









AGENCY STRUCTURE

- Agency

- structures



agency

structure



**STRUCTURE**  
**vs.**  
**AGENCY**





















# AGENCY AND STRUCTURE



**STRUCTURE**  
**vs.**  
**AGENCY**

- **Agency** is the capacity of people to act independently and to make their own free choices.
- Social **structures** are wider social forces—patterns of established norms—that provide order to a society.
- How much of what you do is “**agency**” and how much is “**structure**”?



# AGENCY, STRUCTURE, AND INDIVIDUALISM

- Individualism hallmark of western modernity and especially American culture.
- Paradoxically, it's a social creation.
- We all negotiate our individual preferences with the collective interests of our society.
- In America, **individualism** is prized by society; thus, some people may feel encouraged to stand out from the crowd in certain ways.

