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS

