

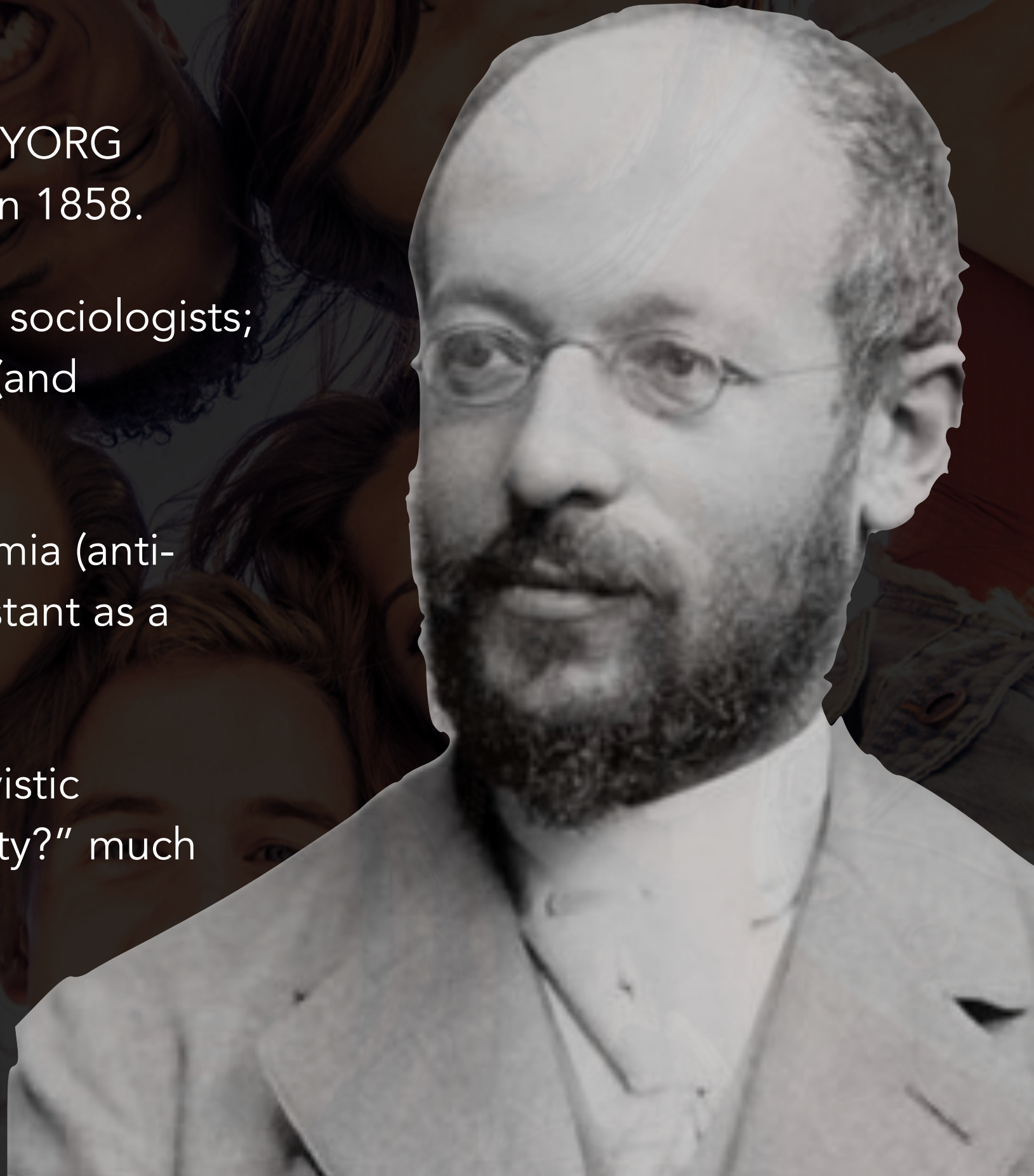




Simmel

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- Georg **Simmel** (pronounced "YORG ZIMMEL") was born in Berlin in 1858.
- One of the first great German sociologists; contemporary of Max Weber (and Ferdinand Tönnies).
- An outsider in German academia (anti-Semitism, but baptized Protestant as a child).
- Neo-Kantian in his anti-positivistic approach (e.g., "what is society?" much like Kant's "what is nature?").



How Is Society Possible?

- To **Simmel**, we ought to focus on people in relationships to study how society is possible.
- Society is the patterned interactions among members of a group, the sum of responses to ordinary life events.
- Thus, society is merely the name for a number of individuals **connected by interactions**.

